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no. 406-099  
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# VIRGINIA 4-H HORSE PROJECT: PROGRESSIVE RIDING SERIES UNIT 4

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## Horsemaster



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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY OR CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF CLUB \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF LEADER \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS IN 4-H \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE PROJECT BEGAN \_\_\_\_\_ ENDED \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia Cooperative Extension



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

# The Progressive Riding Series

*Edited by Larry A. Lawrence\**

## 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, and 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, but 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 100-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 member 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.

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\*Extension Animal Scientist, Horses, Virginia Tech

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 and 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 dates and the approximate distance you rode each day to total 100 miles. (The 100 miles may be ridden in one or two days if the ride is an approved endurance or competitive ride.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Distance</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

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

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Describe how you cared for the horse after the ride.

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

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

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G. You must teach beginners at least three aspects of horsemanship or stable management. What was the nature of this instruction?

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H. List the names of at least two horse magazines that you read on a regular basis.

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Do you own at least six books about horses? \_\_\_\_\_. List the titles and authors.

Title	Author
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
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K. Design and sketch two kinds of fences suitable and safe for horses.

L. You must attend an intensive riding short course or clinic (one day minimum).

Date/s \_\_\_\_\_

Name of chief instructor \_\_\_\_\_

M. You must have observed or assisted with the breeding of a mare. List date/s, location, and professional manager or veterinarian supervising.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Manager or veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_





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

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S. Briefly discuss pasture management for horses.

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Briefly discuss some of the problems which may be involved with grazing of sorghum type plants, fescue, and clover.

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

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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
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

List five demonstrations you presented at 4-H club meetings (three must have been about horses).

Date	Demonstration
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
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<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

List four or more 4-H projects you completed other than the 4-H horse projects.

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Give the year or years during which you have served as a 4-H junior leader.

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Give the date on which you submitted a 4-H accumulated achievement record book (any area) at the county, district, or state level. \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss at least one community service project that you conducted with your club.

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Discuss at least one program that you conducted or assisted with for either riding for the handicapped or for youth not able to own a horse.

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Discuss your plans for future involvement with horses.

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Section 2 - Knowledge

A. Trace or draw the following, and 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. \_\_\_\_\_  
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F. Other than color or teeth, list or discuss at least two ways to provide a positive identification system for horses.

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G. List the minimum medicines and veterinary materials needed in a stable and the use of each.

Medicine or Material	Use
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<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
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<hr/>	<hr/>
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H. Briefly outline things you have done to stress the ways to prevent accidents with horses and with people working with horses.

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

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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.).

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

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L. Compare the following kinds of hay.

	TDN	% Digestible 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.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature of Leader</u>
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 de-worming 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.	_____	_____
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.	_____	_____

Section 3 (Continued)

- 19. Point out the desirable and undesirable features in way-of-going in three horses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Demonstrate longeing. \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. Discuss the reproductive cycle of the mare. \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Demonstrate the use of a computer. \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. 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:

- A. (Must do), Participate in an over-night (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 practical 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