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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Alberta 4-H Horse Project



Horse Reference Manual



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Horse Project

MEMBER

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Introduction

Welcome to the 4-H Horse Project




We are excited that you have chosen to become involved in the 4-H Horse Project. We hope you have a great time this year making new friends, taking part in 4-H activities, working with your 4-H project and learning more about being a horse owner.

To complete a yearly 4-H horse project, you must:

-  Complete a record book for each project.
-  Take part in at least 70 per cent of designated club activities.
-  Take part in Achievement Day.
-  Enroll in one of the projects available and work on the assessments required for that project. You are not required to finish a project in one year, nor are you required to finish a level in a year. Your yearly project qualifies as long as you have been working on the skills and knowledge for the project in which you have enrolled.
-  Have fun!

Horse Project Objectives

The 4-H Horse Project gives members an opportunity to:

-  Acquire an understanding of horse management through the experience of owning, caring for, and maintaining records on a horse project.
-  Develop the skills, patience and understanding of the handling practices essential in working with horses.
-  Develop an appreciation of the horse industry and its importance in the local community, the province and the country.



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About the 4-H Horse Manual and Project Books

You will be using this main 4-H Horse Project Manual as you work through the Horsemanship Project and the other 4-H horse projects. This manual has basic horsemanship information that is important for any horse owner to know.

This manual has been compiled with the best information we have at the present time. New research is ongoing in the horse world, so some of the information we present may change in the future.

There are many projects available to 4-H horse members and most projects have supplementary **Project Books** that provide you with additional information specific to each project. These books also include activities for you to complete and the assessment tools you will work through for each project. Information is also available on our website at: www.4h.ab.ca.

About the Record Book

You will be using the 4-H Horse Project Record Book. It is your responsibility to provide the majority of the feed, management and care of your horse. Feeding records on your horse must be maintained for a **minimum of 180 days** prior to Achievement Day.

About the Assessment Tools (Levels)

To provide consistency throughout the province, the projects have been developed with level assessment tools (skill requirements). These assessment tools will explain to you what you are expected to learn and will be used to assess your knowledge and skills in each project.

About the Mandatory 4-H Horsemanship Project

Safety First! To help ensure safety and basic horsemanship skills of 4-H members in the province, a mandatory project has been established. The first three levels of the Horsemanship Project have assessment tools which provide an opportunity for you to develop basic riding and handling skills. This helps to ensure you acquire basic safety techniques and learn about the responsibility involved in caring for your horse. You can ride either Western or English, but you **must complete the project assessments for the first three levels with your own project animal.**

Young horses may be used, however the ability to complete some of the assessments will depend on the training of the horse.

Once you have completed these first three levels of the Horsemanship Project, you may continue in this project, or you may move on to other projects. If you choose to move on to another project, it is advisable to carry on with Horsemanship 4 -7 to enhance the skills required for your other projects.



About the Horse Projects

English Horse Projects

1. Members who wish to gain more experience with the English style of riding are encouraged to participate in this project.
2. Projects that involve English riding include:
 - 🐾 **Horsemanship 4-7** - is a continuation of the mandatory Horsemanship Project where members continue to learn horsemanship skills, riding with English equipment.
 - 🐾 **Jumping** - members will learn about and develop basic skills for beginner jumping. Members and horses learn to work together as a team learning correct techniques.
 - 🐾 **Dressage** - members will learn about and develop techniques used in dressage competitions. Members learn about dressage competitions and develop riding skills that help teach their horses basic dressage movements.

Western Horse Projects

1. Members who wish to gain more experience with the Western style of riding are encouraged to participate in this project.
2. Projects that involve Western riding include:
 - 🐾 **Horsemanship 4-7** (a continuation of the mandatory Horsemanship Project) - members will continue to learn more advanced horsemanship skills, riding with Western equipment.
 - 🐾 **Ranch Horse** - members will develop skills in working with cattle, roping, first aid, trail riding and other skills used with ranching.
 - 🐾 **Rodeo** - members will learn about competing in rodeo events including: Barrel Racing, Goat Tying, Steer Undecorating, Team Roping, Cow or Steer Riding, Pole Bending, Keyhole, Breakaway Roping, and Goat Tail Untying. Members also learn how to set up and conduct a rodeo.
 - 🐾 **Packing** - members will learn how to safely use pack horses and equipment used in packing and learn how to take part in pack trips.
 - 🐾 **Reining** - members will work with their horse to develop the skills used in reining competitions. Members should have advanced riding skills and horses should be athletic.
 - 🐾 **Cattle Events (Cutting, Working Cow Horse, and Team Penning)** - members will learn about handling cattle and using a horse in competition for the three cattle events. Members and their horses should have some advanced riding skills and lots of experience before enrolling in this project.



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Young Horse Projects

Members interested in learning more about the horse industry and about raising and training young horses are encouraged to participate in this project. The young horse project is set up with two participation streams: members having the option to complete the project on their own as a self-directed basis or linked up with an industry based young horse development project.

Self-Directed

This project helps you to teach and train the horse that has no real “*schooling*”. The young horse project is developed for a weanling, yearling or two year old animal, however this project is not restricted to a certain age of the horse, rather the amount of training and handling needed.

Members start their projects at what development level the animal is at: weanling, young, green or mature. The project covers topics like foal nutrition, safety, facilities and training.

Members carry this project as long as they want or until the levels are attained. They can sell their animal at any time.

Industry Affiliated

Members apply through the provincial office (usually by October 1), are notified that they have been accepted and are linked up with industry groups. Members receive knowledge and corporate support to develop skills and experience the variety of Alberta’s Horse industry.

Standardbred - members apply to join this program, receive a weanling from a standardbred breeder and work through the young horse development levels, care for the animal and then market it for the owner at the annual yearling sale (members receive a percentage of the sale).

Draft Horse - members apply to join this program, purchase a weanling draft horse and work it through three years of young horse development training. In the first year the emphasis is on halter, second year includes ground driving and third year includes cart driving.

Wild Rose Equine Ranchers Association (WRERA) - members apply to join this program, purchase a foal from an association rancher and work it through the young horse development levels for a minimum of two years.



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Judging Horse Project

This project is designed for members who do not have a horse and who wish to learn about judging horse events (members are not required to have a project animal).

Members will advance through the assessment tools that encourage learning about and experiencing the judging of conformation and performance classes.

Members keep a record book on the activities they participate in, recording their experience and training with judging.

Creative Options Project (COP) - Equine

This unit is designed for intermediate (12 to 14 years old) and senior (15 to 20 years old) members as of January 1st of the current club year.

The members must have completed at least Horsemanship Level I-III and wish to design their own area of study. Non-riding projects do not have to complete the mounted abilities of Horsemanship I-III to participate in this project. In this unit, members select, plan, share and evaluate their own projects. This project is ideal for members who do not own their own horse.

Further information on this project is available by ordering the Creative Options Project Book or by contacting the 4-H specialist in your region.



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The 4-H Motto

“Learn to Do by Doing”

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge

My **Head** to clearer thinking,
My **Heart** to greater loyalty,
My **Hands** to larger service,
My **Health** to better living,
For my club, my community and my country.



The 4-H Grace

(Tune of Auld Lang Syne)

We thank thee, Lord, for blessings great
on this, our own fair land.
Teach us to serve thee joyfully,
with head, heart, health and hand.

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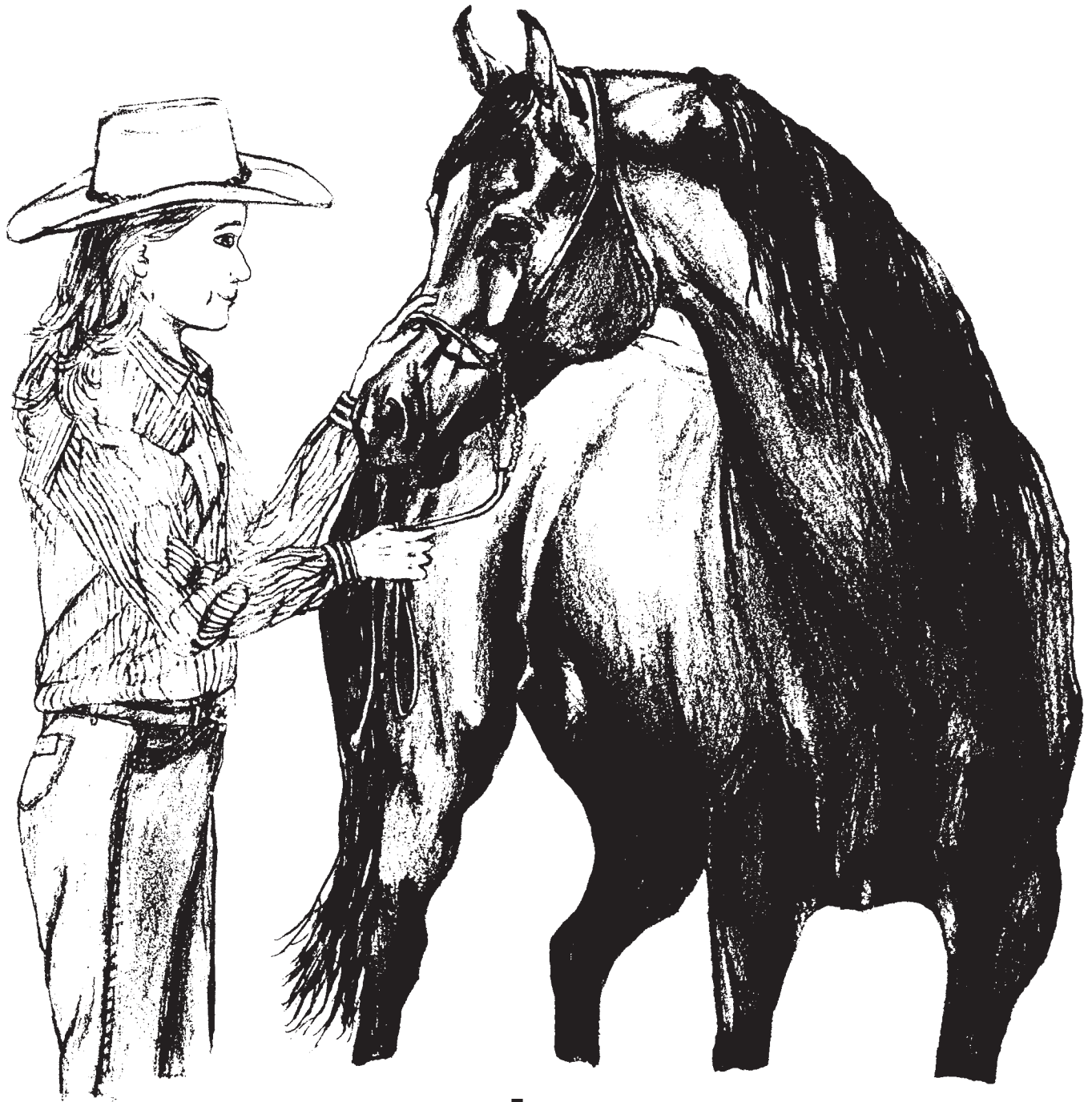
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