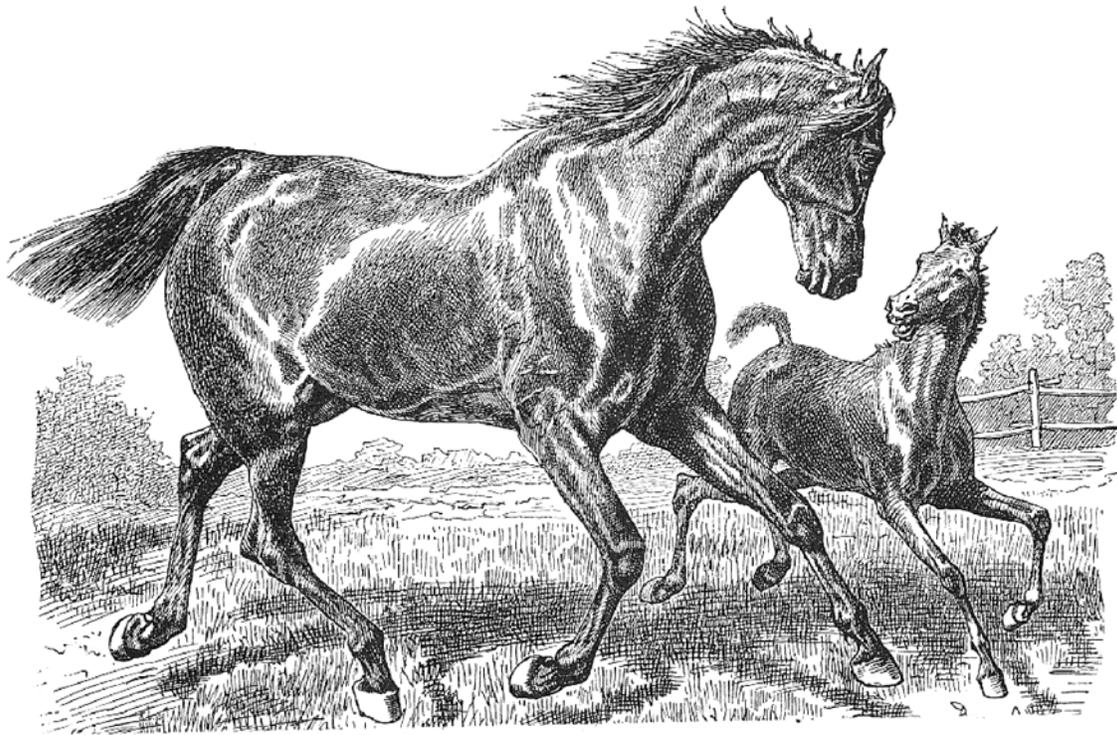




THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

# Georgia 4-H Horse Project



## Level 3 The Master Horseman



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## **Introduction/Objectives**

The Horse Project is designed as a tool for 4-H members to learn about horse care and handling, and the equine industry in general, through hands-on activities designed to develop skills not only in horsemanship and equine handling, but also in leadership, communication, decision-making and personal management. The steps involved in completing the series of three manuals allow the 4-H member to learn safety precautions related to horse handling, horsemanship skills, proper care, and responsibility, as each member is required to participate in the daily handling and management of the project horse or pony.

The activities outlined in the manuals include service activities on the club and community levels, which encourage both continued participation in 4-H and the development of leadership skills which can be carried beyond the scope of the Horse project and the Georgia 4-H program.

## **Instructions/Procedures**

Each manual contains a set of questions and problems which must be answered/solved in order to demonstrate the knowledge that the 4-H'er gains through the research performed during the completion of the manual. Various activities are required, completion of which must be documented by the 4-H'er and signed by an adult leader. Progression through the series of manuals guides the 4-H'er through an increasing level of difficulty in both horse handling skills and knowledge of the equine industry.

A qualified horse club leader or agent must sign each manual, indicating that activities have been performed, and that questions have been answered correctly. A completed manual is considered to be one which has been completely filled out, with at least 80 percent of questions answered correctly. Completion of the Novice Horsemanship Manual is required in order for a 4-H'er to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show, and is required in order to advance to the Intermediate Horseman Manual. Completion of the Intermediate Horseman Manual is required in order to progress to the Master Horseman Manual. Completion of the Master Horseman Manual entitles the 4-H'er to Master 4-H'er status and is considered the culmination of years of hard work by the 4-H'er within the Horse project, and is a very high honor.

Any questions relative to the content or requirements within a manual should be directed either to the State 4-H Livestock Office or to an Equine Specialist within the University of Georgia's Animal Science Department.

## **Requirements**

In order to receive the certificate of completion for each manual, a student is required to:

- be a member of a 4-H club within the state of Georgia.
- be responsible for the care of a horse, either owned or leased by the 4-H'er.
- have access to proper equipment and tack in good, safe working condition.
- wear proper, safe attire for every instance of handling and riding demonstrations.
- demonstrate humane handling of the horse at all times.
- complete all requirements of the manual to the satisfaction of the 4-H leader, agent, and/or State Extension Equine Specialist.
- submit the completed manual to the county 4-H office.
- at the Master level, pass (85% or better) a comprehensive test of knowledge and horsemanship skills, under the direct supervision of a State Extension Equine Specialist.

The county office should submit this project workbook, along with the additional required materials, to the State 4-H Livestock Office, University of Georgia, Hoke Smith Annex, Athens, GA 30602. The workbook and attached materials will be examined for accuracy, as well as for satisfactory completion of all required elements. The County Extension Agent should then coordinate with the State Extension Equine Specialist to arrange a testing date and location.

### **Level 3 Master Horseman Project**

#### **Experience**

You must be responsible for the primary care (feeding, watering, grooming, stall cleaning and exercise) of your project horse for a period of at least 240 days (**in addition to** the time required by the Novice and Intermediate Horseman Manuals).

Please sign below signifying that you have completed this requirement, and please have an adult 4-H leader, 4-H agent, or barn manager sign as a witness to you're your performance of this task.

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4-H'er signature

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Adult Witness signature

#### **Horse-related activities**

- Write a critical review of a magazine article on horse training, breeding, nutrition, a health issue, or a behavior problem. The review should be 2-3 pages long (typed and double-spaced) and should paraphrase the information found in the article, and contain your personal opinion of and/or personal experience related to the research, training method, or issue. Please attach the report to this manual.
- Read a book on horse care or training. Write a two-page report (typed and double-spaced) on the book, and the information contained in the book; include what you learned, and how you plan to apply what you learned to your personal horse management and/or riding. Please attach the report to this manual.
- Do one of the following:
  - Organize an educational clinic, including booking the location, securing a clinician, and advertising/promoting the event. Attach documentation of the event to this manual.
  - Organize and help manage a 4-H horse show, including compiling a list of classes, securing a location, judge and workers, and advertising/promoting the event. Attach documentation of the event to this manual.
  - Choreograph a routine for a drill team, including choosing music, directing/planning the routine, and participating in an official drill team competition. Attach the name of the music used, and the list of maneuvers performed, to this manual.
  - Organize a charity trail ride for at least 20 participants, including securing the location, advertising/publicizing the event, and sending proceeds to the charity chosen. Attach documentation of the event to this manual.
  - Shadow a farrier or equine veterinarian for one day, assisting as much as allowed. Document the date, the locations visited, and the various activities you participated in and/or observed, and attach the documentation to this manual.

#### **Equine Industry Knowledge**

Plan/design a horse farm, as though you were actually going to build it. Draw a layout of the farm, designate what kind of fencing you will use, and list what kind of buildings/structures you will have on the property, how many acres and stalls (if any) that you will have, how many horses you will house on the property, and how many employees will work on the farm (and what their jobs will be). List the state in which you will build the farm and any special considerations for building or management, based on the area of the country in which the farm will be located. Detail the costs involved in designing/building the facility, and expected labor costs. If you plan to profit from your facility, list the expected gross (before expenses) and net (after all expenses, including labor, feed/hay, utilities and bedding) income for one year. If you

do not plan to profit from this facility, please give the total cost for running the facility for one year, including feed/hay, labor, utilities, bedding, and routine vet and farrier costs. Attach the plan to this manual.

#### **4-H Knowledge/Participation**

Please perform at least 3 of the following options, indicating with a check mark the ones which you have completed. Please have your 4-H leader sign below, indicating that you have satisfactorily completed the three tasks.

- Compete at the district or state level in 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, at State 4-H Horse Judging, or compete at the State 4-H Horse Show.
- Serve as a Teen Leader at 4-H Horse School.
- Hold an office in your club for a minimum of one year.
- Prepare a display and present a lecture/demonstration to an outside group on an equine-related topic such as breeding, training, nutrition, horse handling, behavior problems, or current health issue, etc.
- Organize a community service activity, and either visit your local radio or television station to promote the event on air, or prepare a news article on the outcome and submit it to your local newspaper.
- Organize and help conduct an educational tour for your club at a local farm, stable, feed mill, veterinary clinic, or other equine-related business.
- Design and maintain a working website for your club.

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4-H Leader signature

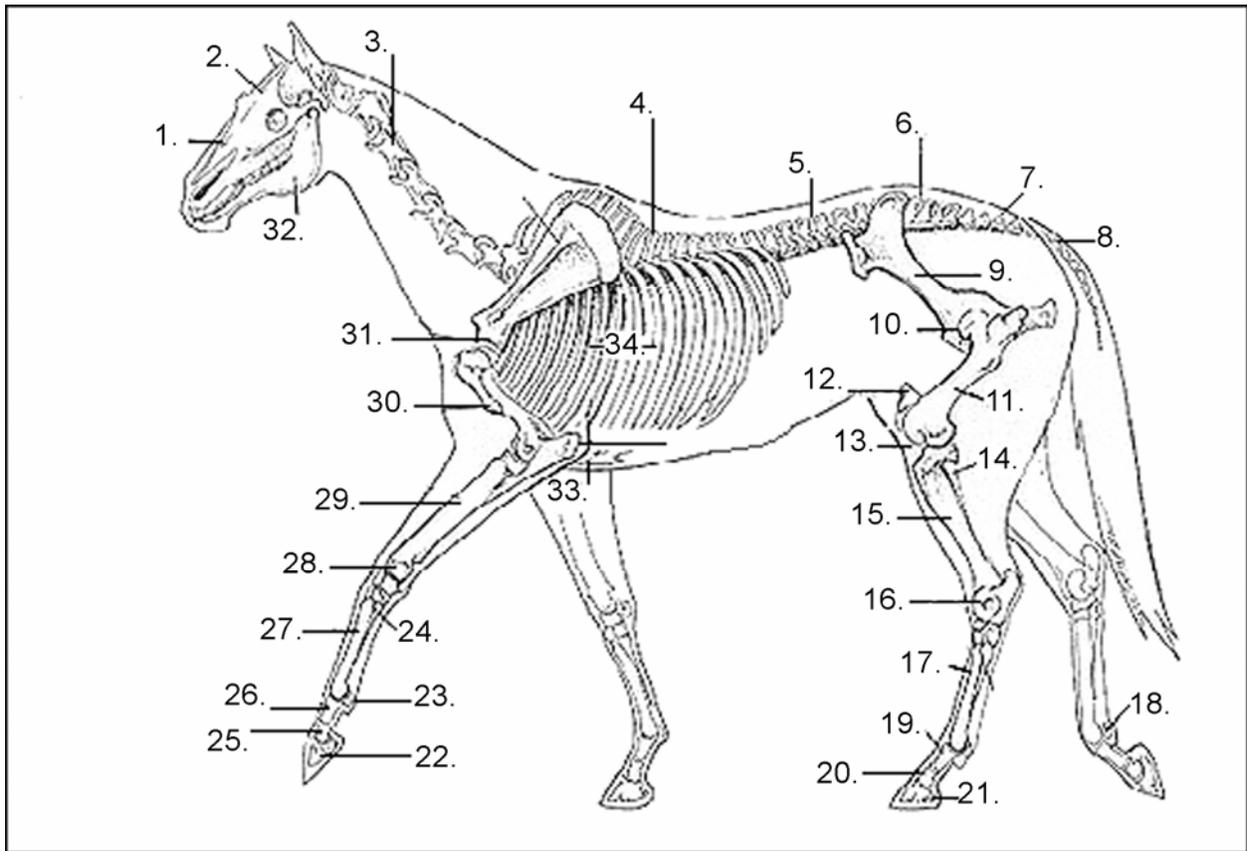
#### **Safety**

Develop a disaster/emergency preparedness plan for your barn/stable/farm. Determine what should happen in the event of an emergency, with such considerations as identification of animals, veterinary records, safety, items to be compiled ahead of time, evacuation route, plan in case of power or water outage, etc. Attach the plan to this manual.

List at least ten things that should be done before hauling a horse, to help ensure its safety during the trip. You may include considerations for the horse itself, the trailer, and the truck.

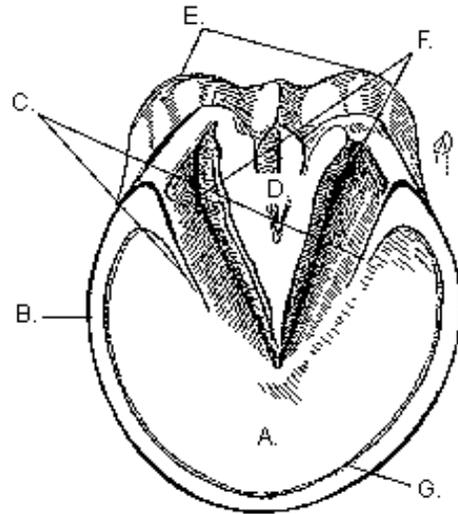
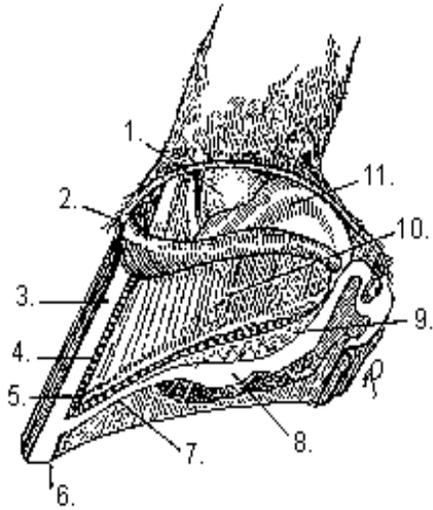
**Identification**

Identify the parts of the skeleton in the diagram below.



- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 13. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 14. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 15. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 16. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 17. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 18. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 19. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 20. _____ | 32. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 21. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 22. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 23. _____ |           |
| 12. _____ | 24. _____ |           |

Identify the parts of the hoof.



- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. \_\_\_\_\_

Observe at least four different horses, and point out the desirable and undesirable conformation features and way of going/movement for each horse. Write a summary of your observations below.

### **Health/Hoof Care**

List the hormones involved in the cycle and pregnancy of a mare, and at what stage of the cycle each is important. List at least three factors that can affect the cycle of a mare, and some signs that a mare may be in heat.

List at least three signs that a mare may be close to foaling, and list at least three things that should be done after a foal is born.

Visit a horse farm and examine the teeth of at least five different horses; based on what you see, determine the approximate age (within two-three years) of each horse. Document below what you saw in each horse, and the age which you estimated it to be.

Assemble an emergency first aid kit for horses, working with your local veterinarian for a list of suggested items; list each item included in your kit.

Describe how you would trim/shoe a horse with laminitis or navicular disease.

### **Feeding**

Plan a feeding schedule for a horse, and describe the schedule in the space below (this horse may be either actual or fictional, but the schedule/plan must be realistic). Give the age, breed, height, weight, gender, general state of health, and use of the animal. Determine and list the following: what type of feed shall be fed; nutritional requirements based on the breed, size, age and activity level of the animal; amount to feed per day including forage and any grain fed; what time(s) of day feed will be given to horse; and cost of feed/forage for one year. Note whether there are any changes in feeding schedule based on the time of year, training/breeding schedule, etc. Also note whether there are any feeding management issues due to chronic health problems, age, training activities, etc., and how you plan to deal with those issues.

### **Record-keeping**

Create and implement a one-year vaccination plan for your horse. List what types of vaccines are given, which diseases/illnesses each one prevents, and how often each is to be administered. Please list the dates that you or your vet administer each vaccine.

Create and implement a deworming program for your horse. List the type(s) of dewormers given, brand name(s), which parasites each dewormer is used against, and how often dewormer is to be administered. Collect a fecal sample and take it to your vet before you administer a dewormer, and then repeat this 10-14 days after deworming. Does your deworming program appear to be working? What parasites were present before and after deworming?

For at least one month, each time you ride, document your horse's heart and respiration rates before and immediately after riding, as well as recovery time after riding to resting heart and respiration rates. Attach the record to this manual; it must include at least eight separate rides.

### **Riding Record**

Log at least 200 hours of riding time (**in addition to** the time logged in the Novice and Intermediate Horseman Manuals); document the date, how much time you spent in the saddle, and the type of riding done. Please attach the log to this manual.

### **Handling**

Please complete at least two of the following, and for each task performed, create a one-page, double-spaced typed report to be attached to this manual.

- Halter break a foal, and teach it to lead and stop on command; in your report, describe your preparation and training method(s) used, and the outcome.
- Trim a horse's feet, under the supervision of a farrier. In your report, please describe the steps that you went through while trimming the horse, including a list of the tools that you used.
- Teach a horse to load in a trailer; in your report, describe your preparation and training method(s) used, and the outcome.
- Train or assist in training a young/green horse under saddle. In your report, describe your preparation and training method(s) used, and the outcome.
- Observe a mare foaling; in your report, describe what things were done beforehand to prepare for the birth, and what happened during the birth and immediately afterwards.
- Assist with the breeding of a mare; in your report, document the preparations that were made beforehand, the breed(s) of horses used, breeding date, method used (live cover, AI, etc.), and expected foaling date.

### **Leadership/Education**

Give at least ten horsemanship lessons to a beginner rider, including instruction on handling, ground work and riding; document his or her skill level before the lessons began, and evaluate his or her progress after ten lessons. Please submit your report along with this manual.

## Communication

Describe a challenge you have faced during the time you have spent preparing for your riding tests (at least one page, typed and double-spaced). Detail any research you did on the issue, and describe how you handled the problem with your horse, giving specific methods or training principles you have applied in order to correct the problem.

## Riding/Handling Skills

Requirement	Date Completed	Leader's Initials
Administer a vaccination, under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.		
Completely take apart a bridle or saddle, clean it, and put it back together properly.		
Demonstrate proper use of at least three different restraint methods, including lip twitch, shoulder twitch, nose chain, lip chain, hobbles, etc.		
While leading from the ground, back a horse at least 10 feet.		
While leading from the ground, execute a 180 degree turn on the haunches.		
Back a horse (under saddle) at least 15 feet in a straight line.		
Sidepass in both directions at least 15 feet.		
Execute a 360 degree turn on the forehand; also execute a 360 degree turn on the haunches.		
Transition into the lope, canter or appropriate fast gait from a complete stop.		
Drop your stirrups, and ride at least 200 feet at either the sitting trot, extended jog or appropriate intermediate gait, then transition into the canter, lope, or appropriate fast gait, traveling at least 100 feet. Come to a complete stop, and pick up your stirrups without looking or using your hands.		
Ride at least 150 feet at either the gallop, hand gallop, or appropriate fast gait; bring your horse down to the walk for no more than two strides, then stop, loosen the reins, and stand for at least five seconds.		
Demonstrate at least three different gaits appropriate to your breed and discipline (i.e. walk/trot/ canter) from slowest to fastest, with smooth transitions between each; come to a complete balanced stop from the fastest gait.		
Demonstrate the counter canter/incorrect lead, or for non-cantering breeds, demonstrate a counter bend in a figure eight at the appropriate intermediate gait.		
Demonstrate and discuss the aids/cues used to move a horse into various gaits, as well as the stop/halt.		
Demonstrate and discuss at least three steps or methods involved in training a young horse, either during ground work or under saddle.		

## **Learning** *for* **Life**

This project manual was written by Emily B. Schattler, Extension 4-H Program Specialist. The author acknowledges the support of the UGA Equine Science faculty and Georgia 4-H Horse Advisory Committee members.

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