

# 4-H

## Horsemastership Proficiency Program

### A Member's Guide

#### OVERVIEW

The 4-H Horsemastership Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn horse behavior, mounting and dismounting, proper and safe techniques when handling a horse and general riding techniques.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Shasta County 4 - H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of safe handling and horsemastership.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about horsemastership and the show ring.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you will learn proper riding position and become a more experienced horseman.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of horsemastership, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

## HORSEMASTERSHIP

### Level I - Explorer

Date  
Completed

1. Demonstrate how to catch a horse.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Demonstrate how to tie rope around neck properly with bowline  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Show how to lead a horse to post.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Show how to tie to a post using stable knot.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Demonstrate simple grooming.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Demonstrate how to clean one front foot.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Demonstrate how to clean saddle and bridle.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Know proper adjustment of equipment to fit horse and rider.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Demonstrate safety at all times and give examples of how to.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Identify parts of a saddle and bridle.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Identify parts of a horse.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Show proper care of riding equipment when not in use and how to clean it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Demonstrate how to mount and dismount correctly (members who are too short can explain correct method).  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## HORSEMASTERSHIP

### Level II - Producer

Date  
Completed

1. Demonstrate the proper way to show a horse at halter.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Demonstrate that the horse is trained to stand properly.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Demonstrate control and exhibit correct showmanship technique.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Demonstrate correct fitting and grooming and be generally proficient at handling a horse on the ground.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Identify common bits and explain how the bits work (leverage, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Demonstrate proper care of riding equipment when not in use and how to clean it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Demonstrate the aids required for riding at a walk, jog, lope, back, stop and side-pass.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Demonstrate a basic figure 8 pattern at a lope using proper leads.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Back horse in a straight line.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Demonstrate stops from walk, jog, and lope.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Know and identify six major horse breeds and basic purpose of each breed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Pick 6 common equine terms and explain them.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Describe the difference between blemished and unsoundness and identify both on a horse. (Give examples)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## HORSEMASTERSHIP

### Level III - Consumer

Date  
Completed

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Be able to explain about conformation in relation to unsoundness and provide examples.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain knowledge of procedure to follow in case of mild and severe wire lacerations.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain a kind of stain on a horse and how to care for it.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain knowledge of how to care for mild and severe case of colic.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain knowledge of what to do in case of thrush.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate or explain how to change lead in a line.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate or explain how to make a figure 8 at a lope.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate or explain how to back your horse properly.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate or explain how to side pass left and right.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Be able to judge a typical class of four horses and give logical reasons for your choices.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## HORSEMASTERSHIP

### Level IV - Leader

Date  
Completed

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment or learning proper riding techniques.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishment to your club.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## HORSEMASTERSHIP

### Level V - Researcher

Date  
Completed

1. Report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (Experiment)
2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
  - Management of horses.
  - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition.
  - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation.
  - Markets and methods of marketing.
  - Reproduction, breeding and genetics.
  - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used.
  - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your animal project.
  - Other
3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Horsemastership Proficiency  
in Shasta County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

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*Date*

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*Date*

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*Date*

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*Date*

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