

2025-2026
CASCADE COUNTY
4-H HORSE RULE BOOK

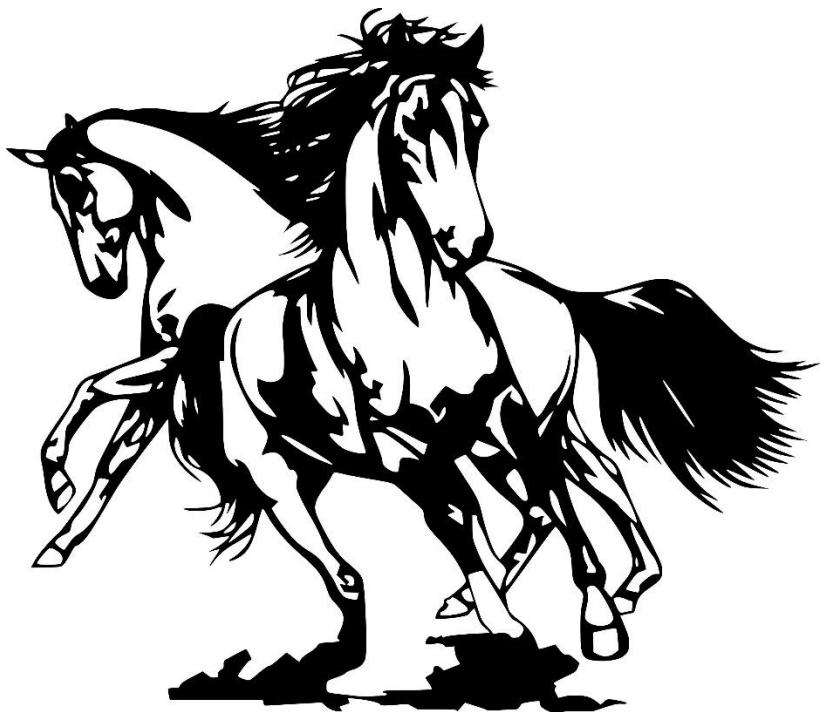


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CASCADE COUNTY 4-H HORSE LEADERS OFFICERS

President: Ginger Murphy

Vice President: Wendy Newman

Secretary: Rachael Grimshaw

Treasurer: Katrina Emrich

Extension Agent: Jenn Volkmar, jenn.volkmar@montana.edu

Extension Administrative Assistant: Jody Cope, cascade@montana.edu

MEETINGS

The Cascade County 4-H Horse Leaders Meetings are on the first Tuesday of January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November at 5:30 p.m. at the MSU Cascade County Extension office. Additional meetings may be called. If meetings beyond the regular monthly meetings are added an invitation with date, time and primary topic of discussion will be sent to all enrolled horse leaders a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the meeting date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

MSU Cascade County Extension Office

3300 Third St NE, #9

Great Falls, MT 59404

Phone: (406) 454-6980

MSU Cascade County Extension Website: <https://www.montana.edu/extension/cascade>

Montana 4-H Website: <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h>

MSU Extension Website: <https://www.montana.edu/extension>

PURPOSE OF 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

The purposes of the Montana 4-H horse program are to help members to:

1. Develop life skills by fostering a positive self-image, learning decision making abilities for responsibility for choices, develop an inquiring mind, relate yourself to others, and acquire a concern for local and global communities.
2. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable character traits.
3. Experience the pride and responsibility of having a horse and receive additional education in a horse's care, feeding, management, and expenses.
4. Appreciate horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
5. Obtain skills in horsemanship and handling of horses.
6. Utilize safety precautions that prevent injury to the horse, rider and others.
7. Nurture greater love for animals and develop a humane attitude toward them.
8. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
9. Promote 4-H.
10. Promote the state 4-H horse project and program.
11. Promote uniformity among county horse projects.
12. Promote goals of the 4-H horse project.
13. Promote excellence in horsemanship.
14. Encourage individuals to perform to the best of their abilities.
15. Encourage and recognize horsemanship ability.
16. Set and achieve goals to the best of member's ability.
17. Provide uniformity for the horse project.

DESCRIPTION OF HORSE PROJECT AREAS

There are 10 horse project areas offered by Montana 4-H. Members are eligible to participate in horse projects according to ability, skill level, accessibility to or ownership of horse and approval by project leaders or extension agent. Skill levels do not necessarily correspond to years. It is possible to complete multiple levels in one year or a youth may enroll in the same project for up to 3 years. Assessment guidelines and completion requirements are used in determining level advancement.

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Complete a My 4-H Year Record.
- Complete Animal Project Journal.
- Complete activities in the project manual or activity book for the level enrolled.
- Complete assessment if required.
- **Must participate in one horse related fundraiser.**
- **All 4-H members enrolled in livestock projects must attend 60% (or club bylaw minimum) of their club meetings to be eligible to show at the Cascade County Horse Show. Absences may be marked as excused at club Organizational Leader discretion or if members are attending another 4-H event. Unexcused absences may be made up by attending a 4-H education event. Attendance will be tracked using a Google Sheet created by the Horse Leaders.**
- Participate in a minimum of three Cascade County or State 4-H horse activities.
 - Clinics
 - Project Day(s)
 - Open Rides
 - Horse shows
 - Horse Camp
 - Practice Sessions
 - Other horse events offered through the 4-H program

HORSE PROJECT TABLE

Project	Description and Scope	Project Specific Requirements or Expectations
Horsemanship Western & English Levels 1-7	This project is intended for those members who have a horse that is appropriate for their riding level and available from at minimum June 1 through mid-September of the current 4-H year. The Horsemanship project builds horse knowledge, safety and horseback riding skills. Horsemanship has 7 levels – Refer to the “Required Abilities” found in this rule book and “Assessment Requirements” found in project manuals to determine appropriate level for rider to enroll in.	In Horsemanship project members are expected to ride a horse with regularity, participate in horse related activities such as education days, clinics, horseshows, or related horse events, to complete activities in the project manual and keep records for their 4-H year.
Horseless Horse Levels 1-5	This project is intended for those members who have a desire to learn more about horses but do not have access to a horse to ride as their own for the project year OR who may have a horse but have no intention of participating in county or state 4-H horse activities.	Members will have a project manual and shall complete at least 7 of the project book activities per year and keep a project journal. Horseless horse members are encouraged to attend education days and other horse related activities.
Colt to Maturity	This project is intended for those members who	To qualify members must be 11 by

or Green Horse	have a colt or filly to care for and train. The Colt to Maturity project (C2M) is a five-year progressive project beginning with a yearling. The Green horse project is for young horses less than 5 years old that are not fully trained and don't fit in the colt to maturity program because they were not started as a yearling by the 4-H member. In the colt and green horse projects all direct training of the horse is to be performed by the 4-H youth member.	October 1; meet the assessment criteria for horsemanship level 3; and demonstrate to be safe and sufficient to handle a young horse. Approval to enroll in colt projects may be given by Cascade County 4-H Horse Leaders if there are extenuating circumstances to be reviewed.
Working Ranch Horse	This project prepares you and your horse for general ranch work including roping, sorting and moving cattle, horsemanship, safety and knowledge of horses, cattle, and ranch related information. Refer to the Working Ranch Horse Manual assessments to determine skills for appropriate level of enrollment.	For the Ranch Horse project, the member must have a horse that is appropriate for their riding level and available from at minimum June 1 through mid-September of the current 4-H year. Competitions include taking a knowledge test, roping at head, roping at heels, riding a pattern and sorting cattle.
Packing, Driving, Horse Showing, Horse Judging, and Careers with Horses		See Montana 4-H Clover for project descriptions.

CASCADE COUNTY HORSE SHOWING RULES

Ownership

1. **All Horse Projects** shown by 4-H members in 4-H classes at the county or state level must be owned by the member or member's immediate family, or member must have a care lease by the member from June 1st through September of the current 4-H year, at minimum. The member must have access to feed, care for and ride the project horse(s) during the June 1 to September time frame. All project horse(s) must be declared by June 1 to the MSU Cascade County Extension Office using the applicable form and indicate which projects the horse may be used for. Additional or back up horses may be declared for horsemanship and ranch horse projects if they meet the care and ownership requirements. The horse(s) must be in the primary care of the 4-H member from June 1 through mid-September.
 - a. **In case of a severe injury or loss of a horse after June 1st, the member may petition for a horse change. They must explain the situation, present veterinary documentation if applicable and prove use and care of the horse to be added. Petitions will be reviewed by the executive committee and extension agent to determine if substitution will be granted.**
2. All horses in the **Colt to Maturity** (C2M) and **Green Horse** projects must be owned by the member or member's immediate family, or the member must have access to the project horse. The horse must be in the continual care of the member from June 1 of the yearling year through completion of the five-year project. Colt to maturity and Green Horse project animals may not be trained by a professional trainer. Members in C2M and Green Horse projects must provide copies of registration papers and/or proof of ownership by registering the horse in the Extension Office. **Intent:** *To give members a timeline in which to acquire their project horse. To maximize the training opportunities for the member throughout the entire five years. To encourage the member to do all the training of the horse(s).*
 - a. **Colt to Maturity:** This project is for those who own or have available a colt or filly to care for and train. This is a five-year progressive project beginning with a yearling. The project is designed to help the member select a foal and train it to maturity. The project intent is for the youth member to be executing all training and having primary ownership of that horse once it is declared. Member must be 11 years old by October 1 or older during the project year and be assessed at horsemanship level 3 or higher skill and demonstrate to be safe and sufficient to handle a young horse. Stallions are allowed only in the yearling year. To change yearlings, members need a letter documenting why and proper registration papers and

forms. This information must be received by the Extension Office by June 1 of current 4-H year. A member cannot change yearlings except in the first year of project. Level I: Filly or Colt, Level II: two-year-old, Level III: three-year-old, Level IV: four-year-old, and Level V: five-year-old.

- b. **Green Horse** is a young horse less than 5 years old that was not started as a yearling by the 4-H member. A green horse project shall be a horse of primary use by the 4-H member enrolled in the project. The green horse project is intended to mirror the colt to maturity project with recognition that a horse may be started or acquired after the weanling/yearling year but will comply with the same intent of the youth member executing all training and having primary ownership of that horse once it is declared as a green horse project animal. The level is determined by the training level of the horse. For example: If the horse is in the first year of training and similar to a two-year old colt to maturity project then the member enrolls in Green Horse Level 1. If the horse is in the second year of training and similar to a three-year-old colt to maturity project, then the member enrolls in Green Horse Level 2. *Please Note: The State Horse Show competition combines the C2M and Green Horse classes that are the same age. If you are entered in the Green Horse Project, you will enter the State Show based on your horse's age. If your horse's ability does not meet the requirements in its level, you are advised to not enter the County Show, State Fair Show, or the 4-H State Horse Show Green Horse events.*
- c. Once the horse becomes a colt to maturity or green horse project animal, it may not receive professional training. The member may take lessons or ride under instruction of a trainer so long as all riding and training is executed by the 4-H member. This applies from the start of the project (yearling through 5 year old for colt to maturity projects and from June 1st of the year entering the green horse project through Level 4 of the project with the same horse.) *Intent: To allow the member to become knowledgeable in all levels of "Horsemanship," "Green Horse," "Ranch Horse" and "Colt to Maturity" projects by "learning by doing." To encourage the member to assume sole responsibility for training the colt to maturity animal; to encourage the member to go to trainers for advice when needed; to encourage trainers to conduct clinics for all members in the county; to further either horsemanship or training skills; and to discourage the use of trainers actually riding the project horse, except in a case where the trainer deems the safety of the member is threatened.*
3. A horse carried as a **4-H Horsemanship Levels project** may be shown by more than one member of the immediate family in any one year at the County Show, State Fair and State 4-H Horse Show, providing that neither the horse nor the member competes against himself. If there is a conflict in schedules for any reason, the exhibitor will have to determine in which class to participate and scratch the other. *Intent: To recognize that the best experience is for each member to own and care for his own horse. To further recognize that there are families with more than one child that cannot afford more than one horse. To allow immediate family members the opportunity to be included in the county and state horse shows if the family cannot financially justify another horse.*
4. If competing or riding at a state 4-H Event, refer to the state rules that apply. Some rules are different than at the Cascade County Level.

SPECIAL RULE CONSIDERATIONS

Rule deviations are subject to consideration with a vet's note regarding medical or tack issues. A caucus of the Cascade County 4-H Horse Leaders (3 or more leaders) will consider the deviation. This precedence will apply to the same horse through its 4-H career.

ASSESSMENTS

1. 4-H members enrolled in horse projects in Cascade County are required to complete an assessment in their first year, regardless of level. In addition to first year requirements, assessments are required for every level of the Colt To Maturity or Green Horse Project.
2. Assessment forms are in the project manual and are available at the MSU Cascade County Extension office.
3. Assessments must be conducted by an enrolled Cascade County 4-H Horse Leader.
4. Assessments for riders previously enrolled in a horse project may do a self-assessment or be assessed by an enrolled Cascade County 4-H Horse Leader.
5. Cascade County Horse Leaders will review project enrollments for assessment needs and notify members.

SAFETY

- ◆ Boots must be worn when riding.
- ◆ All horses must be ridden with bridles, NO HALTERS.
- ◆ Riding double is not allowed.
- ◆ All horses must enter the arena in a controlled manner. They may be led into the arena, if necessary.
- ◆ Must run irons on English saddles.
- ◆ Horses must be walked in all areas other than warm-up areas.
- ◆ All riders must wear safety helmets for jumping classes and speed events.

Note: Safety rule violations may result in disqualification.

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL CLASSES

1. The age of the 4-H member is determined as of October 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. The age of the horse is figured by the calendar year starting on January 1 of the year foaled. (i.e. A horse foaled any time in 2012 will be termed one-year-old as of January 1, 2013.)
3. Members must indicate on enrollment form Western and English Horsemanship Levels.
4. A veterinarian's slip must accompany a request to change horses **BEFORE** the start of a horse show. The Show Rules Committee must decide whether to allow the change of horses.
5. Members may exhibit only one horse per class.
6. A member may ride only one horse per Western and one horse per English Horsemanship Level. Member may drop back only one level in either Western or English. A maximum of two horses are allowed in the Horsemanship Levels, if showing Western and English.
7. Cross entries are not allowed on Colt to Maturity or Green Horse project animals with Horsemanship Level projects. Members are eligible to enter Horsemanship Levels with that horse upon completion of the project(s). See Table 1 for more information.
8. The horse must be a project horse to show in an option class, speed event, or skill class and must be ridden in its respective project class. See Table 1 for more information.
9. Horses must be four years or older to enter skill classes for safety to horse and rider.
10. Stallions aged 2 or older are not allowed in any horse shows and/or clinics.
11. Members must warm up and train their own horse(s).
12. Exhibitors' numbers must be clearly visible to the announcer, judge or ring steward.
13. No person other than the exhibitors and show officials are allowed in the ring while the show is in progress.
14. The Judge and/or Ring Steward will dismiss from the ring any entry that is unruly or not in sufficient control to ensure the safety of handler and other exhibitors.
15. The judge's decision is final in all classes.
16. If, for any reason, a member is awarded a second run in a speed event, the time for the first run is void.
17. Breaking pattern is considered a major fault but not disqualification in Colt to Maturity, Green Horse, Ranch Horse, or Horsemanship Levels. Breaking pattern is a disqualification in Barrels and Poles.
18. Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language or actions and/or abuse to any animal on the part of any 4-H exhibitor, family member, or leader will result in penalty, forfeiture of any award received and/or elimination from further competition of the 4-H member or those culpable.
19. The use of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant affecting behavior) of a horse is strictly prohibited.
20. Cascade County 4-H will follow the bit guidelines of the Montana State 4-H. This document may be found on the <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h> website.
21. Horses aged 5 years and older must be ridden in a shank bit and reined with one hand. Horses aged 3 and 4 years are allowed to be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal and reined with two hands or may be ridden one handed in a shank bit. Horses aged 2 or Green Horse level 1 are to be shown in a snaffle or bosal and direct reined with 2 hands. Flat chain curb straps or flat leather curb straps $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind.
22. **NO DOGS** are allowed where horses are shown or exercised at a horse show. If brought, they must be left at your camper or trailer.

23. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch.
24. **Extra horses** (not entered in the 4-H County or State Fair Horse Show) **are not allowed** on show grounds. This is for health, safety and liability reasons for members, spectators and the organization.
25. **Please Note State 4-H Rule:** a certified equestrian helmet with fastened safety harness is required in over fence (jumping) classes, gymkhana events (speed, timed or untimed events), activities and practice sessions. 4-H members in the Horse project are also required to attend a helmet education workshop and or view the "Every Time...Every Ride" DVD once as a junior 4-H member (13 & under) and once as a senior 4-H member (14 & over).
26. Horses must be declared for the project the member is enrolled and entered in to be shown at county or state level. For example, you must be enrolled in Western Horsemanship Level X and declare a project horse to show in Western Horsemanship Level X. You must be enrolled in Green Horse with a declared project horse to show in Green Horse classes and so on.
27. Any declared project horse may be shown in the options classes including but not limited to showmanship, bareback, equitation classes, and trail so long as that horse is also shown in the enrolled project class at the same competition. Horses may not be shown only in options classes.
28. Skills Classes (Hunter Hack and Speed Events):
 - a. Rider must be Horsemanship Level 3 or higher to show in skills classes.
 - b. Only horses of age 4 years old and older may be shown in the skills classes.

HORSE SHOW RULES COMMITTEE

For rulings at a horse show, the president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and Extension agent (executive committee) will oversee and be available for the entire show. If a member of the executive committee cannot be at the show, they must notify the president who will appoint an alternate for the scheduled horse show.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RULES COMMITTEE:

If an issue arises at the show, and if necessary, the show will be stopped. The horse show rules committee will convene in a neutral area away from the show arena and grandstands to determine a ruling. The issue may be resolved with the 4-Her riding under protest.

EXCEPTION TO RULES PROCEDURE AKA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A General Grievance Procedure is available to all 4-Hers. Grievances must be in writing. A form may be obtained from the Extension Office and will be available at events. The completed form must be submitted within 24 hours. The president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer (executive committee) will convene within 24 hours and decide as expeditiously as possible.

DRESS CODE FOR ALL CLASSES

Exhibitors and judges should always bear in mind that entries are judged on ability. However, neatness is the first requisite regarding a rider's attire, and the following requirements are based on tradition and general present-day customs. Contestants who do not conform shall be eliminated. In case of inclement weather, the judge may allow rain gear or appropriate adjustments.

Western Dress Code

- ◆ Long sleeved, button, snap, or zipper shirt.
- ◆ Western type pants.
- ◆ Western boots and western type hat (felt or straw) or riding helmet meeting ASTM (American Society for Testing & Materials) and/or SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards.
- ◆ Chaps, gloves, and ties are optional.
- ◆ Spurs are optional unless otherwise prohibited.
- ◆ Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid while showing in the project or showmanship classes.
- ◆ Long western skirts are acceptable for showmanship classes at the Cascade County 4-H Horse Show.

English and Hunt Seat Dress Code

- ◆ Hunt coat (red, pink, or scarlet coats prohibited unless exhibitor has earned them as a member of a recognized hunt)
- ◆ Breeches
- ◆ English style blouse or shirt
- ◆ Hunt boots or paddock boots with half chaps
- ◆ Helmet meeting ASTM (American Society for Testing & Materials) and/or SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards.
- ◆ Stocks, chokers, or ties are optional
- ◆ Gloves, unrowelled spurs and crop or bat are optional.
- ◆ Shoulder length or longer hair must be contained in a net or braid.

Bareback Equitation and Showmanship Dress Code

- ◆ Western or English attire is allowed.
- ◆ If English, attire should be long sleeved shirt worn without jacket.
- ◆ Chaps, spurs, crops, and bats are prohibited.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Showmanship Classes

Exhibitor: The member must be neat and clean in appearance and appropriately dressed in western attire or English attire.

Equipment: All horses will be shown with a properly adjusted halter. Lead shanks with chains may be used. Chains are allowed under the jaw. Whips or bridles will not be allowed.

Appearance of the horse: The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust dandruff, manure stains, and bots (fly eggs). The hair coat should have a natural luster so excessive oils contracted from spray cans and other market products will be counted down. Trimming should accentuate quality about the heads and legs. Breed standards for exhibition should be followed. The hooves should be clean and properly trimmed or shod. No preference will be shown for hoof dressing or coloring. Tack should be neat, clean, and properly dressed and adjusted. Tack should complement, not detract from the horse.

Showing the horse: All exhibitors will be asked to perform a pattern. The exhibitor may be asked to perform the following maneuvers in the pattern: Walk, trot, back, hindquarter pivots, set up squarely, move forward and backward freely. The showman may be asked to pick up any or all feet of his/her horse and know the parts of their horse. The exhibitor should perform the pattern briskly and in a businesslike manner. The exhibitor must never obstruct the judge's view of the horse. This means the exhibitor must position his body either to the front left or front right of the horse, using the quarter system. The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand about 4 to 8 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank, coiled in a figure 8 with the left hand. The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor at the near side of the horse's neck and in front of the shoulder. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor nor should he/she be dragged along. Changing hands to back the horse is optional. At the judge's discretion, the finalists in each class may be called back into the arena for further work.

Criteria:

Showing the horse 50%, appearance of the horse 40% and the exhibitor 10%.

Colt to Maturity Yearling Project

The Colt to maturity yearling project requirement to be met will consist of the following.

- ◆ Refer to Table 1 for qualifications.
- ◆ Exhibitor may only show one horse per level.
- ◆ Refer to manual "Training Horses: Yearling to Five Year Olds."

Intent: is to show handling, willingness, control, and training demonstrated in the showmanship pattern.

Criteria:

Performance and Manners	50%
Confirmation and condition	25%
Appearance of Horse and Exhibitor	15%
Project Knowledge	10%

Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Performance, Western

Skid, splint and bell boot are optional for these classes. Use of a running martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-olds when using a ring snaffle only. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference Western Horsemanship Classes.

Walk:

Good: ground covering, flat footed, good attitude

Minor faults: too slow, too fast

Major faults: nervous, jiggling, not walking

Jog:

Good: easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady

Minor faults: too slow, too fast

Major faults: not performing a two-beat jog, failing to jog both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking

Lope: (Cannot extend)

Good: easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady

Minor Faults: too slow, too fast

Major Faults: wrong lead, pulling, jogging behind, hard or rough riding, not under control

Extended Jog:

Good: easy riding, good motion, smooth, consistent

Minor faults: inconsistent speed

Major faults: breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, and no increase in stride.

Back:

Good: proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line

Minor faults: hesitant, not backing straight

Major faults: throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

General

Good: smooth, steady easy riding, proper flexion and balance, good attitude

Minor faults: over or under flexion, sour ears, tail switching, inconsistent speed, out of balance, poll to high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

Major faults: throwing head, bad mouth, constantly bumping the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, and breaking pattern.

Criteria:

Performance and manners of horse	55%
Horsemanship	20%
Appearance	10%
Project knowledge	15%

Two-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1, Western

Open to two-year-old fillies and geldings enrolled in the two-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 1. Animal will show with a ring snaffle bit or a rawhide hackamore (bosal). Any shank bit is not permitted. Horses will be judged at walk, jog, and lope both directions on the rail. Gait changes will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein in each hand). Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

- ◆ Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
- ◆ Dismount and mount
- ◆ Back while mounted
- ◆ Perform individual tasks

Three-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2, Western

Open to three-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the three-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 2. Horses can direct reined with a snaffle bit or bosal using two hands on reins or may be indirect reined (neck reined) with a curb bit using one hand on the reins or. Either method is acceptable: no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

Four-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3, Western

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the four-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 3. Horses can direct reined with a snaffle bit or bosal using two hands on reins or may be indirect reined (neck reined) with a curb bit using one hand on the reins or. Either method is acceptable: no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

Five-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4, Western

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the five-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 4. Horses must be neck reined and shown in a curb bit only, using one hand. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

Western Horsemanship Classes

1. **General Requirements:** A horse entered in Western Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross-entered in colt-to-maturity or green horse classes. Horses must be shown in a stock saddle. Tie-downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores of any type are prohibited unless otherwise indicated in the class description. Split or Romal reins are permissible, but roping reins are not allowed. Splint boots, bell boots and skid boots are optional. Spurs are optional except in bareback where they are not permitted. Spurs should not be used forward of the cinch. In all classes the judge has the option of requesting one or all contestants to perform individually. Horses aged 5 years and older must be ridden in a shank bit and reined with one hand. Horses aged 3 and 4 years are allowed to be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal and reined with two hands or may be ridden one handed in a shank bit. Horses aged 2 or Green Horse level 1 are to be shown in a snaffle or bosal and direct reined with 2 hands. Flat chain curb straps or flat leather curb straps $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

Rider position: Rider will be judged on seat and hands and performance of horse. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Breaking of the pattern is considered a major fault.

Basic position: Rider should be seated so that from the side view a vertical line could be drawn from the center of his/her head down through his/her shoulder and seat to the back of his/her heel. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot. Arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. When a curb bit is used only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand is to be around reins if use a romal and one

finger between the reins is permitted only with split reins which fall on the near side. When using romal reins, no finger between the reins is allowed. The hand holding the romal reins should be above the horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn is penalized. The end of the romal reins should be held in the opposite hand at least 16 inches away from the reining hand that hand can be placed on the leg, or the arm held in a straight position.

Position in Motion: Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, the rider should be close to the saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of subtle aids and the shifting of rider's weight is not desirable.

Mounting and Dismounting: To mount, take reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup. Toe should be pointed toward girth and mount. To dismount, rider may step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

Criteria:

Horsemanship	40%
Performance of pattern	40%
Appearance	10%
Project knowledge	10%

Western Horsemanship Level 1

Required abilities:

1. Catch and properly fit a halter on a horse.
2. Explain and demonstrate how to safely and properly lead a horse.
3. Safely back the horse from the ground.
4. Demonstrate where and how to tie a horse safely. Give some examples of what are unsuitable (unsafe) places or objects to tie a horse to.
5. Demonstrate a pre-riding grooming and explain why it is important to always groom your horse before saddling him/her.
6. Help safely bridle and unbridle a horse (members may need assistance).
7. Help safely saddle and unsaddle a horse (members may need assistance).
8. Show how to check the tack before mounting and explain the reasons for doing so.
9. Safely mount and dismount (some members may need assistance).
10. Explain and show proper body position when riding.
11. Show how to correctly hold the reins.
12. Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is walking.
13. Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is trotting.
14. Back your horse while mounted, 5 steps.
15. While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and back to the walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
16. Stop your horse from a walk.
17. Stop your horse from the trot.
18. Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the walk.
19. Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the trot.
20. Explain and demonstrate what you would do if your horse were running away with you.
21. While watching a horse being ridden at the trot, identify whether the rider is posting (rising) the trot or sitting the trot.
22. While watching a horse at a lope, identify which lead it is in.

Western Horsemanship Level 2

Required abilities:

1. Explain and demonstrate the proper riding position while sitting on your horse and at the walk.
2. While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and to a lope (canter), back to a trot than a walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
3. Demonstrate a posting (rising) trot, showing the posting rhythm, both directions of the arena.
4. Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a lope on the left lead.

5. Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a lope on the right lead.
6. Lope a circle to the left, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
7. Lope a circle to the right, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
8. Show a balanced stop from a walk.
9. Stop from a jog/trot.
10. Stop from a lope. (Rider may need to trot a couple steps when stopping.)
11. Back 6 steps while mounted.
12. Turn 90 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
13. Turn 90 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
14. Turn 90 degrees to the left on the forehand.
15. Turn 90 degrees to the right on the forehand.
16. Demonstrate how properly to neck rein your horse to the left and to the right.
17. Demonstrate how to pick up the front feet on a horse.
18. Demonstrate how to tie a quick release knot.

Western Horsemanship Level 3

Required abilities:

1. Demonstrate proper riding position at the walk and trot.
2. While guiding your horse around the arena demonstrate the difference between a jog and a trot.
3. At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn left around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
4. At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn right around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
5. While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the left demonstrate a posting (rising) right diagonal.
6. While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the right demonstrate a posting (rising) left diagonal.
7. Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to lope on the left lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, lope 2 circles to the left on the left lead, without breaking gait.
8. Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to lope on the right lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, lope 2 circles to the right on the right lead, without breaking gait.
9. Lope a figure 8 pattern showing a drop to trot lead change in the center of the pattern.
10. From a trot demonstrate a balanced stop.
11. While mounted, back your horse in a straight line for 10 steps.
12. Turn 180 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
13. Turn 180 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
14. Turn 180 degrees to the left on the forehand.
15. Turn 180 degrees to the right on the forehand.
16. Sidepass to the left 6 steps (or three crossovers).
17. Sidepass to the right 6 steps (or three crossovers). Demonstrate how to pick-up the hind feet of a horse.
18. Demonstrate how to pick-up the hind feet of a horse.
19. Explain how to tell if a horse needs to have its feet trimmed.

Western Horsemanship Level 4

Required abilities:

1. Demonstrate how to lunge your horse in a controlled manner in each gait.
2. Demonstrate how to measure the seat of your Western saddle.
3. Measure your horse and tell how tall he/she is and determine the average weight.
4. Demonstrate giving at the poll.
5. Demonstrate proper riding position in a walk, jog and lope.
6. While mounted, back your horse in a square.
7. Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a walk.
8. Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a walk.
9. Walk to marker A, lope a straight line to B and stop.

10. From a lope, perform a balanced stop.
11. While riding a serpentine, change diagonals with the emphasis on recognition of the correct diagonal in the right place.
12. Demonstrate loping a left lead, rollback to the right and lope off in the correct lead.
13. Turn 360 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
14. Turn 360 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
15. Turn 360 degrees to the right on the forehand.
16. Turn 360 degrees to the left on the forehand.
17. Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

Western Horsemanship Level 5

Required abilities:

1. Demonstrate how to properly fit your Western saddle to your horse.
2. Demonstrate a drop to jog lead change in a straight line.
3. Drop stirrups and ride as instructed on the rail.
4. While walking a circle, demonstrate hip in going both directions.
5. While walking a circle, demonstrate hip out going both directions.
6. Demonstrate two consecutive 360-degree spins to the left.
7. Demonstrate two consecutive 360-degree spins to the right.
8. Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a jog.
9. Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a jog.
10. Counter canter a left circle.
11. Counter canter a right circle.
12. From marker A demonstrate a lead departure on a straight line from a stop.
13. Name five moving parts of the horse and demonstrate how to move each part.
14. Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

Western Horsemanship Level 6

Required abilities:

1. Explain and show the different types teeth of your horse; molars, incisors, canines and wolf teeth if present or approximate location.
2. While mounted, back a balanced 10 ft. circle.
3. Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a lope.
4. Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a lope.
5. Demonstrate four consecutive spins with correctness to the left.
6. Demonstrate four consecutive spins with correctness to the right.
7. With stirrups dropped, lope a left circle demonstrating a balanced position.
8. With stirrups dropped, lope a right circle demonstrating a balanced position.
9. Demonstrate a gallop and explain the difference between it and a lope.
10. Ride a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the left.
11. Ride a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the right.
12. Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

Western Horsemanship Level 7

Exhibitors in Level 7 will demonstrate their riding ability with a pattern they design. Patterns are to be mailed in with your State Horse Show registration. Patterns will be scored by the judge and awarded points based on legibility, neatness, and ability to be executed. Below are requirements needed to be included in a pattern that the 4-H member can design. Other additional maneuvers may be added. This pattern may consist of costumes for you and your horse and may be choreographed to music and use props. Set up time, performance of pattern, and tear down time not to exceed 5 minutes. The intent is to show the knowledge and horsemanship abilities that you have

gained by completing all 6 levels. **Western patterns should follow a horsemanship-style pattern.**

Required maneuvers:

1. Flying lead change performed in both directions
2. 4 consecutive spins to the right and left
3. Counter canter both directions
4. Rollback each direction
5. Backing
6. Demonstrate how to extend your horses stride in the jog and lope
7. Lead departure from a stop

Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Performance, English

Use of a running martingale or German Olympic martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-olds when using a ring snaffle only but are not mandatory. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference English Horsemanship Classes.

Walk

Good: brisk, flat-footed good attitude

Minor faults: slow, disinterested, not attentive

Major faults: nervous, jiggling, not walking

Trot

Good: balanced, free moving, consistent, steady

Minor faults: too slow, too fast

Major faults: not performing a trot, failing to trot both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking.

Canter

Good: smooth, unhurried, consistent, steady

Minor faults: too slow, too fast

Major faults: wrong lead, pulling, trotting behind, hard or rough riding, not riding under control.

Extended trot/canter

Good: strong, ground covering, smooth, consistent

Minor faults: inconsistent speed

Major faults: breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, uncontrolled, no increase in stride.

Back

Good: proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line

Minor faults: hesitant, not backing straight

Major faults: throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

General

Good: smooth, steady, proper flexion and balance, good attitude

Minor faults: over or under flexion, sour ears, switching tail, inconsistent speed, or out of balance. Poll to high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

Major faults: throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, and breaking of pattern.

Criteria:

Performance	55%
Horsemanship	20%
Appearance	10%
Project knowledge	15%

Two-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1, English

Open to two-year-old fillies and geldings enrolled in the two-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 1. Animal will show with a D or O ring snaffle bit (Shank bits are not permitted). Horses will be judged at walk, trot and canter both directions on the rail. Change of gait will be

progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein in each hand). Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

- ◆ Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
- ◆ Dismount and mount
- ◆ Back while mounted
- ◆ Perform individual task

Three-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2, English

Open only to three-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the three-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 2. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail.

Four-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3, English

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the four-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 3. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit or Kimberwick. Bit converters are acceptable equipment. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail.

Five-Year-Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4, English

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the five-year-old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 4. Horses will be shown in a Pelham, Weymouth, or Kimberwick bit or English snaffle. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, trot, canter, on the rail in both directions, and lengthen and shorten each gait as directed by the judge.

English Horsemanship Classes

A horse entered in English Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross entered in English Colt to Maturity Project Classes/Green horse (See exception under General Rules #7). Entries must be shown hunt or saddle seat. Spurs and crops are optional. When riding hunt seat only regulation snaffles, Pelhams, Kimberwicks, and full bridles, all with caveson nosebands are allowed. In saddle seat classes, entries must be shown in snaffles, Pelhams, or full bridles curb or snaffle. Bit converters are allowed. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements.

Hunter Type Position: Rider should have workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault.

Hands: Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and bite of the reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

Basic Position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation: ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

Position in Motion: At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple degrees in front of the vertical: rising trot, inclined forward: galloping and jumping, same inclination as the rising trot.

Mounting and dismounting: To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Saddle Seat Position: Judges should note that the required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. When riding saddle seat in the Horsemanship classes, riders should convey impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he/she should show themselves to the best advantage. Breaking a pattern is considered a major fault.

Hands: Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and

where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional: however, both hands must be used, and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bite of the reins should fall on the right side.

Basic Position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. To obtain the proper position, rider should place himself/herself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without the use of irons. While at this position adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural.

Position in Motion:

Walk: slight motion in saddle

Trot: slight elevation in saddle rising, hips under body not mechanical up and down or swinging forward and backward.

Canter: close seat, going with the horse

Mounting and Dismounting: To mount, take up reins if left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

Criteria:

Horsemanship	40%
Performance of pattern	40%
Appearance	10%
Project knowledge	10%

English Horsemanship Level 1

Required abilities:

1. Catch and properly fit a halter on a horse.
2. Explain and demonstrate how to safely and properly lead a horse.
3. Safely back the horse from the ground.
4. Demonstrate where and how to tie a horse safely. Give some examples of what are unsuitable (unsafe) places or objects to tie a horse to.
5. Demonstrate a pre-riding grooming and explain why it is important to always groom your horse before saddling him/her.
6. Help safely bridle and unbridle a horse (members may need assistance).
7. Help safely saddle and unsaddle a horse (members may need assistance).
8. Show how to check the tack before mounting and explain the reasons for doing so.
9. Safely mount and dismount (some members may need assistance).
10. Explain and show proper body position when riding.
11. Show how to correctly hold the reins.
12. Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is walking.
13. Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is trotting.
14. Back your horse while mounted, 5 steps.
15. While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and back to the walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
16. Stop your horse from a walk.
17. Stop your horse from the trot.
18. Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the walk.
19. Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the trot.
20. Explain and demonstrate what you would do if your horse were running away with you.
21. While watching a horse being ridden at the trot, identify whether the rider is posting (rising) the trot or sitting the trot.
22. While watching a horse at a canter, identify which lead it is in.

English Horsemanship Level 2

Required abilities:

1. Explain and demonstrate the proper riding position while sitting on your horse and at the walk.
2. While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and to a canter, back to a trot than a walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
3. Demonstrate a posting (rising) trot, showing the posting rhythm, both directions of the arena.
4. Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a canter on the left lead.
5. Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a canter on the right lead.
6. Canter a circle to the left, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
7. Canter a circle to the right, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
8. Show a balanced stop from a walk.
9. Stop from a jog/trot.
10. Stop from a canter. (Rider may need to trot a couple steps when stopping.)
11. Back 6 steps while mounted.
12. Turn 90 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
13. Turn 90 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
14. Turn 90 degrees to the left on the forehand.
15. Turn 90 degrees to the right on the forehand.
16. Demonstrate how properly to neck rein your horse to the left and to the right.
17. Demonstrate how to pick up the front feet on a horse.
18. Demonstrate how to tie a quick release knot.

English Horsemanship Level 3

Required abilities:

1. Demonstrate proper riding position at the walk and trot.
2. While guiding your horse around the arena demonstrate the difference between a jog and a trot.
3. At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn left around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
4. At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn right around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
5. While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the left demonstrate a posting (rising) right diagonal.
6. While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the right demonstrate a posting (rising) left diagonal.
7. Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to canter on the left lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, canter 2 circles to the left on the left lead, without breaking gait.
8. Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to canter on the right lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, canter 2 circles to the right on the right lead, without breaking gait.
9. Canter a figure 8 pattern showing a drop to trot lead change in the center of the pattern.
10. From a trot demonstrate a balanced stop.
11. While mounted, back your horse in a straight line for 10 steps.
12. Turn 180 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
13. Turn 180 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
14. Turn 180 degrees to the left on the forehand.
15. Turn 180 degrees to the right on the forehand.
16. Sidepass to the left 6 steps (or three crossovers).
17. Sidepass to the right 6 steps (or three crossovers).
18. Demonstrate how to pick-up the hind feet of a horse.
19. Explain how to tell if a horse needs to have its feet trimmed.

English Horsemanship Level 4

Required abilities:

1. Demonstrate how to lunge your horse in a controlled manner in each gait.
2. Demonstrate how to measure the seat of your English saddle.
3. Measure your horse and tell how tall he/she is and determine the average weight.
4. Demonstrate proper riding position in a walk, trot and canter.
5. While mounted, back your horse in a square.
6. Demonstrate giving at the poll.
7. While riding a serpentine, change diagonals with emphasis on the recognition of the correct diagonal in the right place.
8. Walk to marker A, canter a straight a line to B and halt.
9. From a canter, demonstrate a balanced halt.
10. Demonstrate leg yield to the left.
11. Demonstrate leg yield to the right.
12. Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a walk.
13. Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a walk.
14. Turn 360 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
15. Turn 360 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
16. Turn 360 degrees to the right on the forehand.
17. Turn 360 degrees to the left on the forehand.
18. Demonstrate and explain a free walk and its importance.
19. Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

English Horsemanship Level 5

Required abilities:

1. Demonstrate how to properly fit your English saddle to your horse.
2. Demonstrate a drop to trot lead change in a straight line.
3. Drop irons and ride as instructed on the rail.
4. Counter canter a left circle.
5. Counter canter a right circle.
6. Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a working trot.
7. Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a working trot.
8. Demonstrate haunches in.
9. Demonstrate and explain a half halt.
10. With dropped irons, demonstrate a sitting trot with a basic balanced position.
11. From marker A demonstrate a lead departure on a straight line from a halt.
12. Demonstrate a two track at a walk across the arena.
13. Name five moving parts of the horse and demonstrate how to move each part.
14. Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

English Horsemanship Level 6

Required abilities:

1. Explain and show the different types teeth of your horse; molars, incisors, canines and wolf teeth if present or approximate location.
2. While mounted, back a balanced 10 ft. circle.
3. Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a canter.
4. Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a canter.
5. With irons dropped, demonstrate a rising trot in a right circle.

6. With irons dropped, demonstrate a rising trot in a left circle.
7. With irons dropped, canter a left round circle.
8. With irons dropped, canter a right round circle.
9. Demonstrate and explain a two-point position at a trot.
10. Demonstrate a hand gallop and explain the difference between it and a canter.
11. Ride your horse in a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the left.
12. Ride your horse in a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the right.
13. Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

English Horsemanship Level 7

Exhibitors in Level 7 will demonstrate their riding ability with a pattern they design. Patterns are to be mailed in with your State Horse Show registration. Patterns will be scored by the judge and awarded points based on legibility, neatness, and ability to be executed. Below are requirements needed to be included in a pattern that the 4-H member can design. Other additional maneuvers may be added. This pattern may consist of costumes for you and your horse and may be choreographed to music and use props. Set up time, performance of pattern, and tear down time not to exceed 5 minutes. The intent is to show the knowledge and horsemanship abilities that you have gained by completing all 6 levels. **English patterns should follow a dressage-style test.**

Required maneuvers:

1. Flying lead change performed in both directions
2. Demonstrate how to extend your horses stride in the trot and canter
3. Backing
4. Counter canter both directions
5. Leg yield
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the correct diagonal
7. Hand gallop

Ranch Horse Levels 1-4

Working Ranch Horse will follow the Montana State Horse Project Bit Rules. Romel, roping and split reins are legal. Saddles must be of western type and have a horn. Mule hide, latigo, elk hide, or basic leather or rubber are suggestions for horn coverings. Leather gives better when dallied than rubber and is suggested more for younger members learning how to rope cows. Rubber bites harder on rope and gives a better grip when dragging cows.

Attire

- ◆ The 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is a western event and participants should dress accordingly.
- ◆ Boots - Boots should be of western type with a heel and should not have thick rubber soles that could cause a foot to stick in the stirrup.
- ◆ Jeans and shirts - Jeans and shirts should be of western style. Shirts should be button down with a collar and long sleeves. Jeans should be made of denim and of an appropriate color.
- ◆ Hats - Hats must be western. No ball caps.
- ◆ Accessories - Neck rags, vests, chaps, chinks or other appropriate accessories are acceptable.

Refer to the Working Ranch Horse project book and published Montana State 4-H Working Ranch Horse Rules for Competitions for more information.

Bareback Equitation Classes

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope/canter both ways of the ring. One or all contestants may be asked to back and perform individual pattern at discretion of the judge. Riders will be judged on seat, feet, hands and the ability to control the horse. No chaps and spurs are allowed. Members 14 and over may be asked to dismount and mount, English and Western attire may be worn.

Western Equitation

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope both ways of the ring. Walk-Trot Equitation class will be judged at a

walk and trot only both ways of the ring. One or more contestants may be asked to back and/or perform individual patterns at the judge's discretion. Riders will be judged on seat, legs, hands and the ability to control the horse and on the performance of the horse. Chaps and spurs will be allowed. Members 14 and older may be asked to dismount and mount. Proper western attire must be worn. The loping classes will be entered according to age of contestant. Walk-Trot is open to Horsemanship 1 members only, regardless of age. Contestants in Walk-Trot may not cross enter loping classes.

English Equitation

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Walk-Trot Equitation will be judged at a walk and trot only both ways of the ring. One or all of the contestants may be asked to back and perform individual patterns at the discretion of the judge. Riders will be judged on seat, feet, hands and the ability to control the horse and on the performance of the horse. Spurs without rowels and riding crops will be allowed. Members 14 and older may be asked to dismount and mount. Proper English attire will be required. Cantering classes will be entered according to age of contestant. Walk-Trot is open to Horsemanship 1 members only, regardless of age. Walk-Trot contestants may not cross-enter cantering classes.

Trail Class

- ◆ English or Western tack and attire may be used.
- ◆ This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in maneuvering the obstacles.
- ◆ The horse should work with a reasonable loose rein without undue restraint.
- ◆ Six or more obstacles will be used, of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list.
- ◆ The distance between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.

Mandatory Obstacles:

- ◆ **Opening, passing through and closing gate.** A rider losing control of gate will be penalized. A gate will be used which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
- ◆ **Ride over at least four logs or poles.** These can be a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot-overs and lope-overs cannot be elevated in novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot-overs and lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof:
 1. The spacing for walkovers should be 20" to 24" (40cm to 60cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22" (55cm) apart.
 2. The spacing for trot overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90cm-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
 3. The spacing for lopeovers shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1 meters) or increments thereof and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
- ◆ **Back obstacle:** Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28" (70 cm). If elevated, 30" (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
 1. Back through and around at least three (3) markers.
 2. Back through "L," "V," "U," straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24" (60 cm).

Optional Obstacles, but not limited to:

- ◆ Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
- ◆ Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6' (1.8 meters) for jog.
- ◆ Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects, which might reasonably, be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
- ◆ Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" (90 cm) wide and at least six feet long.) Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
- ◆ Put on and remove a slicker.
- ◆ Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30cm) maximum).
- ◆ An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7 feet long (1.5 to 2 meters) long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over the log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider will execute a turn and depart.

- ◆ Any other safe and negotiable obstacle, which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.
- ◆ A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

Unacceptable obstacles:

- ◆ Animals
- ◆ Jumps
- ◆ Logs or poles elevated in a manner permitting them to roll.
- ◆ Hides
- ◆ Rocking or moving bridges
- ◆ PVC pipe
- ◆ Fire extinguishers
- ◆ Ground ties
- ◆ Water box with floating or moving parts.

Yearling Trail:

Required abilities:

- ◆ This class will be judged on the performance of the horse at halter, in maneuvering the obstacles.
- ◆ A trail course to be set may include 4 trot-overs, bridge, left-hand gate, mailbox, back
- ◆ Obstacles will not be raised (trot-overs and bridge)

Criteria:

Conditioning and conformation	20%
Handling/ Course Completion	80%

Hunter Hack

- ◆ 4-H members must be in English Horsemanship level 3 or above in order to compete in hunter hack.
- ◆ Class will include a pattern which may include two jumps and gaits of walk, trot, canter, and hand gallop. Rail work may also be included at discretion of the judge.
- ◆ Jump height will be up to 18 inches for ages 13 and under.
- ◆ Jump height will be up to 24 inches for ages 14 and over.

SPECIAL AWARDS IN THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

Skip-a-Lily Memorial Trail Award: Given by Cascade County 4-H Horse Leaders in honor of Billy Carol and Dick Smiley. "Skippy" started as a 4-H Colt to Maturity project, who over 21 years had ten different 4-H members use her as their project horse. She was an exceptional ride and is greatly missed. Special award giving to first place rider in junior, intermediate, and senior trail classes at the Cascade County 4-H Horseshow.

Colt to Maturity Award, Sponsor Cascade County Horse Leaders

This award will consist of a belt buckle or award of equal value.

In order to qualify for this award, eligible 4-H member must:

1. Submit a 1-3 page letter/story stating he/she has successfully completed requirements for this award. Included in the letter, the 4-H member should state what they learned through the project, what it has meant to him/her, describe the experiences, successes and failures they have had over the years of the project and share stories, growth and detail of experiences with their colt project. The letter will be reviewed by the Cascade County Horse Leaders in review for award qualification.
2. Must participate in a Cascade County Horse Leaders sponsored horse show **or** the State 4-H Horseshow for each year of the project. *Exception: If the member or horse is injured and unable to show in a county sponsored show, the member and horse may continue in the project and remain eligible for C2M award provided a doctor's statement or Vet statement is given to Extension Office prior to the show. 4-H member must submit his/her up-to-date record book each year at the time record books are due for the County Awards.
3. Must submit comprehensive project record books for review including but not limited to:

- a. Current year's animal project records and all previous year's records for the colt to maturity project.
- b. Current My 4-H Year record
- c. Completed 4-H Colt to Maturity Project Manual
- d. Project completion letter / story. Photos are encouraged but not required.

Horse Judging Scholarships: Award originated by Judy and Alex Ferguson and sponsored by Charla Merja Family. Cash awards of \$25.00 are presented to:

- 1. A Senior member (14 years old and over)
- 2. An Intermediate member (11-13 years old)
- 3. A Junior member (10 years old and under).

Members must judge in at least two horse judging contests. Winners are determined by the highest percent score of 2 highest session scores of the contest dates in which they judge. These awards are presented on Achievement Night.

Cascade County Horse Show High Point Awards

High point awards will be given at the Cascade County Horse Show. Only Cascade County 4-H members are eligible for high point recognition. The top 2 point earners in a horsemanship category for the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions and the top 2 point earners in a colt category will receive high point horse show recognition and awards.

Ribbon points are awarded as follows: 5 for grand, 4 for reserve, 3 for blue, 2 for red, and 1 for white. The ribbon points are used to calculate high point totals and are tallied at year-end awards.

The Horsemanship High Point in each age division will include points earned in the following classes: showmanship, bareback equitation, western equitation, English equitation, trail, western horsemanship, English horsemanship, and hunter hack. All horsemanship level classes and level 1 classes will be included for each age group.

The Colt High Point will include points from all classes in the colt to maturity or green horse divisions.

Ties will be determined by placings first in showmanship, then trail and finally level(s) class.

Cascade County Year End High Point Awards

- ◆ A point system is used to reward horse members for involvement and achievement throughout the 4-H year. The Horse Leaders will recognize the top 3-point earners within the Horseless Horse, Senior, Intermediate, and Junior divisions at Achievement Night.
- ◆ Points must be earned at events sanctioned by the Cascade County 4-H Horse Leaders. Qualifying events include:
 - Cascade County 4-H Horse Clinics and 4-H Horse Camp: 5 points per clinic or camp
 - Cascade County 4-H riding events such as open rides and/or practice sessions: 1 point per session, with a maximum of 5 points per year.
 - Level Advancement (one per year): 15 points; applies to leveling up in any project such as English or Western Horsemanship, Colt to Maturity or Green Horse, or Ranch Horse. Points are not given for entry year in Level 1.
 - Cascade County 4-H Educational Horse Program: 3 points per program.
 - Cascade County 4-H Horse Show and Cascade/Teton Counties 4-H Working Ranch Horse Competition ribbon points will be tabulated with the following points: 5 for grand, 4 for reserve, 3 for blue, 2 for red, and 1 for white. A single member's two horses earning the highest ribbon points will go towards year end points.
 - Horse related State Fair 4-H Entry: 1 point each item
 - Completed 4-H Horse record book: 25 points

Members must turn in completed books to be eligible for year-end awards. 4-H members who turn in a completed record book will receive 25 points towards year-end awards. Awards will be given to only qualifiers if there are

fewer than 3 qualifiers in any age group. Both exhibitors will be given an award in the event of a tie for 3rd and 4th place. Please note: A 4-H member may call the Points Manager for his/her score anytime during the year. The Points record is public information.

Ties will be determined by the number of project days attended, followed by state fair entry points.

Heads or Tails Award

A traveling trophy will be presented for participation in the County Performance and Ranch Horse Shows to the 4-H Club with the highest award average per member enrolled in the horse project. The 4-H Club is selected based upon the following criteria:

1. Add the ribbon points for all the members in the club based on the following point system:
Grand: 5 points
Reserve: 4 points
Blue: 3 points
Red: 2 points
White: 1 point
2. Divide this number by the number of club members enrolled in the horse project.
3. There must be a minimum of five (5) members per club enrolled in a 4-H Horse Project: Levels, Colt to Maturity, Green Horse, Ranch Horse, Driving, Small Equine or Packing.

Note: Awards are not part of the policy and may be subject to change during the year. They are included here as information for the 4-H members.

Please read your 4-H newsletter for dates on important program dates at (406) 454-6980. Clinic and show dates will also be announced in the Cascade County 4-H newsletter and emails.

