



FALLON COUNTY



4-H HORSE POLICY

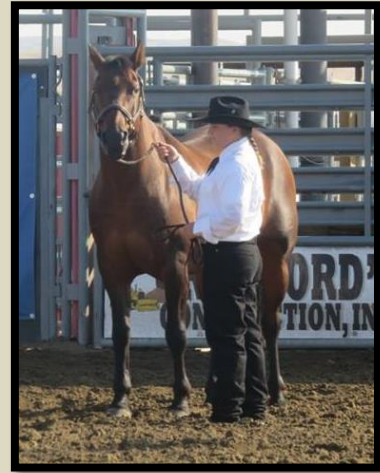


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MONTANA 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Montana 4-H Horse Program:

- **Develop life skills** (Foster a positive self-image, Learn decision making abilities and responsibilities, Develop an inquiring mind and desire to search for knowledge)
 - **Promote** (The state and local 4-H horse program)
 - **Develop leadership skills** (Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities, Encourage individuals to perform to the best of their abilities, Learn to set and achieve goals to the best of one's ability.)
 - **Learn about Horses** (Receive education on care, feeding, and management. Gain skills in horsemanship and horse handling. Learn safety precautions.
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FALLON COUNTY KIDS and HORSES 4-H CLUB

The Kids and Horses 4-H Club is the local project club for 4-H members enrolled in any horse project. Enrollment in a horse project will include membership to this project club. Participation is highly encouraged. Members must also be a member of a local community 4-H Club. The Kids and Horses Club will operate under the Fallon County 4-H Council and the Montana 4-H.

Purpose of the Kids and Horses 4-H Club is to:

- Organize a yearly plan
 - Inform members of project updates and guidelines
 - Provide educational lesson about horses and riding
 - Offer leadership opportunity for youth
-

MONTANA STATE 4-H HORSE PROJECTS

- **INDOOR HORSE PROJECTS** (*Projects are manual based; a horse is helpful but not mandatory.*)
 - Horse showing
 - Horse judging
 - Horse careers
 - Packing
 - Horseless horse level 1-5
- **RIDING PROJECTS**
 - Western Horsemanship levels 1-7
 - English Horsemanship levels 1-7
 - Working Ranch Horse levels 1-4
 - Driving level 1-3
 - Green Broke Western levels 1-4
 - Green Broke English level 1-4
 - Colt to Maturity levels 1-5



SECTION 1:
Fallon County 4-H Horse Program
IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

OCTOBER	Start of the new 4-H year (October 1 st)
DECEMBER	Member enrollment Due December 1 st Kids and Horses Organizational Meeting <i>Horse Helmet Video</i> <i>Election of Officers</i> <i>Yearly Plan of Activities</i>
MARCH	Kids and Horse Meeting <i>Horse Helmet Video</i> <i>Assessment Guidelines</i>
MAY	Horse IDs Due to the Fallon/Carter Extension Office by May 1 st Weekly Summer Horse Practices Start <i>Assessment appointments set by Horse Leaders</i> <i>Project Workbooks are to be presented practices</i>
JUNE	Last Day to Add or Drop 4-H Projects
JULY	Summer Horse Show and Play Day State Workshop Ranch Horse Show (Great Falls) Montana 4-H Congress (4-H Horse Skillathon or Horse Judging)
AUGUST	Record Books need to be Up-To-Date to show at Fair (August 10 th) Carter County Fair (2 nd Full Weekend) Fallon County Fair (3 rd Full Week)
SEPTEMBER	Montana 4-H State Horse Show Record Books Due (2 nd Wednesday) End of 4-H year (September 30 th)
OCTOBER	4-H Achievement Day

Fallon County 4-H Council:

3rd Mon. of January, April,
July and October.

**Fallon County 4-H Livestock
Committee:**

2nd Mon. in January, April, &
October. 3rd Wed. in July.

SECTION 2:
Fallon County 4-H Rules and Guidelines
PROJECT HORSE & HORSE ID POLICY

Purpose & Goals for Horse ID Policy

- So the Extension Office and horse leaders can become familiar with the members horses
- For the horse leaders to become familiar with the goals of parents and youth for the year
- To identify all horses in the program and be able to match them with their project area
- To determine ownership and location of 4-H horses
- To promote fairness

Fallon/Carter County 4-H Horse ID
To participate in county or state 4-H horse activities, this form must be on file at the Extension Office by May 1st.

4-H Member Information

4-H MEMBER NAME: _____ 4-H YEAR: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____

4-H Horse Information

HORSE'S NAME: _____ GRADE REGISTERED _____
(Registered Number)

BREED TYPE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ MARE GELDING

WHO OWNS THE HORSE: You Family Leased from: _____
(Owner Name, Phone Number)
Turn in a copy of lease agreement with ID Form

THIS HORSE IS MY PROJECT HORSE FOR _____
You can have a primary and a backup horse for each project: Western Horsemanship, English Horsemanship, and Working Ranch Horse. Driving, Colt to Maturity and Green Horse can have one horse for each level.

Horse Picture/Description

List colors, brands, markings, and scars. Be as thorough as possible. Include photo showing a side view of the horse.

Agreement

I certify this horse is a 4-H project for this year and the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I also agree to follow both county and state guidelines pertaining to the horse project.

Members: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

YEAR	MEMBER	GUARDIAN

Fallon/Carter County Extension Office: P.O. Box 850, Baker, MT 59313 // Phone: (406) 778-7110

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Filed: _____

Date Completed Horse Helmet Video: _____

All project horses used in the 4-H year will be identified and matched to a project area using the "Horse ID" form provided by the Fallon/Carter County Extension Office. "Horse ID" forms need to be completed and turned in by the county deadline May 1st.

A horse may be used for more than one project. However, the horse must be declared for each of its projects.

Youth may have a primary horse and a backup horse for each project: western horsemanship, English horsemanship, and working ranch horse. Driving, colt to maturity and green horse can have one horse for each level. Youth must use a project horse for trail, bareback, showmanship and western pleasure.

Youth are to keep records on all horses that identified on a Horse ID form.

"Horse ID" forms will be copied and given back to the member for potential use in their manuals. A copy will be kept by the Extension Office.

More than one child in a family can ID the same horse as long as that horse does not compete against its self in any class or level.

Identified Horsemanship horses will be eligible to be used by other 4-H Horsemanship members.

If the same horse is used each year, the HORSE ID form from the previous year may be used, but member and parent must sign and date it for the current year.

Purpose & Goals of Ownership Policy

- *To allow a system of identification of horses and other information vital to the project*
- *To give members a time line in which to maximize their horsemanship skills*
- *To give all members the same amount of time to be in control of their project animal*
- *To encourage members to seek help and guidance for training issues with the member present and involved in the training*

Fallon County 4-H Horse program will follow state policy regarding ownership of horses. The horse must be owned by the member or their immediate family. The member and their horse(s) must be identified, enrolled and assessed in their enrolled project area (see assessment policy.)

All horsemanship level project animals (Horsemanship English and Western, Driving, Ranch and Green Broke) must be owned or leased by the member or the member's family, and the member must have access to that animal from assessment through the state horse show. If the horse is leased a copy of the lease agreement must be turned into the Extension Agent with the Horse ID. The horse must be primarily used by the member throughout the riding season.

Horses enrolled in Colt to Maturity must be owned by the member or their family and the horse must be in the members care and training throughout the duration of the 5 year project. Colt to Maturity projects can be used in conjunction with the driving project. Colt to Maturity projects are the product of the youth's training, however, professional training or riding can occur with the member's participation during the five year project.

Horses may be used and shown by more than one member of the same family providing that neither the horse nor member competes against itself.

If a horses circumstance is permanent (injury or death) and prevents the member from riding an I. D. horse for the duration of the year, the member may approach the committee about using a replacement horse for the remainder of the year at the county level.

It is strongly recommended that young children are not mounted on green broke horses. It is suggested that the combined age of the horse-rider pair equal at least 20. For example, a 9 year old child would usually be best suited with a horse 11 years old or older. This rule of thumb does not work for older inexperienced riders, but parents must still be cognizant of the suitability of the horse for the child.

SECTION 2:
Fallon County 4-H Rules and Guidelines
ASSESSMENT POLICY

Purpose & Goals of Assessment Policy:

- *To perform tack checks and remedy problems before the riding season*
- *To identify problem areas such as soundness and suitability*
- *To identify skills and weaknesses of the members*
- *To formulate a plan to give the riders the help they need*
- *To place riders in the appropriate riding level and to assure success and safety*
- *To meet parents and members and become familiar with their wishes and goals*
- *To get to know the individual horses and riders and identify their strong points and weaknesses*
- *To assure that the project is an educational experience*

All 4-H Members enrolled in the Horsemanship Project will participate in an assessment of their riding skills in the spring to determine the level of Horsemanship they need to enroll in. Assessments must be complete by June 1st.

Assessment will be made by a minimum of two registered Fallon County 4-H Horse Leaders and turned into the Extension Office. The rider, parent and horse leader must sign off on the level (*January 2017*)

All project horses, along with workbooks, ID forms, and helmet waivers are to be presented at assessment.

All projects start at level one but can be assessed up if the corresponding paperwork, feed records and workbooks are completed through the level the member is assessing out of.

Assessment forms are found at the end of each level in the workbooks. Ranch Horse assessment pages are the basis for the project workbook journal.

Each member is to enroll at the beginning of each 4-H year in the level they assessed to during the prior 4-H year. New members will begin at level one and should enroll there at the beginning of the year.

During Assessments, 4-H Members will be required to demonstrate that they have mastered the skills in the level they are moving out of. Example. A level 2 member must demonstrate they have mastered and can safely conducted all the skills for Level 2, before they can move to Level 3. Rider also needs to be proficient in 70% of tasks listed for a level to be approved to compete at that level. Exception: that a rider will be competent by the end of the 4-H Year based on current knowledge and ability.

The Kids and Horses Organizational Leader will keep a copy of all assessment pages and provide a copy to the Extension Agent. These pages will be the starting point for the next year's assessments.

SECTION 2:
Fallon County 4-H Rules and Guidelines
GENERAL RULES

*Fallon County Horse program follow the county and state rules & guidelines as closely as possible.
The state committee rules mandate that any county can make its own project guidelines as long as
those rules are over and above the rules of the state. Any county level rule changes must be approved
by the Fallon County 4-H Council*

1. **MEMBERSHIP AGE:** Youth who turn 8 by October 1 may join 4-H as a 4-H member and enroll in project(s). If youth turn 19 years of age prior to October 1, they are **ineligible** to re-enroll in 4-H **unless still in high school**. Junior members are 13 years and under as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Senior members are 14 years and older as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. (*State Rule*)
2. **FEES:** Members fees are \$5.00, paid to Fallon/Carter County Extension through the local 4-H Clubs. Leaders Dues are \$6.00 and are paid to the Montana 4-H Foundation through the local 4-H Clubs. Members and Leaders are required to pay a Horse Project Insurance fee (\$2.00/members, \$2.00/leader). This fee may be covered by 4-H Clubs.
3. **PROJECT MANUALS:** English and Western horsemanship manuals are the same so only one project workbook is needed even if the member is enrolled in both English and Western projects.
4. **COUNTY EVENTS:** For Horse Playday to count as a county event, participants must enter at least 2 show events. Horse Judging is recognized as an official county event. The Horse Judging scores will determine the horse judging team to compete at 4-H Congress in Bozeman.
5. **ANIMAL HEALTH:** Vaccinations are recommended. Your vet should be your guide.
6. **HELMET RULE:** Wearing protective headgear meeting ASTM and SEI standards (whether Western or English Type) is mandatory for participation in all 4-H Horse Projects. Members and parents may sign a waiver if they wish to participate without a helmet. A member is required to watch a helmet video (*Every Ride Every Time*) once as a junior and once as a senior. **A waiver will be signed by the parent and member each year.** Viewing of the helmet video will be available at Kids and Horse Meetings or through the Extension Office on a one on one setting in the office. The Extension Office will have copies of the signed Montana State University Extension: 4-H Horse Helmet Policy and Acknowledgement of Education. No member will be allowed to be horseback at **ANY** 4-H event until all helmet requirements have been met. (*Montana State 4-H Rule*)
7. **PROJECT HORSE REQUIREMENTS:**
 - **AGE:** For the purpose of determining eligibility for competition, the age of the horse shall be determined by the calendar year starting Jan.1 of the year the horse was foaled. Example- A horse foaled any time in 2003 will be 1 year old on Jan 1, 2004 and 2 on Jan 2005.
 - Colt to Maturity horse age corresponds to the level entered in. Example- level 1 is a yearling, and not ridden, level 2 is a 2 year old horse, etc.
 - Green Broke horses can be any age and typically are horses that don't fit into Colt to Maturity project guidelines and are not finished enough to be horsemanship horses. Levels correspond to the days broke. Example - Level 1, 30 days broke, level 2, 60 days broke and so on (see green broke project manual guidelines.)
 - One horse can be shown by two members if in different classes.

8. COLT TO MATURITY and GREEN BROKE REQUIREMENTS:

- Member Age: Members must be 12 years old or older on October 1st and have completed Horsemanship level 1-3 or completed a standard written test and demonstrated the ability to handle the project to the county leader or designated person, to enroll in the Colt to Maturity or Green Broke projects.
- Green Broke and Colt to Maturity horses cannot cross enter into Horsemanship projects. Green Broke and Colt to Maturity horses cannot cross enter between projects. Colt to Maturity Horses can become a Driving project horse when started as a yearling. Older Colt to Maturity and Green Broke horses should not be used as a Ranch Horse projects until they are in levels 4 and 5 of the Colt to Maturity or 3 and 4 of the green broke project.
- To be in the Horse Training project, a member must own or have possession of the horse from the yearling to five-year-old age.

9. **DRIVING PROJECT:** Members must be at least 10 years old during the current 4-H year (October 1 thru September 30) and be enrolled in at least Level 3 Horsemanship to participate in the Ground Driving Project.

10. **RIDING LEVELS:** Members riding both English and Western Horsemanship may ride at the same level or only one level above or below. Example - English level 3 and Western level 2, 3, or 4 or vice versa. Member must compete in the most advance level they are taking.

11. **MINIATURE HORSE HEIGHT:** Miniature horses are 42 inches or less at the withers, ponies are 14 hands and smaller.

SECTION 2:
Fallon County 4-H Rules and Guidelines
SUMMER 4-H RIDING PRACTICES

Purpose & Goals of Summer 4-H Riding Practices:

- *To enhance learning*
- *Offer opportunity to obtain idea to improve riding skills and knowledge*
- *Gain friendship with people with the same goals, questions & issues relevant to the 4-H Horse project.*

Riding Practices are a summer activity offered to 4-H Horse members. Practices are not designed to replace individual riding.

Certified 4-H horse leaders will lead the practices, with the approval of the Extension Office. Horse trainers and others with knowledge of horses and riding skill may attend practices or participate in clinics.

These practices are not a mandatory activity for completion of the project; however they are encouraged to help members build skills and competencies.

Member should participate in the Kids and Horses 4-H Club and attend meetings held throughout the year.

Participation is dependent on compliance of the helmet policies.

Summer riding practices are ONLY open to 4-H (and FFA) members and leaders.

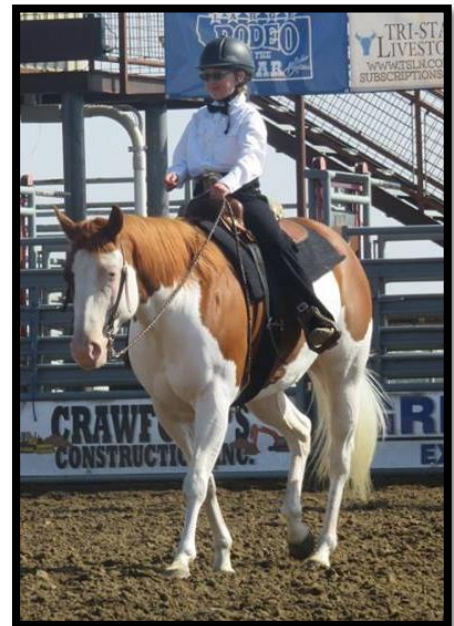
4-H and FFA members and leaders are the only ones to participate in summer riding practices. Other youth and adults may watch, but can't participate or ride during practices for liability reasons.

Leaders may bring their own horse to demonstrate.

Horse leaders need to have member and parent consent before helping a member handle a horse that is unruly. Leaders should work with horses away from practice arena in a humane manure.

RIDING RULES:

- Boots will be worn at all times when riding
- State Helmet policy will be enforced
- Riders may not pony another horse for warmup
- Riding double is prohibited.
- Horses must be ridden with a bridle. No riding with halters.
- Irons should be run up on English saddles when not being ridden.
- Horses should be ridden at a walk outside of the arena and designated warm up areas.
- Youth must only ride their own project horse(s)



SECTION 2:
Fallon County 4-H Rules and Guidelines
AWARDS SYSTEM

SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS

Showmanship awards will be presented during the Fallon County Award Ceremony Sunday at the Fair Ceremony. (Carter County 4-H Horse members are eligible for showmanship awards.)

- Grand Senior Showmanship (14 yrs. or older on Oct. 1 of current 4-H Year)*
- Reserve Champion Senior Showmanship (14 yrs. or older on Oct. 1 of current 4-H Year)*
- Grand Junior Showmanship (13 yrs. or younger on Oct. 1 of current 4-H Year)*
- Reserve Champion Junior Showmanship (13 yrs. or younger on Oct. 1 of current 4-H Year)*
- Grand Novice Showmanship (10 yrs. or younger by Oct. 1, 1st year showman)
- Reserve Champion Novice Showmanship (10 yrs. or younger by Oct. 1, 1st year showman)

ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP: Grand and Reserve Seniors and Junior Showmanship winner will be eligible to compete in the Round Robin Showmanship Contest. Members will enter contest with the horse they won with. If no award was given the Horse Leaders will select a horse that would be appropriate for the contest.

YEAR END AWARDS

4-H Completion, project awards and special awards will be given at the Fallon County Achievement Day.



2017 Round Robin Competitors

FALLON COUNTY KIDS AND HORSES 4-H CLUB

CONSTITUTION

Fallon County Kids & Horses 4-H Project Club shall be the name of this organization.

Object: The object of this 4-H club is to aid in the development of its members through practical research-based practices, club meetings, demonstrations, judging, tours, fairs and other activities.

Membership: The Fallon County Kids and Horses 4-H Club will consists of 4-H members enrolled in 4-H horse projects, the Extension Agent, 4-H Assistant and all horse project leaders and parents.

Officers: The officers of this club shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and reporter.

Leaders: The club will have 1 organizational leader(s) and as many other leaders as necessary to serve as project and activity leaders.

Meetings: There shall be a minimum of three (3) meetings of the club held each year.

Amendments: It shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting to amend this constitution.

BY-LAWS

Election of Officers: The officers shall be elected at the December Organization Meeting each year.

Duties of the Committee Chair

- presides at all meetings using parliamentary procedure
- appoints committees and delegates duties giving clear instructions
- prepares meeting agendas with input from others
- motivates members to participate and prepares others for succession
- acts as extension office liaison particularly alerting the office of meetings and other activities at least 10 days prior to that meeting and requesting notices be sent of the activity

Duties of Vice Chair

- be prepared to preside over meetings in case of the absence of the Chair
- attends all Executive Council, livestock and leaders meetings or obtains and prepares a replacement if a meeting needs to be missed
- contact person for the local media providing articles and pictures of member accomplishment and other news worthy items
- publish member achievements in newspapers

Duties of Secretary- Treasurer

- give an accurate accounting of the committee's funds at each horse committee meeting
- requests funds from the Executive Council treasurer
- keeps minutes of meetings and other activities and provides them to the office and members in a timely fashion
- keeps attendance
- writes thank you notes and all committee correspondence
- provides a list of activities and minutes to the extension office at the end of the year

Committees: Committees standing and special will be appointed by the president as needed

SECTION 3:
Fallon County 4-H Kids and Horse By-Laws-cont

Meetings: The regular meeting of the club shall take place as scheduled. Special meetings can be called by the president with the consent of the leaders.

Elections: Elected officers will be elected from dues paying members and voted in during the December Kids and Horses Meeting. Officers will hold an elected position for 1 year, and shall not be allowed to hold the same office for more than 3 terms. If an elected officer fails to attend 2 consecutive Kids and Horses Meetings, they will be excused and a new officer will be appointed to fulfill their duties.

Quorum: A Quorum will be a majority of the membership. A quorum is needed to hold an official business meeting.

Order of Business: The order of business for regular meetings shall be as follows: Call to order, pledges, roll call, reading and approval of minutes, reading of communications, reports of officers, reports of committees, unfinished business, new business, announcements, adjournment of business meeting.

Vacancy: If a vacancy occurs during the year, members will vote on a replacement.

Amendments: These By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Compensation and Conflicts of Interest: All persons associated with this chartered group are volunteers. No adult or youth will use their position with 4-H or the knowledge gained from their position in 4-H for person financial benefit.

Whistleblowers Protection: To maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics, the Fallon County 4-H program will investigate any suspected fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of resources. Any allegations of dishonesty will be handled with sensitivity, discretion and confidentiality to the extent allowed for by law. The 4-H organization will use its best efforts to protect whistleblowers against retaliation.

Document retention and destruction: The following procedures for the retention and destruction of Records will be followed.

Charter	permanent
By-Laws	permanent
EIN Paperwork	permanent
990 tax returns	7 years
Annual and Audits	7 years
Bank Records	3 years
Donor Records and Acknowledgement Letters	3 years
Grant paperwork	3 years after completion
Minutes	3 years
Correspondence	3 years
Yearly Program Plans	3 years

Copies of all permanent records will be kept on file at the local Extension Office. The Extension offices in collaboration with the organizational leader are the designated persons to identify the records that have met their required retention time and will oversee the destruction. All destruction will be by shredding.

Organization: This Board is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

SECTION 3:
Fallon County 4-H Kids and Horse Constitution and By-Laws
2017

Use of Earnings: No part of the net earnings of this organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that this organization shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this constitution.

Limited Activities: No substantial part of this organization's activities shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this club shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Other Activities: Notwithstanding any other provisions of this constitution, this organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Dissolution: Upon dissolution, this organizations' assets shall be distributed to its successor, provided that this entity is recognized under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. If this entity is not so recognized, this organization's assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Fallon County 4-H Council. Any such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the club is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

SECTION 4:
Fallon County Fair
INFORMATION AND RULES

The Purpose of the Fair: *The horse show at the fair, allows a member to experience a small horse show and showcase their horse and progress in the project.*

Fair is not a mandatory activity to complete the horse project.

A member advances through project levels only by the assessment process, not based on Fair placing.

Classes are different from project areas, in that a project is the foundation for the learning throughout the year. Classes are only fair entries and are not necessary for the member to complete the project. To enter a class a member must be in a related project area.

The Fallon County Kids and Horses Club will follow the State Horse Committee policies and rules as closely as possible to promote uniformity with the state program. This also prepares 4-H members for state competition if possible.

Fallon County 4-H Eligibility

- Be in compliance with “Requirements for Completing a Record Book” (*Fallon County 4-H Handbook*)
- Be enrolled in a county 4-H horse project and entered in the level in which they were assessed in the spring.
- Be in compliance with ownership and ID policy.
- Have helmet requirements met.
- Participated in assessment process.
- Participated in fundraising activities.
- Have record book up-to-day by August 10th before entering in the Fair.



2017 Fallon County Fair 4-H/FFA Exhibitors

SECTION 4:

1. **OWNERSHIP:** All animals shown by 4-H members in 4-H Classes must be owned by the member in partnership with immediate family or the member must have access to the horse May 1st through the county fair. Each 4-H horse member must identify their horse by May 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. Project animals may not be trained by a professional trainer (excluding immediate family and 4-H Leaders.)
3. **BRAND INSPECTION:** Brand inspections are required for horses traveling from out of county. Health papers are not necessary unless a horse is from out of state. Vaccinations are recommended for a horses' protection, but are not mandatory. Your local vet should be consulted and be your guide.
4. **STALLIONS:** Stallions cannot be shown in any class with the only exception being a yearling in the Horse Training Project.
5. **AGE FOR SHOWMANSHIP:** Members age 14 and over as of October 1 of the current 4-H year enter as seniors. Members 13 and younger as of October 1 of the current 4-H year enter as juniors. Members age 9-11 as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Members 9 to 10 years old may enter as Novice showman.
6. **LEVELS:** Member must compete in the most advance levels they are taking.
7. **RIDING LEVELS:** Members can ride only one level above or below between English and Western Horsemanship classes. Example- if a member is entered in Western Horsemanship 3, that person can only participate in English class 2 or 3 or 4 or vice versa.
8. **COLT TO MARTURITY:** Colt to Maturity and Green Broke projects cannot cross enter into Horsemanship projects.
9. **NON-PROJECT CLASSES:** To enter in a non-project class (showmanship, trail or pleasure) a horse must be entered into a related project area. Example - Western project horses and Ranch project horses cannot enter into Hunter hack or English pleasure classes and English project horses cannot enter into Reining. Junior horses (age 5 and younger) must be entered in a colt project to participate in junior horse classes such as trail and pleasure.
10. **DRIVING HORSES:** Driving horses can enter into either Western or English non project riding classes, but not both.
11. Members cannot compete against themselves in any class.
12. One Horse can be shown by two members if in different classes. Horses cannot compete against themselves in any class. Example- if two junior members from the same family are riding the same horse, only one member would be able to compete in junior pleasure. If the same situation arises in a showmanship class, a special horse committee meeting will be called and the committee officers and the extension agent will make a ruling on the situation.
13. Additional Fair Rules set by the Fallon County Fair Board and the 4-H Council will apply to the Horse Project.

HORSE SHOWMANSHIP

- Senior (14 yrs. or older on Oct.1)
- Junior (13 yrs. or younger on Oct 1)
- Novice (1st yr showman 10 & under on Oct. 1)

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6
- Level 7

HORSE BREEDING

- Dam and Offspring

COLT TO MATURITY

- Yearling
- 2 yr old/Green Horse Level 1
- Level 3/ Green Horse Level 2
- Level 4 / Green Horse Level 3
- Level 5/ Green Horse Level 4

GREEN HORSE

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

ENGLISH HORSEMANSHIP

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6
- Level 7

ENGLISH HORSE TRAINING

- 2 yr old under saddle (*fillies & geldings only*)
- 3 yr old under saddle
- 4 yr old under saddle
- 5 yr old under saddle

HORSE SEAT EQUITATION OVER FENCES

- Senior (14 yrs. or older on Oct.1)
- Junior (13 yrs. or younger on Oct 1)

BAREBACK EQUITATION

- Senior (14 yrs. or older on Oct.1)
- Junior (13 yrs. or younger on Oct 1)

HORSE TRAIL

- Senior (14 yrs. or older on Oct.1)
- Junior (13 yrs. or younger on Oct 1)
- Yearling

HORSE DRIVING

- Level 1, Single Harness
- Level 1, Double Harness
- Level 2, Single Harness
- Level 2, Double Harness
- Level 3, Single Harness
- Level 3, Double Harness

DRAFT OR LIGHT HORSE TRAINING

- Yearling
- 2 yr. old
- 3 yr. old
- 4 yr. old
- 5 yr. old

RANCH HORSE

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

WESTERN PLEASURE

- Senior (14 yrs. or older on Oct.1)
- Junior (13 yrs. or younger on Oct 1)
- Novice (8-10 yrs. old on Oct. 1)
- Walk/Trot, Level 1 (*Horsemanship 1 members only, regardless of age*)

INDOOR HORSE PROJECTS

- Levels 1-3
- Horseless Horse
- Horse Judging
- Horse Showing
- Careers with Horses

Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that 4-H entries are being judged on ability. Neatness and cleanliness are essential when regarding a rider's attire. The following requirements are based on tradition and present day customs. In case of inclement weather the judge may allow rain gear. Formal horse show clothing (chaps, tall boots, and show jackets) are acceptable but carry no weight in placing, providing the riders have equal skill.

HORSE

- Horses should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust dander and manure and bot eggs.
- The hair coat should have a natural luster.
- Excessive artificial products will result in deductions.
- Trimming should not be excessive but accentuate natural quality. Excessive trimming, such as body clipping, is not necessary for a 4-H show. Ears & faces should be neat and tidy. Tight clipping is not recommended for animals that live outside or will be turned out after the show.
- Breed standards should be followed.
- Hooves should be clean and trimmed. Shoes are optional. No preference is given to hoof dressing or color.
- Braiding and banding of manes and tails are acceptable but no preference is to be given by the judge.

TACK

- Western horses are to be shown in stock saddles.
- Horses are to be ridden in clean tack that is in good repair and that fits the horse.
- The use of splint boot, skid boots, and bell boots is optional but not preferred, unless the horse has a documented injury and needs boots for protection.
- Spurs are acceptable except in bareback, trail and showmanship classes.
- Bats are prohibited in all classes.
- Breast collars and breast plates are optional. Tie downs and martingales are prohibited.
- Running martingales with ring stops can be used in only levels 1, 2 and 3 Green Broke and 2-3 and 4 Colt to Maturity and must be used with a snaffle bit (no shank).
- All horses age 5 and older should be ridden one handed in a curb bit, with either a solid or broken mouthpiece.
- Horses under the age of 5 should be ridden in a snaffle bit.
- Rawhide bosals are acceptable for horses under the age of 5. Bosals are to be ridden 2 handed.
- Split reins or romal reins are accepted.
- When using romal reins no finger is to be placed between the reins. The rein hand should be over the horn. Bracing on the horn is prohibited. The rein ends should be held in the free hand at least 16" from the rein hand. The free hand can be placed on the leg.
- Flat chain or leather curb straps at least 1/2" wide are required when using a curb or shanked bit.
- Roping reins are prohibited.
- Snaffle bits (bits without a shank) are to be ridden using a direct rein, riding 2 handed.
- All members should become familiar with the State bit guide.

HEAD COVER

Fallon County encourages the use of helmets for all riding practices and events, however, members can wear cowboy hats as long as they are within the state guidelines. No preference will be given between hats and helmets in any 4-H fair class, at either the state or county level.

RANCH HORSE

- Working ranch horse follows the Montana State Bit Guide.
- Saddles must be of the western type with a horn. Horns can be wrapped with leather or rubber. The 4-H working ranch horse project is a western event and participants should dress accordingly. Vests, chaps, chinks and other accessories are acceptable but carry no extra points for judging. See the Ranch horse manual for more dress code information.

WESTERN

- Clean clothing is required
- Long sleeved, button or snap, plain white or off-white blouse.
- Western type pants and belt
- Western style boots with a heel and a smooth sole.
- Vests, sweaters, jackets, chaps, and accessories are prohibited
- Chaps, gloves and ties are optional
- Spurs are optional unless otherwise prohibited.
- Shoulder length or longer hair must be contained in a net, hair clip, or braid

ENGLISH

- Clean clothing and tack is required
- Hunt coat (red, pink and scarlet coats are prohibited)
- English style breeches
- English style blouse
- Tall boots or half chaps and booties
- Hard hat with leather-type chin strap for hunter type classes
- Stock, chokers and ties required
- Gloves optional
- Long hair must be contained in a net, braid or ponytail
- English jackets and/or vest may not be worn in halter, showmanship or bareback classes. Solid-colored long sleeved blouse or shirt appropriate with English attire must be worn.

BAREBACK AND SHOWMANSHIP

- Western or English attire is allowed. Chaps, spurs, crops, and bats are prohibited.

DRIVING

- Drivers will carry a whip and can wear gloves.
- Western hats, top hats, derbies, or sun hats are appropriate if a helmet is not worn.
- Gentlemen drivers: Sport coat, slack and jacket, or western riding attire.
- Lady drivers: Sports jacket, slacks or western riding attire. Apron or driving rugs are required if wearing a driving dress costume.
- Groom or attendant: Traditional horseshow attire or western wear. No apron, lap robe or whip.

SHOWMANSHIP

- All horses will be shown on a properly fitting halter. Buckle halters are preferred. However, no preference will be given by the judge as to leather over nylon web buckle halters or good fitting rope tied halters.
- Lead shanks with chains can be used but the exhibitors hand must be placed below the chain.
- Chains cannot be used under the chin or over the nose in 4-H classes. Chains cannot touch the horse in any way.
- Whip, bridles, spurs or bats are prohibited.

ENGLISH AND WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES

These classes correspond to the horsemanship level the member is enrolled in. Horsemanship is open to any horse that is identified into a project area. Any horse entered in a horsemanship class can be used in optional corresponding classes and showmanship. Horsemanship classes all require a pattern. Level one horses can enter into all level one classes. Level 2-7 horses enter into the appropriate junior or senior class according to the rider's age. **Criteria:** Horsemanship (40%), Performance of the pattern (40%), Appearance (10%), Project knowledge (10%)

COLT TO MATURITY LEVEL 1 YEARLING

This class has a pattern and is open to horses enrolled into Colt to Maturity level 1. The horse can also enter into yearling leadline. This class is judged on the exhibitor's handling, control and execution of the pattern and the horse's willingness and training demonstrated in the showmanship pattern. **Criteria:** Performance and manners (50%), Confirmation and condition (25%), Appearance of horse and exhibitor (15%), Project knowledge (10%)

WESTERN COLT TO MATURITY 2-5 AND GREEN BROKE CLASSES 1-4

These are under 5 age horse classes and are open to all Colt to Maturity projects and Green Broke Projects. Horses entered into these classes are eligible to enter in junior horse classes. Horses in the lower levels of these projects are to be ridden in a snaffle bit and direct reined. (See bit guide). **Criteria:** Performance (55%), Horsemanship (25%), Appearance (10%), Project knowledge (15%)

DRIVING

The driving project is for the member who has access to the broke driving horse or team. This project will enhance the member's skill as a horseman as they learn to handle a horse from the ground and with voice commands as well as from a cart. One team will be in the arena at a time or at the judge's discretion. Member may have a groom (competent adult) ride with them for their safety as long as the member is driving. **Criteria:** Manners, performance, style, and way of going (50%), Condition, appropriateness of harness and vehicle (20%), Conformation and appointments (10%), Knowledge of project (20%)

SHOWMANSHIP

The member may use any horse for this class that is entered in a project area. Chaps and spurs are prohibited. All exhibitors will be asked to perform a pattern. The exhibitor may be asked to perform the following maneuvers in the pattern: Walk, trot, back, hindquarter pivots, set up squarely, move forward and backward freely. The showman may be asked to pick up any or all feet of their horse and know the parts of the horse. The exhibitor should perform the pattern briskly and in a businesslike manner. The exhibitor should never obstruct the judge's view of the horse. This means the exhibitor must position their body either to the front left or front right of the horse, using the quarter system. The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand 4 to 8 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank, coiled in a figure 8 with the left hand. The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor in line with the horses' throat latch. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor nor drag behind. Changing hands to back is optional. **Criteria:** (Showing the horse (50%), Appearance of the horse (40%) The exhibitor (10%)

BAREBACK EQUITATION

This is an optional class with two age divisions, junior and senior. The member can ride any horse that is entered in a project area. Chaps and spurs are prohibited. Helmets are required. Classes are to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope or canter both ways of the arena. Contestants may be asked to back and perform an individual pattern. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, feet, smoothness of the ride, balance and the ability to control the horse. Riders may not touch the horse with their free hand. Senior members may be asked to mount and dismount.

PLEASURE CLASSES

The member may use any horse for this class that is entered in a project area. Western pleasure is open to western horsemanship, driving or ranch horses, provided that those horses are not entered into English classes. This is a rail class. The class is performed at a walk, trot, and lope in both directions on the rail. No pattern is presented, but the member may be asked to perform maneuvers such as backing, or performing individual patterns. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, legs, the ability to control the horse and performance of the horse. Senior members may be asked to mount and dismount.

TRAIL CLASSES

Trail is an optional class open to any horse entered in a project area. A member may only ride in each class on one horse so as not to compete against them self. Trail class is a mounted obstacle course. Six or more obstacles and maneuvers will be performed. The horse is judged on the performance and partnership with the competitor in executing the maneuvers.

Mandatory obstacles include:

- **Opening, passing through and closing a gate.** The gate can be metal, wooden, or rope. Losing control of the gate will be penalized. If the gate has a metal support under it the maneuver must be performed riding forward.
- **Riding over at least four logs or poles.** The logs can be in a straight, curved or zigzag line. The poles can be raised. The space between the poles should be measured and the horse's path is the measuring point. Trot over and lope over can be used only in senior classes. Elevated poles must be placed so they cannot roll, to reduce risk of injury. Height is measured from the top of the pole to the ground. The space for walkover is 20" to 24". Poles may be elevated to 12" with the space to be at least 22". Trot over space should be 30" to 36" and can be elevated to 8". Lope over spacing is 6' to 7' and may be elevated to 8".
- **Back obstacle.** Back obstacles are to be spaced 28" apart. If elevated 30" is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a pole. Entrants must back through and around at least 3 markers such as an L or V or U. Back through cannot be elevated more than 24".

Optional obstacles include but are not limited to:

- Water hazard (no metal or slick bottoms)
- Serpentine at a walk or jog minimum spacing 6'
- Carrying traditional objects (slicker or rope) from one spot to another
- Riding over a bridge at a walk, minimum width 36"
- Putting on a slicker
- Side passes, maximum elevation 12"
- A 5' to 7' 360* box
- Any other safe and negotiable obstacle that could be expected to be found on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge

Unacceptable obstacles:

- Animals
- Jumps
- Hides
- Rocking or moving obstacles or bridges
- PVC pipe
- Fire extinguishers
- Ground ties
- Water boxes with floating objects

Patterns are used in all horse show classes except pleasure classes. Patterns are made up of common riding elements, such as circles, straight lines, lead changes and other maneuvers. A pattern is a map of what to do and where to take your horse in a class at a horse show. Patterns can be used as tie breakers in rail classes or where there is close competition in horsemanship class

Patterns are used in all horse show classes except pleasure classes.

Good patterns have a key or legend to follow that will guide you on your speed, and the obstacles you will encounter. Patterns are usually set up with orange traffic cones but for practice milk jugs, buckets and rocks work well.

After you become familiar with the cone placement and directions, put markers on the ground and walk, trot, or jog your way through the pattern on foot. Don't practice with your horse until you know the pattern well yourself. Some horses become sour quickly if they are practiced on, so a replacement horse can be used for practice. Some people never use a horse for pattern practice.

When practicing, break the pattern up into small steps, paying attention to where you are in relationship to the cones and the designated gait. Check your work often as poor practice leads to poor performance.

Patterns will be printed in the Fallon County Fair Horse Supplement.

Patterns will be updated and changes as needed.

MONTANA STATE HORSE PROJECT BIT RULE EXAMPLES

The following pages are guidelines of the rules stated in the **Montana State Horse Show rule book**. The pictures show examples of bits that are acceptable (✓), are not allowed (⊘), or may or may not be acceptable (?) depending on a measurement that cannot be judged by the picture. Understand that this supplement gives only some *examples* of legal and unacceptable bits. **In no way does it try to include every bit that is allowed or not allowed.**

WESTERN DIVISION WESTERN AND SPEED EVENT BITS

References to hackamore mean the use of a non-mechanical, flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.



Rawhide bosal



Easy/Fast Stop



Fast Stop



Mechanical Hackamore

Rigid material under Not flexible material



Would have to measure $\geq 5/16"$



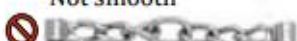
Connect bar should meet measurements described.



Not smooth



Not smooth



Not smooth



Connective bar would have to meet measurements described.



Wire wrapped; not smooth.

Reference to snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with ring no larger than 4". The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but must be smooth. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, loose connecting ring of 3/4" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.



O-ring



Egg-butt



Offset D-ring

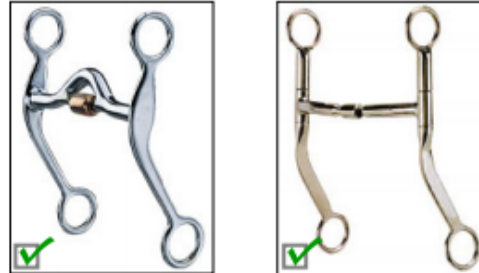


Mouthpiece not smooth

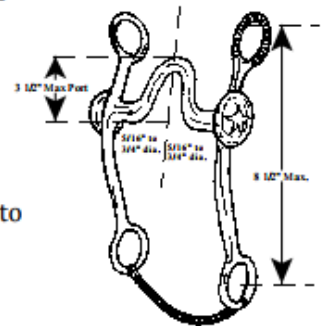
Offset D-ring, with slow twist

SECTION 5:
Resources and Information
MONTANA BITES RULES

References to a bit in western performance classes mean the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. A description of a legal, standard western bit includes:



- 8.5" maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram illustrating legal bit. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- Port would have to measure $\leq 2.5"$ high and shanks $\leq 8.5"$ long.
- Curb bit mouthpieces must be round, smooth, and unwrapped metal of $5/16"$ to $3/4"$ in diameter, measured one inch from the cheek. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, loose connecting ring of $3/4"$ or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of $3/8$ to $3/4"$ (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.
- The port on a bit must not be higher than 2 1/2" maximum (picture incorrect), with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds and spades, are standard.
- Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.



Legal Bit



✓ Half-breed



Gag action AND not smooth

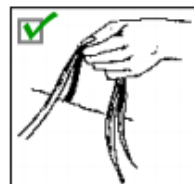


Donut mouthpiece



Flat polo mouthpiece

Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes, speed event classes, or junior horses shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Touching the reins with a free hand may be considered a deduction.



Correct split reins



Correct split reins

SECTION 5:
Resources and Information
MONTANA BITES RULES

References to a romal means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. The rider's hand shall be around the reins with the fingers closed, thumb on top, and no fingers between the reins.

The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge.



Correct Romal Reins



Incorrect Romal Reins

Junior horses (4 years old and under) competing in junior western pleasure, western horsemanship, reining, western riding, and trail that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit will be ridden with two hands on the reins.



Correct Snaffle Reins



Incorrect Snaffle Reins

Horses four-years old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit. Horses five-years old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit. In the speed events only, horses of any age may be shown with a snaffle bit.

Chain curb straps are permissible, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least 1/2" inch in width, and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.





Horse Project Assessment Guide

May 2016

Definition of an Assessment

An assessment in a 4-H Horse Project is way to evaluate the skills of a horse and rider. It should be a positive learning environment for a member to demonstrate that they can properly execute or perform the horsemanship skills required in their project. The goal of assessments is to help

Initial Assessment

An assessment of a new project member or new horse in the beginning of the year to gage where the member is and what needs to be accomplished through the year. It's best to make sure that the horse is a good fit for the rider and that they can ride with the rest of the horse project members. This could be the goal setting time for a member that's been in the project. This type of assessment may take place after enrollment for the 4-H year through the early spring.

guide 4-H members in growing and progressing in their horsemanship skills. An assessment does not compare skills against other members, but is an assessment of an individual rider's skills.

Year End Assessment

This can be done after fair since the member has been riding and working on their Project. Some members don't start riding till spring then it can take some time to get in shape and work on their Horsemanship skills. This way, they can start the new year in the next level they completed and work on those skills the following spring. This type of assessment may take place after the Fair through the end of the 4-H year.

Purpose of this Assessment Guide:

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This Assessment Guide is designed to provide guidance for County 4-H programs and their 4-H leaders on how to assess 4-H members in 4-H horse projects. Each county tends to think of their own county as the only way 4-H is across the state. In reality, each program is unique; from the number of members and leaders to the resources available to them. More populated areas have different issues to deal with than smaller communities. Despite the differences, we are all part of Montana 4-H with the same broad goals and purpose.



Who can do Assessments?

4-H horse project leaders approved by the local Extension Office can do 4-H Horse Project Assessments. This can be leaders who have done County Leader Assessment training or local leaders with horse knowledge. The State 4-H Horse Committee is available to help counties with assessment training if they are interested. The main goal is to have leaders that are knowledgeable on the subject matter. All leaders do not have to do assessments for all 4-H Horse projects. For

example, some leaders may only assess members in Western Horsemanship while others may be comfortable doing English or Working Ranch Horse projects.

Performing Assessments

The 4-H Horsemanship Project is 7 levels. Each member works their way up, beginning at Level 1 and may progress until they have reached Level 7. The assessment is based on how the rider rides, not on the horse. It's the member's knowledge and riding ability to get the horse to do the

maneuvers. Assessments match the youth/horse combination to the appropriate Horsemanship skill level for safety and to provide the member and horse the appropriate level of challenge. If a member gets a new horse, they work to bring that horse up to their skill level. It may take a member a couple of years in each level until they master it. The end goal is completion. Some counties give awards as each member moves through a skill level or when they complete the project.

There are 3 parts to an assessment: 1) Mounted abilities, 2) Unmounted abilities, and 3) a Workbook portion. 4-H records also need to be up to date at the time a leader signs off on an assessment. Record keeping is a vital part of 4-H and a life skill.

The basic process is the same for Working Ranch Horse, Colt to Maturity, Green Horse, and other projects with assessments.

Here are some tips on Assessments:

- Make assessments and patterns positive and fun for members
- Build on previous skills and make them progressive
- Help them learn how, work on level elements and maneuvers
- Teach reading patterns
- A leader's job is to make an assessment successful and positive
- Remember fairness as members are at different levels
- Kids should be able to demonstrate the 8-10 skills they have been working on for the past 3 to 6 months
- Expect mistakes until it falls together for the kids- they are just learning
- Give kids 3 or 4 positive comments as they finish- save the negative stuff for another time or day
- Use skills outlined by the project assessments to make workable patterns
- Assess the needs and levels for your county
- Don't go above the assessment skills for the level the member is in
- Remember that education is our key purpose

How quickly can a member move through the Assessment process?

The assessment process is designed so that a member may move through the assessment process as quickly or slowly as necessary. A member can be assessed through multiple levels within the same 4-H year until the appropriate level is determined. For example, an experienced rider takes the Horsemanship Project for the first time. They may be assessed through Levels 1, 2, and 3 in the same day if they are an apt rider and have the background knowledge as well. After the initial assessment process to find the appropriate level, the members typically advance more slowly through levels as more advanced riding techniques are included in the assessment list. Members quite often do one level per year after the initial assessment process.

Assessments are a process to guide 4-H members in gaining skills and moving in a forward progression through 4-H horse projects. Unless safety is an issue, there is

typically no reason for members to go back a level, though members may remain in the same level rather than advancing if they are not able to meet all the assessment requirements. Remember that the assessment is based on how the rider rides, not on the horse. It's the member's knowledge and riding ability to get the horse to do the maneuvers.

How do I know if they are in the right level?

If the 4-H member can master everything on the assessment list already, it is appropriate to advance them to the next level. Once they get to a level where they cannot do everything on the list but it is reasonable for them to work on the items they have not mastered throughout the 4-H year, they are in the correct level. This is the level they will show in at the Fair and also the level they would show in at the State 4-H Horse Show. For example, if a member passes/completes an assessment for Horsemanship Level 3 before County Fair, then they will show in Level 4 at their Fair. Keep in mind that the deadline for this assessment prior to the Fair

needs to give the member enough time to work on the new level.

How many Assessments are "required"?

Your local county committee will determine how many assessments will take place in your county, but it is recommended that you have at least a couple assessments per year.

Assessments can be done informally throughout the 4-H year. For example, a leader that works with kids on a regular basis at practice sessions may check items off the assessment list as they observe them and make a point to ask for the items they did not casually observe.

Assessments can also be performed formally at designated times. For example, your county may set up an initial assessment day early in the 4-H year to assess members to their proper levels by going through the items on the assessment list. Counties may have multiple assessment days. For example, counties could have assessments set at 90, 60, and 30 days before the Fair in

order to provide time for the areas needing improvement.

Your county committee can determine if the Fair counts as an assessment of mounted abilities. Keep in mind that there are other items on the assessment (unmounted abilities, workbook) that should be completed, so the county committee will need to decide how and when that information is collected and assessed.

Patterns are often used to send members through a set of skills to assess. Assessments are part of the life skills that 4-H teaches. Setting up a portion of the assessment as a test also gives members life skills.

What happens when it is time to re-enroll for the next 4-H year?

After being assessed by their 4-H leader, 4-H members who “pass” their year-end assessment at the end of the 4-H year, after Fair or during the Fair for some counties, will advance to the next level of Horsemanship. In the case where a member does not pass the year-end assessment, they do not move up and will continue to work on the assessment till they can pass it. Members will re-enroll the next year in the same level they left the prior year. If they showed in Level 3 at fair and didn’t do an assessment they would enroll in Level 3 the next 4-H year, and then meet with their 4-H leader to be assessed to the appropriate level for the new 4-H year.

It is likely that members who have enough mastery of their project to win a project level class at the State 4-H Horse Show (and even perhaps the county show) would have all the skills they need to pass and complete that level and would advance to the next level in the following 4-H year.

How do Assessments relate to the State 4-H Horse Show?

Members must be assessed into the level they show in at the county Fair and then show in that same level at the State show. For example, if they showed in English Horsemanship Level 3 at their county Fair, they will also show in English Horsemanship Level 3 at the State 4-H Horse Show.

4-H Project Horse Ownership:

All 4-H horse project animals must be owned by the member or in a partnership with his or her immediate family, or the member must have access to the horse. A horse carried as a 4-H project may be shown by more than one member of the immediate family in any one year at the State 4-H Horse Show providing that neither the horse nor the member compete against his or herself. Members may also lease a horse if they don’t own their own from a different family or community member.

Assessment Examples:

Scenario 1: You have a beginning rider who lacks confidence around horses. It is likely that Horsemanship Level 1 will be the best fit.

Scenario 2: You have a first year 4-H horse project member who is an experienced rider with an older horse who is a bit set in his ways. This member may have Level 4 abilities, but the horse may only have Level 3 abilities so it is up to the leader to decide where the horse/rider combination best fits.

Scenario 3: A 4-H member who completed Horsemanship Level 4 last 4-H year has a new horse this 4-H year. This member has Level 4 riding skills and will continue in Level 4 bringing this horse's skills to match the rider. If it's a very green horse, the member may choose to take the Green Horse Project and then continue in the Horsemanship Project once this horse has better skills.

Using patterns as a part of the Assessment process:

It's important to teach 4-H members to read patterns. At project meetings, leaders can have members start reading simple patterns, then try to write some to use at riding practice. You can also have kids practice pattern without horse in the meeting room just walking, trotting, etc. on foot. This helps the patterns stick in their heads so they won't be worried about doing them. Make sure to teach kids maneuvers, not a certain pattern, over and over again. Ideally, you want kids to know how to perform maneuvers and not be threatened by different patterns. You also don't want the horse to "memorize" a pattern, which gets away from the member's horsemanship skills.

Members should be able to get the maneuvers correct, smooth, fluid, and consistent. Just because they get it once, doesn't mean they can get it twice. This is why it is helpful to watch their progression at work meetings. If you don't have this capability, test them on a pattern. If there was something you're not sure about, have them repeat the maneuver to make sure they understand what they are doing and what the mechanics of the maneuver are.

You don't have to include every skill in your pattern. At work meetings (horse practice) you can ask them to do any maneuver in their skill level at any time.

Considerations for making up patterns for Assessments

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- Understand and use the requirements for the level the member is in.
- Be sensitive to the age of the riders, don't make them too long and drawn out. Older kids can have a little bit longer pattern. Remember that they don't have to keep doing the same maneuvers or pattern over and over.
- Keep patterns simple and to the point.
- Take the weather into account to keep patterns workable (make them short if it is too hot, cold, rainy, etc.)
- Make patterns fit your arena size and condition (narrow, big mud hole in corner, etc.)
- Make patterns challenging to riders-difficult enough to make them think, but not frustrating or too hard. Remember to make it fun so they want to do it again!
- Set riders up for success, not failure. For example, for younger riders, plan patterns so they don't have to stand at the end gate and try to get their horse to leave it.
- Use symbols in a key simple enough for all aged riders to understand. Make sure they are different enough to distinguish one maneuver from another. Remember color is hard to reproduce. Make sure you designate where the judge will stand.
- See if your patterns are rideable before assessment day. Try it on a horse to get out all the glitches or fix any problems.
- Maneuvers need to fit together when riding from one transition to another - Don't put a rollback at the end of a walk down.
- Make sure your pattern fits the level of assessment skills. Don't go above it.
- Use markers or cones to help them judge distance and space in the arena. This also helps them to look around corners and think about the next part of the pattern.
- Always stress Horsemanship in your patterns. The availability of patterns online now take away some of this but it is good knowledge for both leader and member. They need to be able to make patterns to help their horsemanship project and be able to work on it on their own.

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This handbook expresses the policies for the organization and administration of the Fallon County 4-H Program. In addition to these policies, Fallon County 4-H Program will also abide by the Montana 4-H Program Policy and Procedures outlined in the MSU Extension Montana 4-H Program Policies and Procedures Publication. County policies may be more restrictive than the state policies, but not less restrictive than state policies.

A copy of this Booklet, the Montana 4-H program Policies and Procedures and the Fallon County 4-H Policy and Procedures is available at the Fallon/Carter County Extension Office and on the Fallon/Carter Extension Website (<http://www.msueextension.org/falloncarter/4h.html>)