



EL PASO COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

# INTRODUCTION TO THE HORSE PROGRAM



El Paso County  
**4-H Horse Program**

# Introduction to the Horse Project in El Paso County

## What is 4-H?

*"4-H is America's largest youth development organization- empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime."*

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. For more than 100 years, 4-H has welcomed young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving kids a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.

Through life-changing 4-H programs, nearly six million kids and teens have taken on critical societal issues, such as addressing community health inequities, engaging in civil discourse and advocating for equity and inclusion for all.

## What is a Horse Project?

Horse Project provides an interactive, hands-on curriculum for youth to explore raising and showing horses while developing life skills.

## What is Considered Project Completion for a 4-H Member?

The 4-H program begins in October of each year. We believe in providing opportunities throughout the year for the youth which include activities, events, educational seminars, clinics, and so forth.

### 4-H Project Completion Requirements

1. Participate in a demonstration or other speech-arts presentation.
2. Participate in a community service activity through or with the club.
3. Complete an E-Record for each project the 4-H member is enrolled in and receive a score of 70% or above, graded by club volunteer-leaders or other designated personnel, selected by the club.
4. **NOTE:** Clubs may have additional participation requirements for continued participation in their club and to maintain active status within the club. This is different and separate from county and state project completion requirements and may vary from club to club.

## What is an E-Record also known as a Record Book?

4-H record books give members an opportunity to reflect on their yearly work. Members document their skill development and learning experiences in a written report. 4-H members measure their achievements and growth. 4-H record books encourage members to set goals and develop plans to meet those goals. In addition, record books provide the youth with life skills and focus on the importance of tracking animal health and expenses.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- 4-H members must complete an E-Record for the horse project and receive a score of 70% or above.
- Club organizational leaders are responsible for collecting and ensuring the following record books are graded by the deadline set by the El Paso CSU Extension office.
- If a 4-H member turns in an unsatisfactory E-Record, they should be given one week to revise the E-Record to reach a score of 70% or higher. If E-Record revisions are required and completed, the 4-H member will not be eligible for end-of-year E-Record awards, but the satisfactory revisions will meet the completion requirement.
  - Members that choose not to make the necessary changes to reach a score of 70% or higher will not meet the completion requirement.
- 4-H members are encouraged to use 4-H E-Record folders, which can be purchased at the El Paso County Extension Office, or thin covers, not 3-ring binders as they take up too much space.

### **PRINT RECORD BOOK:**

The record book is always available on the State 4-H Website. I listed the link below for you to print the record book in either an excel or pdf format. Make sure select the correct record book for the 4-H age division of your youth (Junior, Intermediate, or Senior).

<http://co4h.colostate.edu/program-areas/animals/>

- Scroll down to the horse project
- Underneath the horse picture you will see e-records and the option to print a PDF or excel file for each 4-H age division

## What Are the Required Steps for 4-H Safety & Levels Testing?

The Safety Test & Advancement Level program is a teaching guide which combines many aspects of horsemanship and horse care. The 4-H levels program is designed to apply to Western, Working Ranch Horse and all disciplines within the English division (Hunter Seat, Saddle Seat and Dressage Seat). Walk Trot classes are for unrated riders who are not yet proficient at the lope. Members may show in walk trot more than one year if they are not proficient at the canter/ lope. Once Walk Trot exhibitors are proficient at the canter/lope they may show in the Novice division classes. Novice riders are defined as 4-H youth, ages 8-18, who are unrated, having not yet passed the Level I written and riding test(s) by June 21 of current year. Novice horse members should pass the Level I written and riding tests the following year.

### **STEP 1 -SAFETY TEST (PRE-LEVEL 1 ALL DISCIPLINES)**

If it is your *first or second year (due to COVID-19)* in 4-H the first step is to safety tested:

- The test can be administered by a horse project volunteer in El Paso County Horse Project for **over 3 years** and **have had youth attend county fair** (this is applying for 2021)
- The form must then be turned into the extension agent who will keep it on file
- This must be done to participate in clinics and county fair
- The safety test applies to the horse/rider combo that will be used throughout the 4-H year
- This must be done before the levels testing

### **STEP 2 -LEVELS TESTING**

#### **PROCESS FOR MEMBERS TO ADVANCE THROUGH THE LEVELS PROGRAM:**

1. Complete and pass the written test(s) in **chronological order** (I, II, III & IV). For example
2. Complete and pass the riding test(s) in **chronological order**. Every member must begin with Level I in any discipline.
3. However, a new 4-H member can take multiple written and riding tests in the same day to place them in the appropriate level as long as the tests are given in chronological order

In other words, a member cannot skip to Level III western even though they “ride really, really well”.

Members may progress through all disciplines if so desired, however, a member cannot laterally move across the levels. For example- A member completes English I & II, Hunter Seat

III, and then wants to test for Dressage Seat IV. In order to test for Dressage Seat IV, the rider must have completed English I & II, and then Dressage Seat III before they can test for Dressage Seat IV.

Members may take written and/or riding tests as many times as necessary to advance

### **LIST OF LEVELS**

#### English Tests

- English Novice – Level I
- English – Level II
- English Performer Dressage Seat – Level III
- English Performer Saddle Seat – Level III
- English Performer Hunter Seat Level III
- English Horsemaster Hunter Seat – Level IV
- English Horsemaster Saddle Seat – Level IV
- English Horsemaster Dressage Seat – Level IV

#### Western Tests

- Western Novice – Level I
- Western – Level II
- Western Performer – Level III
- Western Horsemaster – Level IV

#### Ranch Tests

- Ranch Horse – Level I
- Ranch Horse – Level II
- Ranch Horse – Level III
- Ranch Horse – Level IV

### **WRITTEN TEST**

Written tests are not discipline specific and are based on broad range, general equine knowledge. There are four written tests: Levels I, II, III & IV, with each level progressively requiring more knowledge of the horse project. A study guide will be provided to each member prior to their scheduled test date. Please note: Walk/Trot and Novice riders DO NOT need to take a placement test. If any rider wishes to compete in Speed events, they must take and pass a Western Level I test. If any rider wishes to jump, they must take and pass an English Level II test.

1. Before the riding test portion of the test, you must set up a time with the extension agent to take the written test
2. Make sure you receive a study guide for the test from the extension agent before the test
3. A member must pass the written test with a score of 80% or better
4. The written test for each Level is identical for English, Western, and Ranch Horse. Therefore, it is not necessary for the 4-H member to retake the written test once

he/she has passed it for a certain discipline Level

### **RIDING TEST**

Riding tests levels II, III & IV must be administered by a HAC state certified rater.

1. Reach out to the extension office for levels rater contact information
2. Schedule a time for the riding test
3. Print off the test in advance and bring it to the riding testing session
4. The member must also pass the riding test with the 80% or better on each of the riding test maneuvers and requirements.
5. An oral interview is part of the riding test for Level III & IV.
  - a. It is conducted before or after the riding test.
  - b. ALL oral questions on the level III and IV tests should be administered and the member should score a minimum of 80% on each item.
  - c. Reminder, the oral questions are available on the CSU 4-H Equine Extension website, as they are part of the riding test and may be studied ahead of the time the member is tested.
  - d. If the member passes the riding test but not the interview, he/she will not receive a passing score and must reschedule the oral interview.
6. The rater will submit a copy of the riding test to the member's local Extension office, where upon the member and/or the member's club leader may request to have a copy for the records as well.

### **DEADLINE FOR COUNTY FAIR**

Both the written and riding test for county fair must be completed, and the youth member must have the paperwork emailed to the extension agent (plus received confirmation from the extension agent via email) by **June 15, 2022** to compete in the desired levels at county fair.

### **STATE FAIR**

All members wishing to participate at the State 4-H Horse Show must have passed the written and riding tests for Advancement Level II prior to State Show entry deadline.

Members wishing to show at State Fair should always check the current Colorado State Fair Premium Book for the current rules and requirements.

### **SUMMARY CHECKLIST**

1. Complete safety test
2. Complete written tests in chronological order
3. Complete riding tests in chronological order
4. Submit paperwork to the extension office (**completed by June 15, 2022**)
5. Once all safety, written, and riding tests are completed members will be eligible to compete in the 4-H sanctioned horse shows and clinics

## What is the Horse Identification Process?

Ownership or leasing of horse(s) must be in the name of the exhibitor and horse ID form must be uploaded to 4H Online by May 1, 2022. If horse ID is not on file, members may not participate in fair horse events.

Do not leave this for the last minute, because if you need help it takes time and also remember that technology cannot always be counted on.

Exhibitors may enter horse show classes only on horses that are identified on the horse ID and in their Horse E-Record book as being part of the individual's 4-H project.

If a horse(s) cannot compete for any reason, no substitutions will be allowed after the May 1, 2021 Horse ID deadline.

## Where do you I find all the rules and horse show class list for the County Fair Horse Show?

It is the **responsibility of the 4-H member and family to read and understand the entire premium book**, which contains the rules and horse show class list, that all the exhibitors will be held to. It also, explains the awards structure and opportunities.

The 4-H horse exhibitors, and family members are subject to the 4-H Code of Conduct, the rules published in the Colorado 4-H Horse Rule Book (2018 edition) and the El Paso County 4-H/FFA Horse Premium Book, and El Paso County Horse Project Manual.

The link to this book is located below:

<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2020/11/2021-Horse-Premium.pdf>

## How Can I Stay Informed about 4-H Events?

- A **monthly newsletter** is released on the fourth of every month. The link to where they are posted on the website is listed below:

<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/4-h-news/>

- Attend the **monthly Horse Advisory Committee** meetings to network and help plan activities, events, and clinics for the youth. Please email [Emily.Tobler@colostate.edu](mailto:Emily.Tobler@colostate.edu) for more information.

### **Additional Resources**

**El Paso County Horse Project Manual:**

<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2021/02/2020-21-El-Paso-County-Horse-Project-Manual.pdf>

**El Paso County Extension Website:**

<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/about-4-h/>

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Intro to Horse Project Safety Riding Test

<b>Handling</b> _____ Passed _____ Retest	<b>Riding</b> _____ Passed _____ Retest
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Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Both handling and riding must be passed in order to ride at the county fair. To pass, the 4-H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test. Level I should emphasize correct and safe principles of handling and riding. Western or English tack may be used. Riders must use legal tack and equipment. Western: a standard western bit with shanks or, if riding a junior horse, a snaffle or bosal (two hands to be used). English: a 4-H legal bit with cavesson and two hands on the reins.

**Rater:** Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or faxed to the member's county Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

<b>Basic Handling</b>	<b>Score: 10 pts max</b>	<b>Rater's Comments</b>
A. Properly halter, lead and tie horse		
B. Simple Grooming; correct use of tools; pick up feet and clean properly		
C. Bridling and saddling; proper adjustment of equipment		
D. Basic showmanship: walk, trot, stop and stand for inspection		
D. Safety around the horse		
<b>Basic Riding</b>	<b>Score: 10 pts max</b>	<b>Rater's Comments</b>
A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Correct seat, body position and balance at the walk and jog		
C. Proper use of reins: hand position and action		
D. Control at the walk in both directions		
E. Control at the jog in both directions		
G. Demonstrate a balanced, gradual stop from the walk and jog		

\*If size or physical strength prevents the 4-H member from actually performing the skill, an adequate verbal explanation will suffice.

## **Study Guide Level I Written Tests A and B**

All information is found in the 4-H Horse Project Member's Manual

Be sure to be comfortable in your knowledge of the following listed items:

- 4-H Horse Project
  - Page 1
- Breeds - Uses
  - Page 3
- Colors and Markings – Body Colors
  - Page 9
- Colors and Markings – Markings
  - Page 10
- Parts of the Horse - External
  - Page 12
- Basic Handling and Safety - Tying
  - Page 20
- Basic Handling and Safety – Horse Safety Commandments
  - Page 28
- Basic Handling and Safety – Approaching a horse
  - Page 17
- Grooming
  - Page 29
- Reducing the Risk of Barn Fires
  - Page 36
- Feeding & Nutrition – Types of Nutrients
  - Page 40
- Feeding & Nutrition – Types of Feeds
  - Page 42
- Feeding & Nutrition – Body Condition Score
  - Page 47
- Brand and Health Inspection Tips for Equine Transportation
  - Page 66
- General Health – Vital Signs
  - Page 73
- Health Problems & Diseases - Colic
  - Page 77
- Showmanship – training
  - Page 99
- Buying the Right Horse

- Page 15
- Housing & Fencing
  - Page 33
- Riding Aids, Gaits & Lateral Work – Natural Aids
  - Page 118
- Riding Aids, Gaits & Lateral Work – Gait Beats
  - Page 120
- Western Tack & Equipment – Parts of Saddle
  - Page 105
- English Tack & Equipment – Parts of Saddle
  - Page 110

# **Study Guide Level II Written Tests A and B**

All information is found in the 4-H Horse Project Member's Manual

Be sure to be comfortable in your knowledge of the following listed items:

- Breeds - Origins
  - Page 4
- Breeds – Uses
  - Page 7
- Parts of the Horse - Hoof
  - Page 12
- Parts of the Horse – Body (external)
  - Page 12
- Teeth & Age
  - Page 13
- Feeding and Nutrition - Rations
  - Page 39, 45, 46, 49
- Feeding and Nutrition – Types of feed
  - Page 42
- Feeding and Nutrition – Types of nutrients
  - Page 40
- Feeding and Nutrition – Anatomy & Physiology of Digestive Tract (mouth)
  - Page 39
- Feeding and Nutrition – Body Condition Score
  - Page 47
- Pasture Management - Laminitis
  - Page 56
- Conformation, Movement & Soundness- Blemishes, lameness, unsoundness
  - Page 71
- General Health – Vital Signs
  - Page 73
- Parasites – External
  - Pg. 94
- Riding Aids, Gaits and Lateral Work – Natural Aids (Hands)
  - Page 118
- Riding Aids, Gaits and Lateral Work- Gait Beats
  - Page 120, 121
- Riding Aids, Gaits and Lateral Work- Leads
  - Page 122
- Health Problems & Diseases – Colic

- Page 77
- Health Problems & Diseases – Immunization Schedules
  - Pg. 79,88
- Colors & Marking – Coat Patterns
  - Page 11
- 4-H Requirements
  - Page 1,2
- Housing & Fencing
  - Page 34
- Western Tack & Equipment – Bridles
  - Page 104
- Terms – Horse age and gender definitions
  - Page 147

## Study Guide Level III Written Test

*All information is found in the 4-H Horse Project Member's Manual*

**Be sure to be comfortable in your knowledge of the following listed items:**

- What is the 4-H Project- Basic Requirements of the 4-H Horse Program
  - Page 1
- Colors & Markings- Body Colors
  - Page 9
- Teeth & Determining A Horse's Age
  - Page 13
- Basic Handling & Safety- Trailering or Other Hauling
  - Page 26
- Feeding & Nutrition- Anatomy & Physiology of the Digestive Tract
  - Page 39
- Feeding & Nutrition- Proteins
  - Page 41
- Feeding & Nutrition- Amino Acids
  - Page 41
- Types of Feed- Hay
  - Page 42
- Types of Feeds- Concentrates
  - Page 44
- Types of Feeds- Formulated Feeds
  - Page 44
- Types of Feed- Common Poisonous Plants of Colorado
  - Page 50
- Pasture Management- Grass Growth & Response to Grazing
  - Page 54
- Conformation, Movement, & Soundness – Feet & Legs
  - Page 70
- Conformation, Movement, & Soundness- Blemishes, Lameness, & Unsoundness
  - Page 71,72
- General Health- Pulse
  - Page 74
- General Health- Temperature
  - Page 74
- First Aid- Bleeding
  - Page 76
- Health Problems & Diseases- Dental Problems
  - Page 78

- Health Problems & Diseases- Influenza
  - Page 79
- Health Problems & Diseases- Rhinopneumonitis or Equine Herpes Virus
  - Page 80
- Health Problems & Diseases- Vesicular Stomatitis
  - Page 85
- Health Problems & Diseases- Equine Immunization Program (AAEP Guidelines)
  - Page 88
- Parasites- Management & Treatment
  - Page 89
- Parasites- Strongyles
  - Page 91
- Western Tack & Equipment- Bridle
  - Page 104
- English Tack & Equipment-Hunt Seat
  - Page 107
- Riding Aids, Gaits, and Lateral Work- Leads
  - Page 123
- Riding Aids, Gaits, and Later Work- Lateral Movements
  - Page 129

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Western Novice Level I Riding Test

<u>Western</u> Check One <input type="checkbox"/> Passed <input type="checkbox"/> Retest	<u>Gymkhana</u> Only _____ (due to tack)
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Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: To pass this level, the **4-H** member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test. Level I should emphasize correct and safe principles of handling and riding. Riders must use legal tack and equipment, a standard western bit with shanks or, if riding a junior horse, a snaffle or bosal (two hands to be used).

Rater: Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or faxed to the member's county Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

Riding Test: Western Novice, Level I	Score: 10 points max	Judge's Comments
<b>*Basic handling</b>		
A. Properly halter, lead and tie horse		
B. Simple Grooming; correct use of tools; pick up feet and clean properly		
C. Bridling and saddling; proper adjustment of equipment		
D. Safety around the horse		
<b>Riding</b>		
A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Correct seat, body position and balance at the walk, jog and lope		
C. Proper use of reins: hand position and action		
D. Control at the walk in both directions		
E. Control at the jog in both directions		
F. Control at the lope, both directions, demonstrating correct leads		
G. Demonstrate a balanced, gradual stop from the walk, jog and lope on a straightaway		
H. Equipment, dress and overall attitude		

\*If size or physical strength prevents the 4-H member from actually performing the skill, an adequate verbal explanation will suffice.

Revised 2-2015

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Western  
Level II  
Riding Test**

Check One <input type="checkbox"/> Passed <input type="checkbox"/> Retest
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Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rater's Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test. Level II asks the rider to show confidence, control and more advanced horsemanship skills. Riders must use legal tack and equipment including a standard western bit with shanks or, if riding a junior horse, snaffle or bosal (two hands to be used).

Rater: Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or FAXed to the member's Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

	Score: 10 Points Maximum	Judge's Comments
<b>*Basic handling</b>		
A. Properly halter, lead, and tie horse		
B. Fitting, grooming, clipping; use of tools on mane, tail, body, legs and feet		
C. Bridling and saddling: proper adjustment of equipment		
D. Showmanship skills: walk, trot, stop, turn on hindquarters, back and setups		
<b>Riding</b>		
A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Demonstrate the aids for the following upward transitions: 1)walk to jog 2)jog to lope 3)walk to lope		
C. Demonstrate the aids for the following downward transitions: 1)lope to jog 2)lope to walk 3)jog to walk		
D. Show a balanced stop from walk, jog and lope on the straightaway		
E. Back 3 to 4 steps in a straight line		
F. Demonstrate figures of 8 at the lope, with sufficient loops to show lead changes through the jog in both directions. Begin the maneuver from a stop or walk.		
G. Show simple changes of lead on a straightaway. Do a minimum of 3 changes, each dropping to a jog. More than one straightaway may be used to provide sufficient room for the changes to occur.		
H. Turns on the forehand of 180 degrees, in both directions		
I. Turns on the hindquarter of 180 degrees, in both directions		
J. Overall riding ability: body position, hands and legs, knowledge of leads		
K. Poise and Attitude		

# Western Performer -Level III Riding Test & Oral Interview

Check One  
☐ Passed  
☐ Retest

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Maneuvers will be called at random. The 4H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test, including the oral interview questions. Rider must use legal tack and equipment including a standard western bit with shanks or, if riding a junior horse, a snaffle or bosal (two hands to be used).

**10 points: Advanced.** If applied to specific maneuvers, the maneuver was consistently executed correctly and fluidly. If applied to an overall impression, the maneuver was correct and present during all parts of the test. Questions: Accurate and detailed response, additional facts or explanation may be offered by rider.

**9 points: Proficient.** If applied to specific maneuvers, the maneuver was executed correctly most of the time and generally fluidly, with minor flaws. If applied to an overall impression, it was present correctly and consistently throughout the test with minor lapses. Questions: Accurate, detailed response with minor errors or omissions.

**8 points: Proficient/Basic.** If applied to specific maneuvers, the maneuver was executed correctly, but may be better on one side than the other, or execution was inconsistent. It's clear that the rider can apply the aids correctly. If applied to an overall impression, the basics are present, but elements may have been briefly incorrect or absent during the test. Rider may have needed prompting (*not teaching!*) from the rater. Questions: Response is generally correct, but lacks detail. Some minor errors/omissions.

**0 - 7 points: Not yet proficient.** One or more of these is true to a greater or lesser degree:

- ☐ Rider is unable to produce the maneuver in one or both directions.
- ☐ Aids are applied but ineffective at producing the desired maneuver.
- ☐ Horse repeatedly balks or misbehaves.
- ☐ Rider asks rater how to execute a maneuver or definition of terms in oral questions.
- ☐ In a general impression or question response: one or more major flaws or omissions.

Oral Interview Questions: Must answer three out of five with 8 points or better, 10 points possible.

Answer source for questions: <b>Current Colorado 4-H member's manual and current Colorado 4-H Horse Show Rulebook</b>	Points
1. Explain the legal and correct hand positions for the following western tack: hackamore, standard western bit with split reins and a standard western bit with romal reins. Name 3 legal western bits.	
2. Explain the difference between line changes and crossing changes in a western riding pattern. Which is more difficult? Why?	
3. Name and explain 6 maneuvers required in any Level III reining pattern and 6 obstacles which may be used in a Level III trail pattern.	
4. Explain the aids for a forehand turn and what a correct forehand turn looks like.	
5. Explain the aids for a hindquarter turn and what a correct hindquarter turn looks like.	

Rater: Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or FAXed to the member's Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

Western, Level III p. 2 of 2 Name:	Score: 10 points maximum	Judge's Comments
<b>Basic handling</b> A. Display confidence, safety and knowledge around the horse		
B. Fitting and turnout of the horse should be show ring quality		
<b>Riding</b> A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Demonstrate and explain the natural aids and how they are used to influence the horse's movements.		
C. Demonstrate a jog to an extended sitting trot, back to a jog in both directions		
D. Two-track to the right and left at the walk and jog		
E. Sidepass to the left and right, a minimum of 10'		
F. Prompt, balanced stop from walk, jog and lope on the straightaway or in a circle		
G. 360 degree turn on the hindquarters in both directions, must be performed in the open		
H. 360 degree turn on the forehand in both directions, must be performed in the open		
I. Demonstrate a counter lead, for ½ to ¾ of a large circle, both directions		
J. Demonstrate figures of 8 sufficient to show 2 flying lead changes in each direction beginning from the center. Changes do not have to be accomplished consecutively. Multiple circles may be used.		
K. Back 6 to 7 steps in a straight line.		

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**English Novice  
 Level I  
 Riding Test**

Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> passed  <input type="checkbox"/> retest
--

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: To pass this level, the **4-H** member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test.  
 Level I should emphasize correct and safe principle of handling and riding.  
 Rater: Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or FAXed to the member's  
 Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

	Score: 10 Points Maximum	Judge's Comments
<b>*Basic handling</b>		
A. Properly halter, lead and tie a horse		
B. Simple Grooming; correct use of tools; pick up feet and clean properly		
C. *Bridling and saddling; proper adjustment of equipment		
D. Safety around he horse		
<b>Riding</b>		
A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Correct seat, body position and balance at walk, trot, and canter		
C. Proper use of reins; hand position and action		
D. Control at the walk; both directions		
E. Control at the trot with correct diagonals; both directions		
F. Control at the canter; both directions, demonstrating correct leads		
G. Demonstrate balanced gradual stop from all gaits on a straightaway		
H. Equipment, dress and overall attitude		

\* If the size or physical strength prevents the 4-H member from actually performing the skill, an adequate verbal explanation will suffice.

**English  
Level II  
Riding Test**

Check One
_____ Passed
_____ Retest

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test. Level II asks the rider to show confidence, control and more advanced horsemanship skills.

**Rater:** Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or FAXed to the member's Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

	<b>Score: 10 Points Maximum</b>	<b>Judge's Comments</b>
<b>*Basic handling</b>		
A. Properly halter, lead and tie a horse		
B. Fitting, grooming, clipping; use of tools on mane, tail, body, legs and feet		
C. *Bridling and saddling; proper adjustment of equipment		
D. Showmanship skills: walk, trot, stop, turn on hindquarter, back and setups		
<b>Riding</b>		
A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Demonstrate the aids for the following upward transitions: 1) walk to posting trot 2) walk to sitting trot 3) posting trot to canter 4) sitting trot to canter 5) walk to canter		
C. Demonstrate the aids for the following: 1) canter to sitting trot 2) canter to posting trot 3) canter to walk 4) posting trot to walk 5) sitting trot to walk		
D. Demonstrate figure 8s showing a correct lead change in each direction through the trot, commenced from a walk or halt		
E. Show a balanced halt from all gaits on the straightaway.		
F. Back 3 to 4 steps in a straight line		
G. Show simple changes of lead on a straight line. Do a minimum of 3 changes, through the trot. More than one straightaway may be used to provide sufficient room for the changes to occur.		
H. Turn on the forehand: 180 degrees in both directions		
I. Turn on the hindquarters: 180 degrees in both directions		
J. Overall riding ability: body position, hands and legs, knowledge of diagonals and leads		
K. Poise and attitude		

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious markings \_\_\_\_\_

## English Performer Hunter Seat– Level III Riding Test & Oral Interview

### Jump Option

\_\_\_\_ Passed  
 \_\_\_\_ Retest

### No Jump Option

\_\_\_\_ Passed  
 \_\_\_\_ Retest

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Maneuvers will be called at random. The 4H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test, including the oral interview questions.

**10 points: Advanced.** If applied to specific maneuvers, they were consistently executed correctly and fluidly. If applied to an overall impression, it was correct/present during all parts of the test.

Questions: accurate and detailed response. Additional facts or explanation may be offered by rider.

**9 points: Proficient.** If applied to specific maneuvers, they were executed correctly most of the time and generally fluidly with minor flaws. If applied to an overall impression, it was present correctly and consistently throughout the test with minor lapses. Questions: accurate, detailed response with minor errors or omissions.

**8 points: Proficient/Basic.** If applied to specific maneuvers, they were executed correctly but may be better on one side than the other, or execution was inconsistent. It's clear that the rider can apply the aids correctly. If applied to an overall impression, the basics are present, but elements may have been briefly incorrect or absent during the test. Rider may have needed prompting (*not teaching!*) from the rater. Questions: response is generally correct but lacks detail. Some minor errors/omissions.

**0 - 7 points: Not yet proficient.** One or more of these is true to a greater or lesser degree:

- Rider is unable to produce the maneuver in one or both directions.
- Aids are applied but ineffective at producing the desired maneuver.
- Horse repeatedly balks or misbehaves.
- Rider asks rater how to execute a maneuver or definition of terms in oral questions.
- In a general impression or question response: one or more major flaws or omissions.

### Oral Interview Questions: (Must answer three out of five with 8 points or better.)

Questions, Answer source: Current United States Equestrian Federation Rulebook @ <a href="http://www.usef.org">www.usef.org</a>	Points
1. How long is a typical hunter horse's stride on an outdoor hunt course? How many strides would be appropriate for two fences set 48' apart?	
2. Explain the differences between these two fences: a vertical and an oxer. Explain a "courtesy circle", when it is used and when it is not legal.	
3. What are "ground lines" and why are they necessary? Explain how they should be placed.	
4. What are the legal bits for a hunter seat rider? In competition, what happens to a rider that is using an "unconventional" bit? What kinds of martigales are legal for over fences classes? Are they legal in flat classes? What are legal types of cavessons for hunter seat riders?	
5. Describe a rider's body position, including their vision, before, during and after a jump. Describe the terms "Jumping Ahead" and "Left Behind" and the dangers of each.	

Rater: Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or emailed/scanned to the member's Extension office within two weeks of the test.

<b>Hunter Seat, Level III, pg. 2 of 2</b> Name:	<b>Score: 10 Points Max</b>	<b>Judge's Comments</b>
<b>Basic handling</b> A. Display confidence, safety, and knowledge while working around the horse		
B. Fitting and turnout of the horse should be show ring quality. Explain how to braid a hunter.		
<b>Riding</b> A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used, if necessary) .		
B. Half turn on the haunches at the walk, in both directions.		
C. Leg yielding to the right and left, at the walk and sitting trot.		
D. Demonstrate a canter to a hand gallop, using a 2-point position, then returning to a canter.		
E. Show a balanced halt from walk, trot and canter on the straightaway.		
F. Using a 3-loop serpentine, show changes of diagonal at the trot; flying changes of lead at the canter.		
G. Demonstrate lengthening of the walk, trot (posting) and canter. Show transitions to and from working gaits.		
H. Jump in both directions, a combination of two fences, 2 feet 3 inches in height, set for 3 strides.		
I. Rein back 4 steps in a straight line		

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# **Ranch Horse Novice Level I Riding Test**

Check one:  
 \_\_\_\_\_passed  
 \_\_\_\_\_retest

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** To pass this level, the **4-H** member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test. Level I should emphasize correct and safe principle of handling and riding. Riders must use legal tack and equipment for the Ranch Horse division.

**Rater:** Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or scanned/mailed to the member's Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

<b>Riding Test: Ranch Horse Novice, Level I</b> Name:	<b>Score: 10 Points Max</b>	<b>Rater's Comments</b>
<b>*Basic handling</b>		
A. Properly halter, lead and tie horse		
B. Simple Grooming; correct use of tools; pick up feet and clean properly		
C. Bridling and saddling; safe and proper adjustment of equipment, wrapped horn, back cinch (see pg. 89 in rulebook)		
D. Safety around the horse		
E. Lead horse through gate without cattle present		
<b>Riding</b>		
A. *Mount, dismount, mount (mounting block may be used if necessary)		
B. Correct seat, body position and balance at the walk, jog and lope		
C. Proper use of reins: hand position and action		
D. Control at the walk in both directions		
E. Control at the jog in both directions		
F. Control at the lope, both directions, demonstrating correct leads		
G. Demonstrate balanced, gradual stop from the walk, jog and lope on a straightaway		
H. Equipment, dress and overall attitude		
I. Build a loop, swing and recoil a rope while on the ground		
J. Quietly walk into and out of a herd of cattle (min. 3 head). Horse must remain quiet and under control.		

\*If size or physical strength prevents the 4-H member from actually performing the skill, verbal explanation will suffice.

Revised 2018

# Ranch Horse Level II - Intermediate Riding Test

Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> passed <input type="checkbox"/> retest
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Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Riders must use legal tack and equipment for the Ranch Horse Division.

Directions: To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test. Level II asks the rider to show confidence, control and more advanced horsemanship skills.

Rater: Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or scanned/mailed to the member's Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

Riding Test: Ranch Horse Intermediate, Level II Name:	Score: 10 Points Max	Rater's Comments
<b>Basic Handling</b>		
A.*Bridling and saddling with proper adjustment of equipment, including the back cinch and breast collar. All equipment to be clean and in good repair.		
B. Display confidence, safety and knowledge with the horse and with the horse around cattle.		
C. Showmanship skills: walk, trot, stop, turn on hindquarters, back and setup		
<b>Riding</b>		
A. Open and ride thru gate where cattle (minimum 3 head) are within 50' of the gate, latch the gate.		
B. Demonstrate ground tying or hobbling of the horse for at least 1 minute, with rider standing away from the horse.		
C. Back a minimum of 10' in a straight line.		
D. In each direction and remaining quiet in the bridle, show a balanced stop from the walk, followed by a 180 degree turn on the HQ and a prompt walk off in the opposite direction.		
E. In each direction and remaining quiet in the bridle, show a balanced stop from the trot, followed by a 180 degree turn on the HQ and a prompt trot off in the opposite direction.		
F. Show simple or flying lead changes on a figure 8, sufficient to show two changes in each direction. Start from a stop or walk. Changes do not have to be accomplished consecutively (multiple circles may be used).		
G. At a walk, build a loop and approach a roping dummy. Stop and rope the dummy.		
J. Demonstrate a safe dally and drag a heavy log weighing 35 lbs. or more, in a right hand circle*, stop and perform a 180 degree turn on the forehand. Undally. (Suggest an 8' post, 6" in diameter)		
K. Box a cow on short end of arena for 50 seconds. Drive down the fence to opposite end and stop at center.		

\*Exception: Left-handed rider will circle to the left.

Revised 2018

# Ranch Horse Level III - Performer Riding Test and Oral Interview

Check One
_____ Passed
_____ Retest

Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obvious Markings \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Riders must use legal tack and equipment for the Ranch Horse Division.

**Directions:** Maneuvers will be called at random. The 4-H member must score 8 points out of 10 for each section of the test, including the oral interview questions.

**10 points: Advanced.** If applied to specific maneuvers, the maneuver was consistently executed correctly and fluidly. If applied to an overall impression, the maneuver was correct and present during all parts of the test.

Questions: Accurate and detailed response, additional facts or explanation may be offered by rider.

**9 points: Proficient.** If applied to specific maneuvers, the maneuver was executed correctly most of the time and generally fluidly, with minor flaws. If applied to an overall impression, the maneuver was present correctly and consistently throughout the test with minor lapses.

Questions: Accurate, detailed response with minor errors or omissions.

**8 points: Proficient/Basic.** If applied to specific maneuvers, the maneuver was executed correctly but may be better on one side than the other, or execution was inconsistent. It's clear that the rider can apply the aids correctly. If applied to an overall impression, the basics are present, but elements may have been briefly incorrect or absent during the test. Rider may have needed prompting (*not teaching!*) from the rater.

Questions: Response is generally correct but lacks detail, some minor errors/omissions.

**0 - 7 points: Not yet proficient.** One or more of these is true to a greater or lesser degree:

- Rider is unable to produce the maneuver in one or both directions.
- Aids are applied but ineffective at producing the desired maneuver.
- Horse repeatedly balks or misbehaves.
- Rider asks rater how to execute a maneuver or definition of terms in oral questions.
- In a general impression or question response: one or more major flaws or omissions.

**Oral Interview Questions: Must answer all five e questions with 8 points or better, 10 points possible.**

Questions:	Points
1. On a double rigged saddle, how tight should your back cinch be? Why?	
2. Explain how to dally correctly and give reasons why it is important to do so. Why do you dally with your thumb up?	
3. What is boxing and what is the time limit of the class? What does fence work include?	
4. Explain "pressure" on cattle and how it influences their movement.	
5. What are the point penalties when your horse steps out of the ground tie?	

**Rater:** Forms must be filled out the day of the riding exam and mailed or scanned/emailed to the member's county Extension Office within two weeks of the test.

<b>Riding Test: Ranch Horse, Level III - Performer Name:</b>	<b>Score: 10 Points Max</b>	<b>Rater's Comments</b>
<b>Basic Handling</b> A. Display confidence, safety and knowledge with the horse and with the horse around cattle.		
B. Fitting and turnout of the horse should be of high quality. All equipment should be in good repair, clean and adjusted correctly.		
C. Demonstrate and name 3 different types of knots.		
<b>Riding</b> A. Back 3-cone, tub or barrel serpentine not to be spaced more than 9' apart		
B. Dismount: Ground tie and pick up each of the horse's hooves. Unbridle and rebridle. Remount.		
C. Sidepass left and right, a minimum of 10' each way. Explain the aids and how they influence the horse's movements.		
D. In both directions, lope into a balanced stop, perform a 180 degree turn on the hindquarters and lope off in the opposite direction, with the horse remaining quiet in the bridle.		
E. Demonstrate figures of 8 sufficient to show 2 flying lead changes in each direction, beginning from the lope. Changes do not have to be accomplished consecutively and multiple circles may be used.		
F. Demonstrate a safe dally and drag a log through a serpentine of at least 4 cones, placed no more than 30' apart. Stop, perform a 180 degree turn on the forehand. Stop, undally. (Suggest a log 8' long, 6" in diameter or other log weighing at least 35 lbs.)		
G. Ride into herd quietly and demonstrate, with a breakaway honda, a head shot and catch on live cattle. Dally and pop your honda off.		
H. Demonstrate sorting out one cow and separating the cow quietly and successfully from the herd. Drive the sorted cow away from the herd a minimum of 30'.		
I. Box a cow on the short end of the arena, drive it down the arena, box at the other end, drive the cow back to the other end of arena past the halfway point and stop.		