



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Nevada 4-H

Horse Levels Program

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NEVADA 4-H HORSE LEVELS PROGRAM

(Revised in 2009)

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Nevada 4-H Horse Levels Program

Introduction, Purpose, & Overview

The Nevada 4-H Horse Levels Program is a supplement to the 4-H Horse Project in Nevada. It is a voluntary program, unless the 4-H Club Member wishes to participate at the State Show. In this case, successful completion of Level 1 (which emphasizes safety and horse basics) is required for participation.

The Horse Levels Program is noncompetitive and focuses on positive and productive teaching principles, which results in a beneficial and pleasurable learning experience for the participants. The program is not simply a pass-fail experience; but a coaching, counseling, and teaching/learning experience where the participant can grow and learn without being criticized. The purpose of the program is teaching and education, not competition. Participants develop desire and incentive to learn knowledge and gain skills.

Safety and horsemanship are stressed throughout all four levels of the program (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Accomplished). The solid knowledge of horse safety and basic horsemanship skills established in Level 1 serves as the foundation for consistent and progressive development of horse knowledge and horsemanship abilities as the participant moves through each of the levels. Since the structure of this program is educational and noncompetitive, there is no time limit for progressing through the levels. The only requirement is that the written portion of each level be successfully completed (which requires a minimum score of 70 percent) before the riding portion of that level is attempted. If the attempt at the written portion of a given level is unsuccessful, a re-take is permitted after a minimum of 24 hours has passed. There is no restriction on the number of attempts. Once the written portion is successfully completed, the riding portion can be attempted and this portion also requires a minimum score of 70 percent (and score at least 70 percent on each aspect or maneuver of the riding portion), in order to be successful. Upon scoring at least 70 percent on the written portion and scoring at least 70 percent on the riding portion a participant has successfully completed all of the requirements for that given level of the Nevada 4-H Horse Levels Program and is awarded the appropriate recognition.

Study guides and riding guides are included in this publication to help the participants progress and succeed. The study materials for the Nevada 4-H Horse Levels Program are the Wyoming 4-H Horse Publications (*The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, Pub # 11507C and *4-H Horse Project*, no publication number) and the National 4-H Publication, *Horse Science*. Other publications may also provide the information to be successful.

Club Members may ride English Attire or Western Attire, but not a mix of the two. Proper tack and attire (English or Western) shall be considered the tack and attire that is acceptable for use in the show ring such as helmet, boots, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, etc. Furthermore, since this is educational and training in nature (not competitive in the show ring) a rider may use a snaffle bit or a curb bit on a horse of any age and may also use two hands on the reins.

Instructors/Raters

In order to maintain program consistency across the counties in Nevada, this program utilizes Certified Instructors/Raters. To be a Certified Instructor/Rater an individual must first be a Nevada 4-H Leader and then: (1) Pass the same written exam for each program level as taken by the program participants; (2) Serve as a “Student-Instructor/Rater” with a Certified Instructor/Rater for two participants attempting the riding portion of the program level to be certified in. This can be taught by a local, county, area, or state Certified Instructor/Rater. However, if the certification class is conducted at a workshop other than a State Certification Workshop, it is only acceptable for an Instructor/Rater to certify someone up to a level that is one level below the certification level held by that Instructor/Rater. In other words, an Instructor with a Level 3 Certification can train as many Instructors/Rater as he/she wishes in Level 1 and Level 2, but cannot certify an Instructor Rater for Level 3; (3) Certification for Level 4 can only be obtained from participation in a State Certification Workshop; (4) Certification is valid for five years from the latest certification. In other words, if an individual was certified in Level 1 in 2001 and was then certified in Level 2 in 2003, then his/her certification for Level 1 and Level 2 is valid through 2008; (5) An Instructor/Rater can certify youth up to the certification level held by that Instructor/Rater. For example, an Instructor/Rater with a Level 3 Certification can certify youth in Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3; and (6) In order to maintain certification, each Certified Instructor/Rater must be re-certified by attending a State Certification Workshop.

The overall purpose for these regulations is to maintain program consistency and fairness for the youth who participate in this program. The above regulations ensure: the rating procedures and processes are understood; continuity and uniformity of scoring; two scoring experiences for program Instructors/Raters; and two experiences working with youth using positive and productive teaching principles.



Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level I (Novice Horsemanship) Study Guide

It is recommended that this quiz be taken at the County Cooperative Extension Office and under the supervision of 4-H/UNCE Personnel. The quiz is to be scored by a Certified Horse Levels Rater (with at least a Level 1 Certification) or 4-H/UNCE Personnel. Furthermore, it is recommended that this quiz is taken at least one month prior to the demonstration/riding portion of Levels Program.

This quiz will not be returned to the 4-H Member, but it will remain on file for one month in the County Cooperative Extension Office. During this month, the member may have access to review the quiz. After the month, 4-H/UNCE Personnel will destroy it and make a permanent record of the score.

The information on the quiz can be obtained from many horse publications. However, the information on this quiz was obtained from the two 4-H Horse Publications from Wyoming 4-H (Book One has a white cover and is titled *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, Book Two has a green cover and is titled *4-H Horse Project*). Therefore, these two books are also used as the basis for this study guide.

Items to review from Book One, *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, are:

- Introduction.....Page 1
- Selecting A Project Horse.....Pages 2-3
- Parts Of a Horse.....Page 4
- Horse Terms.....Page 5
- Fitting And Grooming.....Pages 11-13

Items to review from Book Two, *4-H Horse Project*, are:

- Section 2, Introduction To The Horse (Parts A-D).....Pages 13-16
- Section 4, Catching And Handling.....Pages 25-29
- Section 5, Safety.....Pages 29-36
- Section 6, Grooming.....Pages 37-42
- Section 7, Hooves.....Page 43-46
- Section 12, Equipment And Its Use.....Pages 71-78
- Section 13, Gaits Of The Horse.....Pages 79-84
- Section 14, Basic Horse Handling And Training.....Pages 85-88
- Section 15, Basic Horsemanship.....Pages 89-108
- Glossary Of Terms.....Pages 123-127



Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level I (Novice Horsemanship) Riding Practical

Name of 4-H Member:

Address (Street Name & Number):

Address (City, State, & Zip):

Telephone Number (Cell Phone):

Telephone Number (Home Phone):

Email Address:

Names of Parents/Guardians:

Name of 4-H Club:

Name of 4-H Club Leader:

Date of Passing Written Quiz:

Office/Official Use Only:

Name of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Phone Number of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Email Address of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Rider was successful: yes no Signature of Certified Rater:

Name of Co-Certified Horse Levels Rater Conducting this Practical:

To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 70% for each section of the riding practical exam.

Level I (Novice Horsemanship), emphasizes correct and safe principles of handling and riding.

Horsemanship Skill or Safety Procedure to be Demonstrated	Maximum Points	Passing Score	Youth Score	Rater Comments and Suggestions for Improvement
Basic Handling (safety):				
Proper catching of a horse	5	3.5		
Proper haltering of a horse	5	3.5		
Proper leading and tying of a horse	5	3.5		
Safety when working around horse	10	7		
Proper brushing and grooming of a horse (including the hooves)	20	14		
Proper adjustment and fit of all equipment (for horse and rider)	5	3.5		
Bridling and saddling (the smaller members may not be able to do the tasks, but should be able to explain the correct procedures)	5	3.5		
<i>Basic Handling Score</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>38.5</i>		
Riding Ability (horsemanship):				
Proper mounting and dismounting of a horse and the reasons for using each of the two methods shown in the manual (the younger members may not be able to correctly mount and dismount but he/she should be able to explain the correct procedures)	5	3.5		
Proper seat, correct body position, and appropriate balance at the walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope	10	7		
Proper use of the reins, for both direct and indirect (neck) reining	5	3.5		
Basic control of horse for simple riding at each gait:				
Stop	5	3.5		
Walk	5	3.5		
Trot/Jog	10	7		
Canter/Lope	10	7		
Safe and courteous riding	5	3.5		
Proper equipment and dress	5	3.5		
<i>Riding Ability Score</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>42</i>		
Total Score (Handling & Riding)	115	80.5		

Additional Comments:



Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level II (Intermediate Horsemanship) Study Guide

It is recommended that this quiz be taken at the County Cooperative Extension Office and under the supervision of 4-H/UNCE Personnel. The quiz is to be scored by a Certified Horse Levels Rater (with at least a Level 2 Certification) or 4-H/UNCE Personnel. Furthermore, it is recommended that this quiz is taken at least one month prior to the demonstration/riding portion of Levels Program.

This quiz will not be returned to the 4-H Member, but it will remain on file for one month in the County Cooperative Extension Office. During this month, the member may have access to review the quiz. After the month, 4-H/UNCE Personnel will destroy it and make a permanent record of the score.

The information on the quiz can be obtained from many horse publications. However, the information on this quiz was obtained from the two 4-H Horse Publications from Wyoming 4-H (Book One has a white cover and is titled *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, Book Two has a green cover and is titled *4-H Horse Project*). Therefore, these two books are also used as the basis for this study guide.

Items to review from Book One, *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, are:

- Introduction.....Page 1
- Parts Of a Horse.....Page 4
- Horse Breeds.....Pages 5-7
- Housing, Care, And Feeding.....Pages 7-10
- Fitting And Grooming.....Pages 11-13
- Showing A Horse.....Pages 14-18

Items to review from Book Two, *4-H Horse Project*, are:

- Section 2, Introduction To The Horse (Parts A-D).....Pages 13-16
- Section 5, Safety.....Pages 29-36
- Section 6, Grooming.....Pages 37-42
- Section 7, Hooves.....Page 43-46
- Section 8, Teeth And Aging.....Pages 47-52
- Section 9, Nutrition.....Pages 53-62
- Section 10, Health And First Aid.....Pages 63-68
- Section 11, Housing.....Pages 69-70
- Section 12, Equipment And Its Use.....Pages 71-78
- Section 13, Gaits Of The Horse.....Pages 79-84
- Section 14, Basic Horse Handling And Training.....Pages 85-88
- Section 15, Basic Horsemanship.....Pages 89-108
- Section 16, Horse Judging.....Pages 109-116
- Section 17, Horse Showmanship.....Pages 117-122
- Glossary Of Terms.....Pages 123-127



Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level II (Intermediate Horsemanship) Riding Practical

Name of 4-H Member:

Address (Street Name & Number):

Address (City, State, & Zip):

Telephone Number (Cell Phone):

Telephone Number (Home Phone):

Email Address:

Names of Parents/Guardians:

Name of 4-H Club:

Name of 4-H Club Leader:

Date of Passing Written Quiz:

Office/Official Use Only:

Name of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Phone Number of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Email Address of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Rider was successful: yes no Signature of Certified Rater:

Name of Co-Certified Horse Levels Rater Conducting this Practical:

To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 70% for each section of the riding practical exam.
 Level II (Intermediate Horsemanship) contains safety (handling and riding) and pattern riding.

Horsemanship Skill or Safety Procedure to be Demonstrated	Maximum Points	Passing Score	Youth Score	Rater Comments and Suggestions for Improvement
Handling & Mounting (safety):				
Proper leading and tying of a horse	5	3.5		
Proper grooming of a horse	10	7		
Proper hoof cleaning of a horse	5	3.5		
Bridling and saddling (the smaller members may not be able to do the tasks, but should be able to explain the correct procedures)	10	7		
Proper mounting and dismounting	10	7		
<i>Handling & Mounting Score</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>28</i>		
Riding Ability (horsemanship):				
Basic ability/control of horse for riding each gait (both directions):				
Walk	5	3.5		
Trot/Jog	5	3.5		
Canter/Lope, correct lead	10	7		
Stop form/control of horse from walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope	10	7		
Circle or Figure 8 at the trot/jog and canter/lope, see patterns	10	7		
Turn on the forehand, must do a half (1/2) turn in each direction	10	7		
Back, in a straight line	5	3.5		
Proper use of hands and reining, with good seat and balance	15	10.5		
Proper equipment and dress	5	3.5		
<i>Riding Ability Score</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>52.5</i>		
Total Score (Handling & Riding)	115	80.5		

Additional Comments:

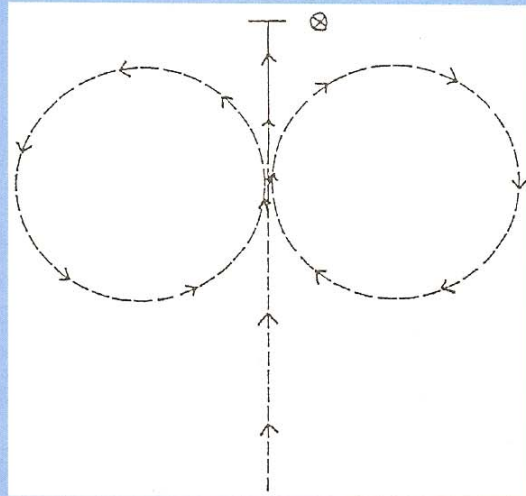


The rider has the option of riding either of the patterns listed below.

Level 2 - Pattern 1 (Figure 8)

- First: Trot/Jog in Straight Line
- Second: Figure 8
 - 1. Right Circle, then
 - 2. Left Circle
- Third: Canter/Lope in Straight Line
(Left Lead)
- Fourth: Stop at the Marker

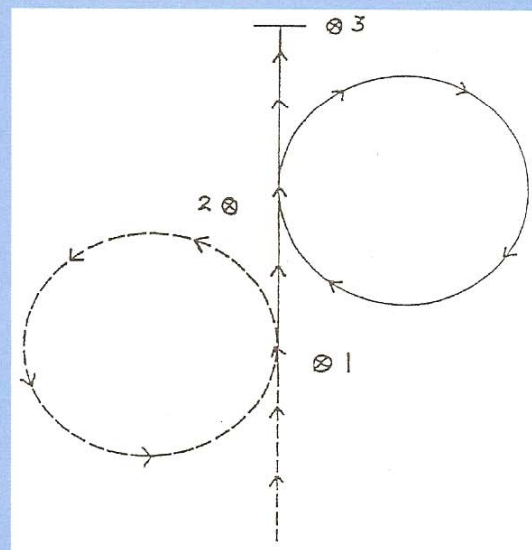
- = Trot/Jog
- = Canter/Lope
- ⊗ = Marker



Level 2 - Pattern 2 (Circles)

- First: Trot/Jog in Straight Line to Marker 1
- Second: Trot/Jog a Circle to the Left
- Third: Canter/Lope to Marker 2
(Straight Line in Right Lead)
- Fourth: Canter/Lope a Circle to the Right
(Right Lead)
- Fifth: Canter/Lope to Marker 3
(Straight Line in Right Lead)
- Sixth: Stop at Marker 3

- = Trot/Jog
- = Canter/Lope
- ⊗ = Marker





Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level III (Advanced Horsemanship) Study Guide

It is recommended that this exam be taken at the County Cooperative Extension Office and under the supervision of 4-H/UNCE Personnel. The exam is to be scored by a Certified Horse Levels Rater (with at least a Level 3 Certification) or 4-H/UNCE Personnel. Furthermore, it is recommended that this exam is taken at least one month prior to the demonstration/riding portion of Levels Program.

This exam will not be returned to the 4-H Member, but it will remain on file for one month in the County Cooperative Extension Office. During this month, the member may have access to review it. After the month, 4-H/UNCE Personnel will destroy it and make a permanent record of the score.

The information on the exam can be obtained from many horse publications. However, the information on this exam was obtained from the two 4-H Horse Publications from Wyoming 4-H (Book One has a white cover and is titled *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, Book Two has a green cover and is titled *4-H Horse Project*). Therefore, these two books are also used as the basis for this study guide.

Items to review from Book One, *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, are:

- Selecting A Horse Project.....Pages 2-3
- Housing, Care, And Feeding.....Pages 7-10
- Health Care.....Pages 10-11

Items to review from Book Two, *4-H Horse Project*, are:

- Section 2, Introduction To The Horse.....Pages 13-16
- Section 3, Selecting The Right Horse.....Pages 23-24
- Section 5, Safety.....Pages 29-36
- Section 8, Teeth And Aging.....Pages 47-52
- Section 9, Nutrition.....Pages 53-62
- Section 10, Health And First Aid.....Pages 63-68
- Section 11, Housing.....Pages 69-70
- Section 12, Equipment And Its Use.....Pages 71-78
- Section 13, Gaits Of The Horse.....Pages 79-84
- Section 14, Basic Horse Handling And Training.....Pages 85-88
- Section 15, Basic Horsemanship.....Pages 89-108
- Glossary Of Terms.....Pages 123-127



Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level III (Advanced Horsemanship) Riding Practical

Name of 4-H Member:

Address (Street Name & Number):

Address (City, State, & Zip):

Telephone Number (Cell Phone):

Telephone Number (Home Phone):

Email Address:

Names of Parents/Guardians:

Name of 4-H Club:

Name of 4-H Club Leader:

Date of Passing Written Quiz:

Office/Official Use Only:

Name of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Phone Number of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Email Address of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Rider was successful: yes no Signature of Certified Rater:

Name of Co-Certified Horse Levels Rater Conducting this Practical:

To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 70% for each section of the riding practical exam.
 Level III (Advanced Horsemanship) focuses on basic handling, gaits, and simple lead changes.

Horsemanship Skill or Safety Procedure to be Demonstrated	Maximum Points	Passing Score	Youth Score	Rater Comments and Suggestions for Improvement
Basic Handling: safety, grooming, saddling, haltering, leading, etc.	10	7		
Proper dress and equipment	5	3.5		
Proper mounting and dismounting	5	3.5		
Turn on forehand (one-half turn in both directions)	10	7		
Turn on rearquarters/haunches (one-half turn in both directions)	10	7		
Side-Pass or Full-Pass (both ways)	10	7		
Back or rein back in a straight line	5	3.5		
Back or rein back in a circle	5	3.5		
Balanced stop from walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope in a straight line	10	7		
Balanced stop from walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope in a circle	10	7		
Riding ability at each gait: walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope; each gait must be started from a stop	10	7		
Simple change of leads in a straight line (on a straight-a-way): stop to change lead or dropping to trot/jog to change lead; a minimum of 3 lead changes is required	15	10.5		
Simple change of leads in a Figure 8 or change of circles: stop to change or dropping to trot/jog to change; a minimum of 3 changes is required	15	10.5		
Ride a circle in the counter lead (counter canter): start from stop and start from trot/jog; a minimum of 3 started from each is required	15	10.5		
Total Score	135	94.5		

Additional Comments:





Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level IV (Accomplished Horsemanship) Study Guide

It is recommended that this exam be taken at the County Cooperative Extension Office and under the supervision of 4-H/UNCE Personnel. The exam is to be scored by a Certified Horse Levels Rater (with at least a Level 4 Certification) or 4-H/UNCE Personnel. Furthermore, it is recommended that this exam is taken at least one month prior to the demonstration/riding portion of Levels Program.

This exam will not be returned to the 4-H Member, but it will remain on file for one month in the County Cooperative Extension Office. During this month, the member may have access to review it. After the month, 4-H/UNCE Personnel will destroy it and make a permanent record of the score.

The information on the exam can be obtained from many horse publications. However, the information on this exam was obtained from the two 4-H Horse Publications from Wyoming 4-H (Book One has a white cover and is titled *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, Book Two has a green cover and is titled *4-H Horse Project*). Therefore, these two books are also used as the basis for this study guide. The National 4-H Publication, *Horse Science*, has also been used as a resource for this exam.

Items to review from Book One, *The 4-H Horse Project: An Introduction*, are:

- Selecting A Horse Project.....Pages 2-3
- Housing, Care, And Feeding.....Pages 7-10
- Health Care.....Pages 10-11
- Fitting And Grooming.....Pages 11-13
- Showing A Horse.....Pages 14-18

Items to review from Book Two, *4-H Horse Project*, are:

- Section 2, Introduction To The Horse.....Pages 13-16
- Section 3, Selecting The Right Horse.....Pages 23-24
- Section 9, Nutrition.....Pages 53-62
- Section 10, Health And First Aid.....Pages 63-68
- Section 14, Basic Horse Handling And Training.....Pages 85-88
- Section 15, Basic Horsemanship.....Pages 89-108
- Section 16, Horse Judging.....Pages 109-116
- Section 17, Horse Showmanship.....Pages 117-122
- Glossary Of Terms.....Pages 123-127

Items to review from National 4-H Publication, *Horse Science*

- Common Diseases; including causes, treatments, and symptoms
- Internal & External Parasites; including life cycles, damage to host, and control measures
- Basics Of Reproduction; including breeding, gestation, and foaling
- Horse Training; including techniques, cues, maneuvers, and problems

A review of the entire Horse Levels Study Materials/Subject Matter is also highly recommended.



Nevada 4-H Horse Levels

Level IV (Accomplished Horsemanship) Riding Practical

Name of 4-H Member:

Address (Street Name & Number):

Address (City, State, & Zip):

Telephone Number (Cell Phone):

Telephone Number (Home Phone):

Email Address:

Names of Parents/Guardians:

Name of 4-H Club:

Name of 4-H Club Leader:

Date of Passing Written Quiz:

Office/Official Use Only:

Name of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Phone Number of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Email Address of Certified Horse Levels Rater:

Rider was successful: yes no Signature of Certified Rater:

Name of Co-Certified Horse Levels Rater Conducting this Practical:

To pass this level, the 4-H member must score 70% for each section of the riding practical exam. Level IV (Accomplished Horsemanship) focuses on handling, pivots, roll backs, and flying lead changes.

Horsemanship Skill or Safety Procedure to be Demonstrated	Maximum Points	Passing Score	Youth Score	Rater Comments and Suggestions for Improvement
Basic Handling: safety, grooming, saddling, haltering, leading, etc.	10	7		
Proper dress and equipment	5	3.5		
Proper mounting and dismounting	5	3.5		
Trot to extended trot to trot (sitting to rising back to sitting)	5	3.5		
Canter/lope to hand gallop and back to canter/lope	5	3.5		
Correct sliding stop (balanced halt) from canter/lope	10	7		
Roll-back: perform both left and right from the lope (English: half pirouette at the canter, one-half turn in both directions)	10	7		
Pivot: $\frac{1}{4}$ turn, $\frac{1}{2}$ turn in the opposite direction, then $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to original position (English: turn on haunches from halt, $\frac{1}{2}$ turn in each direction)	10	7		
Two-track or half-pass in both directions at the walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope	10	7		
Riding ability at walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope; start from a stop	10	7		
Flying change of leads in a straight line: to be performed at the lope or collected canter; a minimum of three lead changes is required	15	10.5		
Flying change of leads in a Figure 8 or connected circles: the smaller circles/figure 8s to be slower and collected, larger circles/figure 8s to be a faster gait; a minimum of three changes is required	15	10.5		
Total Score	110	77		

Additional Comments:

