

# Allegan County 4-H Horsemaster Level Two

NAME	_____	4H AGE	_____	ID#	_____
ADDRESS	_____				
CITY	_____	ZIP	_____		
PH#	_____	CLUB NAME	_____		
LEADERS NAME(S)	_____				
SCHOOL	_____	GRADE	_____		



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# **ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H HORSEMASTER PROGRAM LEVEL TWO**

## **Introduction:**

Upon passing Level One, you have learned to safely ride your horse or pony with some confidence. You have learned safety around horses and basic care, feeding and housing of your horse. You can control your horse or pony with reasonable skill at the walk, trot, stop, back, circle and reverse.

In Level Two you will build on your knowledge base of care and feeding, good health for your horse, and learn about the different breeds of horses and ponies. You will learn more about how the aids work and how to put them to better use. You will learn to identify various parts of the horse and riding equipment. You and your horse or pony will develop a unique partnership as you understand more about the horse's nature and develop better balance. You will be introduced to the canter/lope and begin to understand proper leads.

## **GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

Upon completion of Level Two, each 4-H member will be able to:

1. Pass a written test on the Horse Sense (Theory) & Unmounted Instruction section with a minimum passing score of 85%.
2. Become familiar with four breeds of horses or ponies and their distinguishing characteristics.
3. Identify a minimum of 15 parts of the horse.
4. Safely catch and handle an unaltered horse or pony, lead and secure (tie) correctly.
5. Describe the basic colors and markings of horses and ponies
6. English riders will be able to ride a posting trot, and be introduced to proper diagonals and diagonal changes.
7. Ride a trot/jog without breaking gait.
8. Back five steps, stop and walk forward.
9. Ride two simple trail obstacles at a walk and/or trot/jog.
10. With reasonable correct form walk, trot and canter a horse safely and in control.
11. Learn face and leg markings.
12. Perform and complete the mounted riding evaluation with a minimum passing score of 5 for each skill evaluated and an overall minimum score of 75%.

## **HORSE SENSE (THEORY) AND UNMOUNTED INSTRUCTION**

1. Complete Feed Chart and Maintenance Record (Form enclosed).
2. Complete Project Animal Activity Participation Log (Form enclosed)
3. Complete Personal Story (Form enclosed)
4. Parts of the horse (15).

5. Horse talk – horse terms every 4-Her should know: (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 45).
  - Dam
  - Sire
  - Pony
  - Tack
  - Hands
  - Sound
  - Blemish
  - Brand
  - Haunches
  - Forehand
  - Grade horse
  - Farrier
  - Veterinarian (DVM)
6. Describe the markings and three basic colors of horses and ponies. (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 6)
7. Safety in catching & handling an unaltered horse or pony (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 42).
  - Approaching
  - Haltering
  - Leading
  - Tying with a safety (quick release) knot.
8. Grooming (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 27)
  - Steps in routine grooming
  - Cleaning/care of the feet
  - Grooming of the body
  - Mane and tail hair
  - Frequency
9. Know the parts of the saddle and bridle (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 24-25)
10. Saddle and bridle a horse or pony correctly, assistance may be necessary (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 23).
11. Common diseases/ailments of horses and ponies:
  - Colic
  - Thrush
  - Founder
  - Parasites

**MOUNTED SKILLS**  
**LEVEL TWO**  
**(Choice of seat optional)**

1. Mount and dismount (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 19 – Western only in Manual)
  - From the ground
  - Correct use of mounting block
  - Correct way to give a “leg up”.
2. Correct seat/posture in saddle, pick up & hold reins correctly (Horse & Horsemanship Manual page 19 – Western only in manual)
3. Balance of horse and rider.
4. English – introduction to proper diagonals/Western – be able to identify correct diagonals.
5. Smoother transitions from walk to trot and trot to walk (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 20-21 – Western only in Manual)
6. Improve circles, turns and reverses at walk and trot.
7. Ride a trot/jog without breaking gait.
8. Backing and stopping (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 21 –22 Western only in Manual)
9. Simple obstacles at a walk and trot.
10. Ride, walk, trot, canter/lope with reasonably good equitation.
11. Reverse on the haunches.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

1. **Level Two Trail Riding**

In Level One, your first trail riding experiences were at a walk. Now you have better control at the trot, you may add trotting on the trail. You should canter/lope in the ring, when you are able to handle your horse safely, then, you can canter on the trail. At this point you are to perfect your trail riding skills and control.
2. **Rating your Horse**
  - Conditioning
  - Proper spacing/distance between horses on the trail
  - Ground covering gaits (striding, walking and trot)
  - Don’t crowd the horse ahead – don’t lag too far behind
  - Ride single file when in a group.
3. **Riding Uphill**
  - Proper position - stand and balance forward over the horse’s center of balance.
  - Place hands forward - allow the horse to stretch his neck and balance himself.
  - Don’t allow rushing or lunging up a hill.
  - Keep moving when you reach the top - if you stop, others behind you on the hill will have to stop, too.

- Don't canter off the top of the hill - other horses climbing the hill may try to rush to catch up in the fear of being left behind (herd instinct).
4. **Riding Downhill**
- Sit straight with good posture and keep your weight balanced over your legs
  - Before starting down, check and release. (This alerts your horse to be careful and not to rush)
  - Keep the horse straight. If the horse gets sideways, he is more likely to slip.
  - Allow his head to move enough so he can see where he is going and to balance himself.
  - Don't allow rushing or going fast downhill.
  - Don't stop at the bottom - keep moving until all the horses are safely down the hill.
  - The safest speed to take a horse downhill is at a walk
5. **Streams and Muddy places**
- Slow down to a walk
  - Put your leg on the horse and keep him moving straight through, don't allow him to stop.
  - Be alert - some horses are reluctant to cross water. Keep your heels down and leg on, he may try to leap across.
  - Most horses, even if reluctant, will follow the horse in front of him.
  - Keep the horse facing straight over the stream and urge him steadily with legs and voice.
6. **Hazard Warnings**
- If a *hazard* is seen (wire, hole etc), point to the *hazard* as you pass it and tell other riders behind you.
  - Each rider is to pass the warning back to the rider behind him until it reaches the end of the line, and the last rider says "okay".
  - It is also courteous & safer to pass back a *warning* like "prepare to trot" before moving into a faster gait.
  - Horses will copy each other, a rider can be taken by surprise if you take off in a faster gait without *warning*.
7. **Starting Out and Stopping**
- Wait until everyone is mounted and ready before starting out.
  - If anyone has to stop to fix equipment or for any reason, the whole group is to stop.
  - It is not safe to put on or take off clothing while mounted. Dismount to adjust clothing or fix equipment.
8. **Riding Along Roads**
- In the State of Michigan, horses are considered vehicles
  - On or along the roadways, horses must obey all Michigan traffic laws, including riding with the direction of the traffic.
  - Ride on the side of the road, as far from the flow of traffic as possible
  - Avoid riding on busy or heavily traveled roads.

- Metal horses shoes are slippery on pavement - avoid riding on pavement whenever possible.
- Only ride at a walk on paved roads.
- Stay alert to trash, broken glass or anything that might hurt your horse when riding along roads.
- All riders are to ride together on the same side of the road in a single file line with at least one horse length between horses.
- Stay alert and watch for traffic at all times.
- When you see a car coming, pass along the *warning* to all riders.

**9. When Crossing a Road**

- Crossing a road with a flank turn
- When you must cross a road/highway, *all riders must cross at the same time*. If some horses are left behind on the other side, they might try to cross and join the other horses, even if there is traffic coming.
- Your leader and the rear guard rider will stop the group, check for traffic, and then call for a *flank turn*
- All riders are to turn at the same time and cross side by side. As you reach the other side, turn back into your single file line.
- It may be safer to dismount, all lead across and remount on the other side. This will be up to your leader to make this decision on how the group will cross.

**ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H HORSEMASTER PROGRAM  
HORSE SENSE (THEORY)  
LEVEL TWO**

1. Choose four of the following breeds, other than your own and describe unique characteristics of each breed. (8)

- Arabian
- Thoroughbred
- Mustang
- Quarter Horse
- Tennessee Walker
- Morgan Horse
- P.O.A.
- Appaloosa
- Welsh
- Saddlebred
- Shetland Pony
- Paint

A) Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Distinguishing Characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Distinguishing Characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C) Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Distinguishing Characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D) Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Distinguishing Characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What breed is your horse? (if grade, what does it resemble most) \_\_\_\_\_(1)

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3. Explain the distinguishing characteristics of your horse or pony. \_\_\_\_\_(1)

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**MULTIPLE CHOICE – Circle the best answer:**

4. **Horses learn to obey because of:** (1)  
a.) natural instincts  
b.) cruelty  
c.) reward and punishment  
d.) sugar, carrots and petting

5. **A horse or pony can pay attention to reward and punishment for about:** (1)  
a) an hour  
b) three seconds  
c) three minutes  
d) as long as you ask him to

6. **When a rider is said to be in balance with his horse, his center of balance is:** (1)  
a) ahead of the motion  
b) behind the motion  
c) up in the air  
d) right over the horse's center of balance.

7. **To ask your horse or pony to canter or lope to the right, you should:** (1)  
a) use you left leg behind the girth  
b) use your right leg behind the girth  
c) kick hard with both legs and lean over  
d) hit him with the end of your reins

8. **When riding a canter or lope, a rider should:** (1)
- a) post as in a trot
  - b) sit down
  - c) stand up
  - d) lean back
9. **When riding in a show ring with others, you should:** (1)
- a) ride side by side with your friends
  - b) stay right up against the horse ahead of you
  - c) stay 30 feet or more behind the next horse.
  - d) stay at least one horse length back of the horse ahead of you and pass if you need.
10. **When the horse is in the proper lead, the rider is looking for:** (1)
- a) an extended inside front leg.
  - b) an extended outside front leg.
  - c) an extended back leg.
  - d) both legs together.
11. Explain each of the following terms:
- Dam \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Sire \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Pony \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Tack \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Hands \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Sound \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Brand \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Haunches \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Forehand \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Grade horse \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Farrier \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Veterinarian (DVM) \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Canter/lope \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - Jog/trot \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

12. Match the following with the correct explanations: (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Colic

a) Is a condition that makes a horse/pony lame or damages his ability to do useful work.

\_\_\_\_\_ Thrush

b.) Is a condition that is unsightly but doesn't affect his ability to perform

\_\_\_\_\_ Internal parasites

c) Is a fungal infection in the frogs of horses that are neglected and allowed to stand in wet, dirty stalls.

\_\_\_\_\_ Blemish

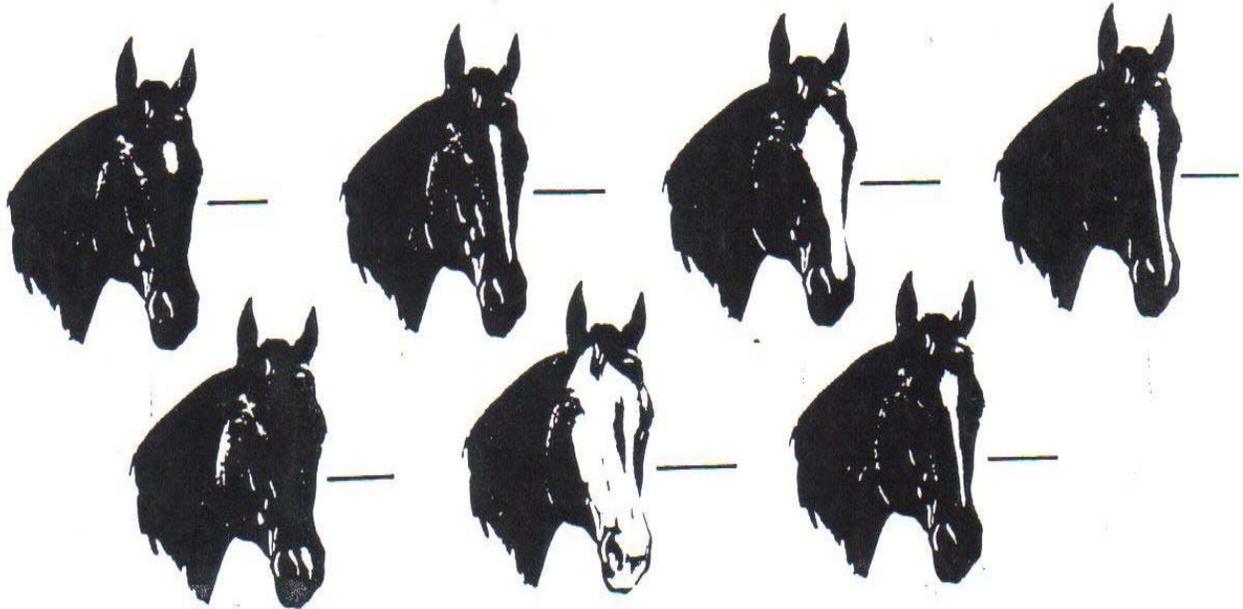
d) Is the number one killer of horses. It is not just one disease and can come from gas, cramps, spasms, a blockage or even twisted intestine.

\_\_\_\_\_ Unsoundness

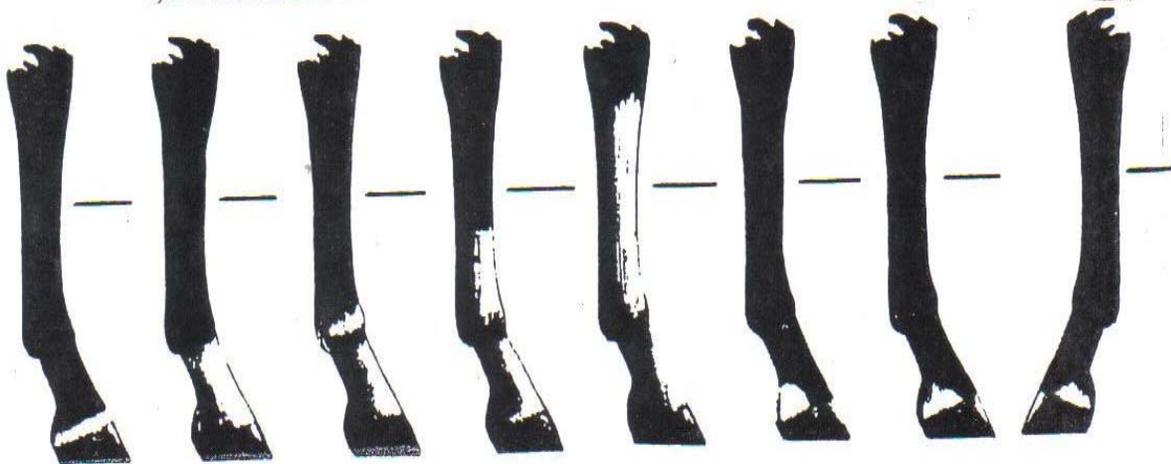
e) They live part of their life cycle in the horse's digestive tract, sapping his strength and damaging his health

13. Match the following face & leg markings:

(15)



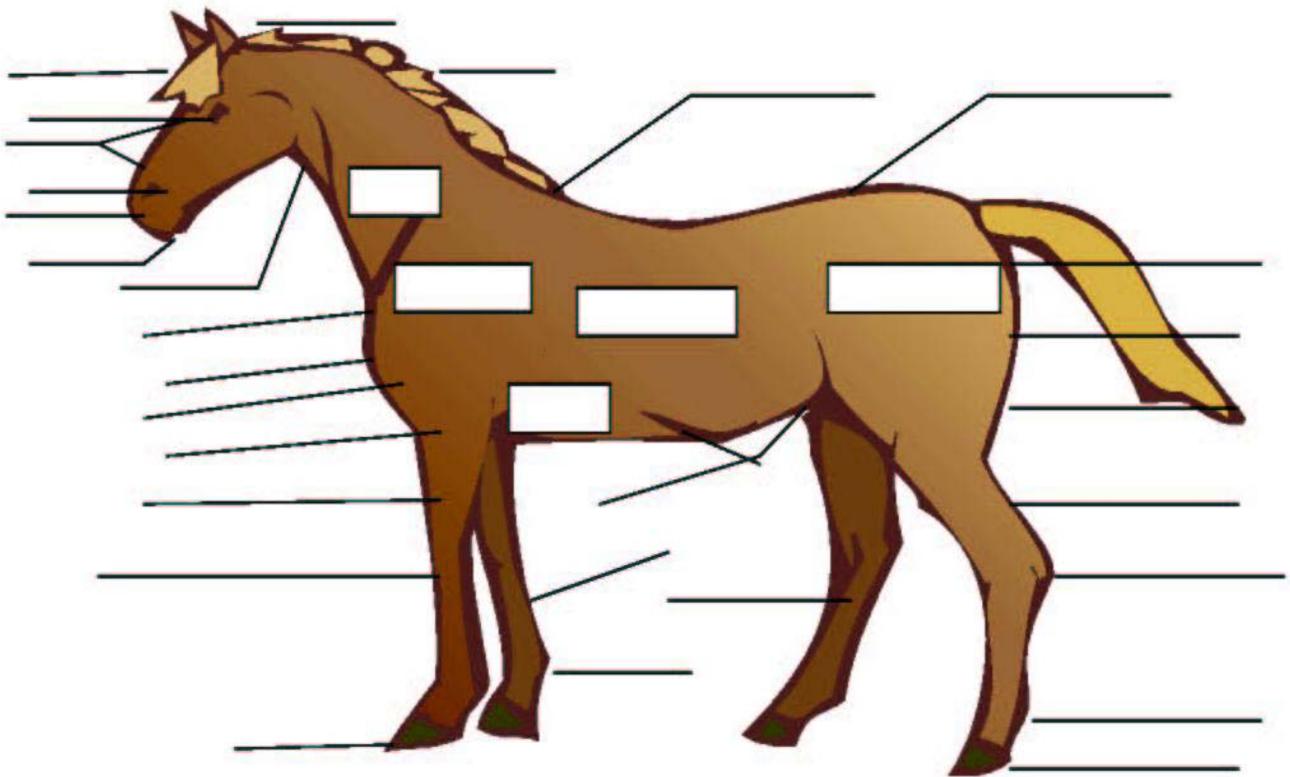
- 1.) STAR
- 2.) BALD FACE
- 3.) BLAZE
- 4.) STAR, STRIPE AND SNIP
- 5.) STRIPE
- 6.) SNIP
- 7.) STAR AND STRIPE



- 1.) STOCKING
- 2.) ANKLE
- 3.) PASTERN
- 4.) OUTSIDE HEEL
- 5.) CORONET
- 6.) INSIDE HEEL
- 7.) HALF STOCKING
- 8.) OUTSIDE WHITE EXTENDING

14. Name 15 parts of the horse:

(15)



**ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H HORSEMASTER PROGRAM  
UNMOUNTED SKILLS  
LEVEL TWO**

Correctly demonstrate the following skills to a designated leader/resource person who will check off each skill and the dates completed.

SKILL	DATE:	INSPECTOR:
1. Catch a horse or pony with a halter off, in a stall, paddock in a field	(1) _____	_____
2. Put on and adjust a halter and remove it safely.	(1) _____	_____
3. Lead a horse or pony with a bridle on	(1) _____	_____
4. Tie a horse or pony with a safety knot.	(1) _____	_____
5. Bridle a horse or pony.	(1) _____	_____
6. Saddle a horse or pony.	(1) _____	_____
7. Demonstrate how to handle a saddle while not on an animal, how to set it down and how to store it properly.	(1) _____	_____
8. Be able to describe or identify 3 colors of a horse or pony.	(1) _____	_____
9. Name and point to 15 parts of your horse or pony	(1) _____	_____
10. Describe your horse's face & leg markings.	(1) _____	_____

COMPLETE FURTHER PAGES IN BOOKLET !!! HAVE FUN!!!

**ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H HORSEMASTER PROGRAM**

**FEED CHART AND MAINTENANCE RECORD**  
**(To be completed by Level One and Two)**

**FEED PROGRAM**

**(List what you feed your horse or pony)**

**Grains (Quantity, quality)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hay (Quantity, quality)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Water (Quantity, quality)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Supplements and/or minerals (Quantity, quality)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

**Explain how you maintain a fit and healthy project animal (daily, weekly exercise or turn out time, stall cleaning, housing, etc)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Allegan County 4-H Horsemaster Program**

**PROJECT ANIMAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION LOG**

**(To be completed by all levels)**

(Explain activities you and your project animal participate in: Horse shows, Trail Rides, 4-H Mounted Meetings, Parades, other 4-H Events, etc)

- \_\_\_\_\_  
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**LEVEL TWO MOUNTED SKILLS EVALUATION**  
(Choice of seat optional)

Scoring System – 75% passing (with a minimum of 5 on each movement)

- 1-3 Unsafe - difficulty maintaining control
- 3-5 Attempt to perform movement, but below requirements  
(example: lead un - corrected)
- 5-8 Movement performed with errors, but corrected  
(example: leads, diagonals)
- 8-10 Movements performed correctly to exceptionally well

**LEVEL TWO**

	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Score</b>
Lead your horse or pony to evaluator, perform a tack check	10	
Mount your horse or pony (may be assisted) walk along rail	10	
Trot/jog along rail	10	
Circle at a trot/jog	10	
Trot/jog balancing two-point position	10	
Halt from a trot/jog (pausing for 10 seconds)	10	
Lope/canter left lead	10	
Break to a walk	10	
Reverse on the haunches (180 degree turn) continue to walk	10	
Trot/jog figure eight	10	
Lope/canter right lead	10	
Stop back 5 steps along rail	10	
Weave at a trot through 4 cones	10	
Trot over 4 ground poles	10	

**ADDITIONAL SCORING**

Subtle use of aids	10	
Submission of horse to rider	10	
Correctness of position	10	
Balance and collection	10	
Overall safety awareness	10	

Possible Score            (190) Total \_\_\_\_\_

General comments of overall ride (may make suggestions for improvements) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Enclose a picture of you and your project animal with this sheet in a sheet protector. Pictures will be added to certificate upon completion of level and placed in the sheet protector.

**NAMES TO APPEAR ON CERTIFICATE**

(Please print carefully)

**RIDER** \_\_\_\_\_

**HORSE OR PONY** \_\_\_\_\_

