



**VIRGINIA 4-H HORSE PROJECT:
PROGRESSIVE RIDING SERIES UNIT 4**

Horsemaster



Name _____ Age _____ Club Year _____

Address _____ County or City _____

Name of Club _____

Name of Leader _____ Years in 4-H _____

Date Project Started _____

Date Completed _____

REVISED 2007

PUBLICATION 406-099

Progressive Riding Series Unit 4: Horsemaster

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Directions:

Members should also enroll in the Horse Management project and keep an accurate and up-to-date management record. Participation 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 project animals. 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 alternative 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. Those working on the Horsemaster project may use more than one horse for the 50-mile ride. A distance rider and/or veterinarian should supervise this ride. 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.

You must complete the Horseman project before you complete the Horsemaster project.

Date you completed the Horseman unit _____.

Section 1 – Experience

A. **Riding Record** (Minimum of 300 hours in this unit)

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

B. **District and State 4-H Horse Events participated in:** You must have participated in at least three different district events and two different state events as follows – show, judging contest, horse demonstration contest, horse bowl, horse school, Club Congress, horse camp, competitive ride, combined training event, packing or camping ride, pleasure ride. State events may be substituted for district events. Only two shows may be counted.

Date	Event	Location

C. **Awards won:** You must have won a blue Danish award in fitting and showmanship at either a district or the State 4-H Horse Show or five blues in county shows. Plus, you must have won one blue or two red or three yellow ribbons in any horse shows. Plus, you must have won one blue or two red or three yellow ribbons in equitation classes in any horse shows.

Date	Event	Location	Placing	Ribbons Won

D. Give the date and the approximate distance you rode each day to total 50 miles. (The 50 miles should be ridden over a period of two or three consecutive days or over a period of one or two days if it is an approved endurance or competitive ride.)

Date	Distance

Describe how you conditioned yourself and your horse/s for this ride.

Describe how you completed the ride and how the ride was supervised (by either a qualified distance rider and/or veterinarian).

Describe how you cared for the horse after the ride.

E. You must break a green horse for riding. Briefly describe how this was accomplished.

F. You must have assisted in horsemanship instruction. What was the nature of this instruction?

J. Design and sketch a horse facility – stalls, tack room, feed room, etc.

K. Design and sketch two kinds of fences suitable and safe for horses.

Q. With the help of your Extension agent collect, prepare, and have analyzed a hay sample for a forage test. List the kind of hay and test results below.

R. With the help of your Extension agent collect, prepare, and have analyzed a soil sample for a horse pasture. Record below the test results and fertilization recommendations.

S. Briefly discuss pasture management for horses.

Briefly discuss some of the problems which may be involved with the grazing of:

1) Sorghum type plants

2) Fescue

3) Clover

T. Briefly discuss proper ways to handle and to dispose of horse manure.

U. Additional learning experiences in 4-H.

Give the date, name, and location of 4-H functions (other than horse) you attended at the county, district, and state levels.

Date	Name of Function	Location

Section 2 – Knowledge

A. Trace or draw the following, label and identify the various parts.

Skeleton of the Horse

Reproductive Tract of the Mare

Digestive System of the Horse

Parts of the Pastern and Hoof

(cannon to toe) Do three sketches – exterior, cut away section, and bottom surface of the hoof.

B. Determine the age of a horse by examining its teeth in the presence of a leader or designated inspector.

 4-H Leader

 Date

C. List several parasites which cause problems for the horse.

Internal	External

D. Discuss the acceptable calcium and phosphorus ratios in a horse feed.

E. List and discuss causes, prevention, and possible solutions for at least five common stable vices of the horse.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

I. Briefly outline things you have done to prevent fire hazards in horse barns or stables.

J. Briefly outline ways in which horse farms or stables may continue to operate on a basis to conserve as much energy as possible (fuel, electricity, etc.).

K. Review budgets for horse operations (or your record book) and briefly discuss ways to reduce operating costs and/or increase profits.

L. Compare the following kinds of hay.

	TDN	% Crude Protein	Calcium Grams Per Lb.	Phosphorus Grams Per Lb.
Alfalfa				
Timothy				
Orchard Grass				

Section 3 – Dismounted Abilities

Give the date on which you properly demonstrated the following dismounted abilities to a designated inspector or leader. You must do at least twelve of the following; additional tests may also be added but not substituted.

		Date	Signature of Inspector/Leader
1.	Harness, hitch, and drive a horse or a team (Expert supervision).		
2.	Pack a horse for a packing trip ride.		
3.	Prepare one foot for shoeing (Directly supervised by a farrier).		
4.	Shoe one foot (Directly supervised and assisted by a farrier).		
5.	Administer a deworming agent (Advised by a veterinarian).		
6.	Recognize good-quality and poor-quality hay.		
7.	Diagram a hunter course.		
8.	Diagram standard courses for barrel racing and pole bending		
9.	Diagram a suitable horse show trail course.		
10.	Tack on a loose shoe (Expert supervision).		
11.	Show how a horse is trained in long lines.		
12.	Discuss one humane method of destroying (putting down) a horse.		
13.	Prepare and submit a stable activities schedule.		
14.	Show how to present a horse for pulse and respiration checks on a trail ride.		
15.	Prepare and submit a stable management record and expense book.		
16.	Point out the desirable and undesirable breed characteristics of three horses of different breeds.		

		Date	Signature of Inspector/Leader
17.	Study horse genetics and discuss the possible mating of a given mare with a given stallion with a knowledgeable breeding farm manager.		
18.	Point out the desirable and undesirable conformation features of three horses.		
19.	Point out the desirable and undesirable features in a way-of-going in three horses.		
20.	Demonstrate longeing.		
21.	Discuss the reproductive cycle of the mare.		
22.	Demonstrate the use of a computer to keep barn records.		
23.	Body condition score three horses.		
24.	Demonstrate bandaging techniques.		
25.	Demonstrate clipping techniques.		

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 Inspector/Leader
A.	(Must do) Participate in an overnight (camping) ride and care of mount under field conditions.		
B.	(Must do) Demonstrate the ability (actual mounted work) to ride any four of the following different kinds of horses at prescribed gaits.		
	Hunter over fences		
	Saddle horse		
	Walking horse		
	English pleasure horse		
	Western pleasure horse		
	Reining horse (run a pattern)		
	Roping horse (rope a calf)		
	Cutting horse (cut cattle)		
	Competitive ride trail horse (20-mile or more ride)		
	Gymkhana (run barrel and pole bending course in good fashion and time)		
	Dressage horse (satisfactorily complete a second-level ride)		
C.	(Must do) Basic schooling of a “green” horse		

Project Story

This is to certify that _____ has, by quiz or practice demonstration, successfully completed all of the requirements within each of the four sections of this record book to qualify as a HORSEMASTER. This member is at least 16 years of age and qualifies to complete this unit.

4-H Leader

Date

Extension Agent

Approved as a Horsemaster:

State Horse Extension Specialist

Date

Originally authored by Arden Huff, former Extension animal scientist, horses, Virginia Tech.

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VT/0207/W/406099