



VIRGINIA 4-H HORSE PROJECT: PROGRESSIVE RIDING SERIES UNIT 1 Basic Horsemanship

*Edited by Celeste C. Crisman**



NAME _____ **AGE** _____ **CLUB YEAR** _____

ADDRESS _____

COUNTY OR CITY _____

NAME OF CLUB _____

NAME OF LEADER _____ **YEARS IN 4-H** _____

DATE PROJECT STARTED _____ **ENDED** _____

Directions:

Members should also enroll in the Horse Management project and keep an accurate and up-to-date management record. Participate in the riding series is strictly on an elective basis. The riding projects should be closely supervised by a horse project leader. Numerous standard references may be used for completing the diagrams, questions, etc. Members should have the basic equipment for riding and the use of a suitable riding animal.

All leaders should obtain all of the materials available and review project opportunities. Programs may be adjusted to local needs and use under the direct supervision of Extension Agents and Leaders. Age requirements for completing the riding units are as follows: Novice – 10 years or older; Horseman – 13 years or older; Horsemaster – 16 years or older. Horsemasters should be expert horsemen and top-notch 4-H members capable of professional contributions to and employment in the industry.

Members may enroll for each unit as many times as desirable and may progress according to their interests and abilities. Many will not advance beyond the first or second levels. There should be no special distinction between levels as far as youth development is concerned. The goal is not to make Horsemasters out of all who are interested in horses. Horsemasters may continue on as teen leaders, repeat the unit, or design new horse projects.

Members may complete some tests on horses other than their own or managed project. Most projects should be on a project-year basis but progression should not necessarily be limited to this. The projects will require inspectors for certain tests. The selection and implementation of this should be arranged at the local level and/or county level. Leaders can establish the appropriate procedures and approvals for inspectors at these levels. The tests are not competitive and many tests can be replaced by alternate tests designed by leaders according to local needs and interests.

All new members should enroll in the basic unit. Those who have previous experience should be advanced into the higher units as soon as they demonstrate that they are capable. A member may be working on sections in two or more units at the same time, then complete each unit as his or her age fills the requirement. The 50-mile ride for Horsemasters may be made by using more than one horse. This ride should be supervised by a distance rider and/or veterinarian. The basic unit may be used for new members prior to admitting them to the novice unit or used for any members not wishing to go through the progressive series. Completing the basic unit prior to enrolling in the novice unit is a requirement. The completed Horsemaster book should be sent to the state Extension Horse Specialist for review and approval.

*Extension Equine Specialist, 4-H Youth

Section 1 – Experience

A. Riding Record (Minimum of 30 total hours)

Month	Type of Riding	Hours
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
Total Hours		

B. Events Participated In (Minimum of three events such as a horse school, show, clinic, trail ride, judging training, tour, etc., at any level)

Date	Event	Location

C. Field or Educational Experience (Must do at least two of the following)

Program	Name	Date
See a horse movie		
Watch a video about horse judging		
Read a horse magazine		
Visit a horse farm or stable		

Section 2 – Knowledge

A. Describe what can happen if a horse gains access to an unlimited grain supply.

B. Describe how to properly cool down a very hot horse.

C. Identify moldy and dusty feed and discuss the dangers of feeding this to a horse.

D. Briefly discuss basic safety precautions to prevent injury to horse and to handler or rider. (Include safety headgear)

E. Briefly discuss "suitability of horse to rider."

F. Visit a place with a large group of horses (farm or show) and: Identify five different horse colors.

Identify (recognize) a mare, stallion, colt, filly, and gelding.

Date/s identified _____

- G. Draw or trace front views of four horse heads and draw in and label face markings – star, stripe, blaze and bald.
- H. Review and follow thirteen general feeding and management guidelines:
1. Exercise horses regularly.
 2. Make sure that parasite control is adequate.
 3. Examine teeth regularly.
 4. Feed at regular times.
 5. Avoid moldy and dusty feed.
 6. Keep the feed manger clean.
 7. Give small, frequent feedings.
 8. Feed by weight, not volume.
 9. Make changes in types and amounts of feed gradually.
 10. Do not overfeed. Do not underfeed.
 11. Make sure that water is frequently available, fresh and clean.
 12. Hay/Forage should make up the largest portion of the horse's diet.
 13. Keep stall and paddock areas clean and safe.

Section 3 – Dismounted Abilities:

Give the date on which you properly demonstrated the following dismounted abilities to a designated inspector or leader.

	Date	Signature of Leader
1. Catch and halter	_____	_____
2. Lead	_____	_____
3. Tie	_____	_____
4. Groom	_____	_____
5. Pick up feet	_____	_____
6. Clean out feet	_____	_____
7. Saddle and unsaddle	_____	_____
8. Bridle and unbridle	_____	_____
9. Demonstrate safety precautions on the ground	_____	_____
10. Feed and water	_____	_____
11. Care of the horse after a ride	_____	_____

Section 4 – Mounted Abilities:

Give the date on which you properly demonstrated the following mounted abilities to a designated inspector or leader.

	Date	Signature of Leader
1. Mount	_____	_____
2. Dismount	_____	_____
3. Sit in the saddle and hold the reins	_____	_____
4. Ride at a walk – halt	_____	_____
5. Move from a walk to a trot - halt	_____	_____
6. Demonstrate several safety precautions - mounted	_____	_____

Leader May Prescribe Additional Tests

7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____

PROJECT RECORD SCORE

	Your Rating	Rating by 4-H Leader
Attendance at Meeting – perfect score if all club meetings or tours have been attended -----	5 _____	_____
Stable – Is the stable or stall large enough for the comfort of the horse? -----	10 _____	_____
Sanitation – Are quarters clean, dry, well bedded, and well ventilated? Is manure storage adequate? -----	5 _____	_____
Proper Ration – Are clean, dust-free grains and hay fed in sufficient quantities? -----	10 _____	_____
Is the member familiar with the type, amount, and quality of grain and hay being fed? -----	5 _____	_____
Condition of Horse – Does horse show evidence of being well fed and groomed daily? -----	5 _____	_____
Are the saddle and bridle clean and well kept? -----	5 _____	_____
Does member care for horse personally? – Give perfect score when member does all, or practically all, of the work -----	5 _____	_____
Feed Record – Complete and up-to-date? -----	5 _____	_____
Feed Trough and Manger – Are feeding arrangements such that the horse has easy access to hay and grain? -----	5 _____	_____
Hay – Is right amount of good quality hay being fed? -----	5 _____	_____
Water – Is clean, fresh water being provided in sufficient quantity?-----	5 _____	_____
Salt or Mineral – Are salt or minerals available? -----	5 _____	_____
Exercise – Is horse being properly exercised? -----	5 _____	_____
Care of Feet – Are feet properly trimmed or shod? -----	5 _____	_____
Suitability of horse and ability of member to handle the horse -----	5 _____	_____
Record Book-----	10 _____	_____
TOTAL -----	100 _____	_____

This is to certify that _____ has
successfully completed the BASIC HORSEMANSHIP requirements.

4-H Leader **Date**

Extension Agent