ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H HORSEMASTERS PROGRAM  
LEVEL THREE

Introduction:
Upon completion of Level Two, you are able to care for your project animal’s physical needs, health care, feeding, grooming, and housing. Your balance, control and confidence enable you to ride safely in the ring and on the trail. Your record keeping skills demonstrate your areas of accomplishments, improvements and provide you with a ready resource of information.
To become a good rider you need to develop “hands on skills”. Knowledge is invaluable but knowledge alone will not make you a good rider. Adequate “horse experience” and time to practice the skills of horsemanship will enable you to reach the Advanced Level. After completion of Level Three, you will have gained knowledge of proper leads and diagonals and will be able to execute smooth transitions.

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS
Upon completion of Level Three, each 4-H Member will be able to:
1. Pass the written test on the Horse Sense (Theory) & Unmounted sections with a minimum passing score of 85%.
2. Explain how a horse learns.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of conformation by explaining how to select a good horse.
4. Adjust the stirrups to the correct length for the type of riding to be done.
5. Know the parts of the Western and English saddle.
6. Know the external parts of the horse’s hoof and locate them on a real animal.
7. Ride and demonstrate correct diagonals and correct simple changes of leads.
8. Perform correct and smooth transitions in forward gaits and backing and stopping.
9. Ride the Western/English riding pattern at a walk and a trot.
10. Perform and complete the mounted riding test with a minimum passing score of 5 for each skill evaluated and an overall, minimum score of 75%.
HORSE SENSE (THEORY) & 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. Horse psychology (How a horse learns). (Horse Science Manual, page 2-5)
   - Instincts and survival
   - How a horse learns
   - Rewards and punishments
5. Three basic gaits: (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 16)
   - Walk – four beat gait
   - Trot/jog - two beat gait
   - Canter/lope - three beat gait.
6. Parts of the horse (20). (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 9)
7. Identify parts of the Western and English saddles. (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 24)
8. Know and demonstrate five pieces of grooming equipment. (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 27)
9. Demonstrate bathing a horse or pony.
10. Know safe transport of horses/ponies
11. Horse talk - horse terms every 4-Her should know: (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 45)
   - Get
   - Produce
   - Green Horse
   - Off side
   - Near side
   - Conformation
   - Appointments
   - Vices
   - Dressage
   - Gymkhana
12. Be able to measure the height of a horse or pony.
13. Discuss your horse or pony’s conformation with your leader.
MOUNTED SKILLS  
LEVEL THREE  
(Choice of seat optional)

1. Putting the aids to work (Horse & Horsemanship Manual, page 20)
   • Natural aids
   • Artificial aids

2. The leg aids:
   • Normal leg position
   • Function of upper leg, lower leg and feet (heels)
   • Length of stirrup is most important
   • Direct result of good leg position
   • Apply leg aids behind the girth
   • Applying leg aids at the girth
   • Applying one leg, applying both legs.

3. Seat (weight), and voice aids:
   • Before a rider can influence the horse by using seat, back and weight aids, he/she must first learn how to sit passively in correct position in all paces.
   • Correct, fundamental position in your seat.
   • Faults in seat position
   • Use of a passive seat
   • Use of an active seat
   • Use of voice and seat aids.

4. Ways of using the reins:
   • Loose rein
   • Light rein
   • Riding on contact

5. Coordination of all your aids: (begin introduction - advanced moves)
   • Forward movement - increase impulsion
   • Forward movement - collection
   • Lateral movements - side pass - turns on the forehand & haunches
   • Backing with influence and direction, improve halts.

6. Improving your seat in trot/jog and canter/lope.
   • Balance
   • Aids
   • Independent seat and hands.

7. Leads at canter/lope
   • Asking for the correct lead
   • How to identify correct leads (by sight, by feel)
   • Seat and aids
   • Simple change of lead (flying changes optional)
   • Faulty canter/lope

8. Smooth transitions, in the walk, trot, canter/lope, backing and stopping

9. Ride simple trail obstacles at a walk and trot/lope

10. English/Western riding pattern at a walk and trot/jog
1. Breeds:
   a) Explain the difference between an Arabian and a Quarter horse. (5)
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________
   b) List three color breeds: ______________________________________ (3)
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________
   c) Describe the difference between the P.O.A. and the Appaloosa. (5)
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________
   d) List three gaited breeds: _____________________________________(3)
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________

MULTIPLE CHOICE – Circle the best answer:

2. A trot is a: (1)
   a) two beat gait
   b) three beat gait
   c) fast gait with suspension
   d) four beat gait.

3. The best way to handle a horse that shies is to: (1)
   a) punish him
   b) stop and pat him to quiet him down
   c) never let him see the object that scares him
   d) put him back to work as soon as possible without fuss

4. When a horse lays his ears back, he is feeling: (1)
   a) sleepy
   b) angry
   c) interested in something behind him
   d) is about to lay down

5. Signs of a heavy-handed rider or ill-fitting bit: (1)
   a) gapping mouth
   b) tossing head
   c) all of the above
   d) none of the above
6. **This type of bit multiplies the pressure the rider puts on the reins:**
   a) snaffle bit
   b) curb bit
   c) ring snaffle

7. Describe how the height of a horse or pony is measured. ________(2)

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

8. Define the following terms:
   - Get ________________________________________________(1)
   - Produce ______________________________________________(1)
   - Green horse ____________________________________________(1)
   - Off side ________________________________________________(1)
   - Near side ______________________________________________(1)
   - Conformation __________________________________________(1)
   - Appointments ___________________________________________(1)
   - Vices ________________________________________________ (1)
   - Dressage ______________________________________________(1)
   - Gymkhana _____________________________________________(1)

9. When looking for a horse or pony to buy, describe what things you could do that will increase your chances of getting a good animal. What should you look for or check for when going to see and try out a horse or pony that you may buy?

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
10. From illustration below fill in the parts of the hoof: (8)

- a. white line
- b. frog
- c. wall
- d. sole bars
- e. heel
- f. point of frog
- g. cleft of frog
- h. sole

11. From illustration of Bridles (Western/English) below, fill in five parts each: (5)
12. From illustration of Saddles (Western/English) below fill in *eight* parts of each. (16)
13. From illustration below list 20 parts of the horse (20)
14. Diagram of English/Western Riding patterns: (for reference)
ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H HORSEMASTER PROGRAM
UNMOUNTED SKILLS
LEVEL THREE

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKILL</th>
<th>DATE:</th>
<th>INSPECTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bathe a horse or pony</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Correctly bandage a horse’s legs for transport.</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Demonstrate the correct adjustment of the bit in a horse or pony’s mouth</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Using your animal, identify the parts of the hoof.</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Accurately measure a horse or pony</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Demonstrate 5 pieces of grooming equipment</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Be able to describe or identify 5 coat colors of a horse.</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Perform a single showmanship pattern, demonstrate a trot, set-up for inspection, back 4 steps, 180 degree pivot reverse.</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Lunge your horse at a walk, trot and reverse (both directions)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Describe how to store, clean and handle your tack</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Explain a true canter/lope and a faulty canter/lope</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Allegan County 4-H Horsemaster Program

FEED CHART AND MAINTENANCE RECORD
(To be completed by Level Three, Four and Five)

FEED PROGRAM
(List what you feed your horse and why)

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.) __________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
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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• __________________________________________________________
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  __________________________________________________________

• __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
PERSONAL STORY (Level 1,2,3,4 &5)

Write a project story. Tell of any special accomplishments, experiences, knowledge you have gained, skills learned, new appreciations acquired, and how the project has helped you grow as a person during your project work in this level.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Continue on back if needed
**LEVEL THREE MOUNTED SKILLS EVALUATION**  
*(Choice of seat is 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: wrong lead uncorrected)
- **5-8** Movement performed with errors, but corrected  
  (example: leads, diagonals)
- **8-10** Movement performed correctly to exceptionally well.

**LEVEL THREE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead your horse or pony to evaluator, perform a tack check and explain purpose and proper fit.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount your horse or pony (may be assisted) walk along trail</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle at a trot</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canter left lead down center of ring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse at the canter, performing a simple lead change (flying lead change acceptable)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canter right lead, break to trot</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halt, pause 10 seconds</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse on the haunches (180 degree turn)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse on the forehand (180 degree turn)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidepass either way along the trail</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trot over 4 ground polls</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back through 3 cones</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform English/Western riding pattern at a trot</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground tie</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADDITIONAL SCORING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subtle use of aids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of horse to rider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctness of position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance and collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall safety awareness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possible Score**  
*(190) Total _____*  

General comments of overall ride (may make suggestions for improvement)___________  
________________________________________________________________________  
________________________________________________________________________  
________________________________________________________________________  
________________________________________________________________________

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 _________________________________________________