



OREGON 4-H

# Horse Advancement Program

## Oregon 4-H Advancement Programs

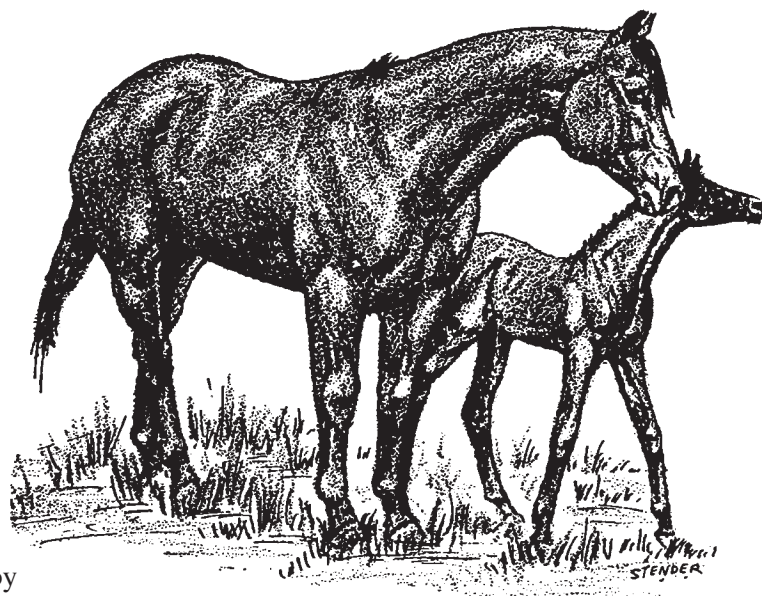
### *An Introduction for Leaders, Parents, and Members*

4-H Advancement programs consist of a series of steps that provide a framework for progressive learning within a specific project area. Advancement programs aid 4-H members to move at their own speed by encouraging self-learning that is based on their interests and abilities. Advancement programs are also self-paced, and age- and skill-level appropriate. Advancement programs can also be a tremendous help to members as they set their goals each year. In addition, advancement programs are useful to Junior leaders and more experienced 4-H members who wish to work with younger or less-experienced members.

### **Benefits of 4-H Advancement Programs**

Advancement programs:

- Make projects more interesting
- Assist members in setting and achieving goals
- Encourage self-paced learning
- Help members learn more about their projects
- Encourage age-appropriate building of skill level



- Provide new, enjoyable experiences
- Help prepare members for participation in certain activities and events
- Provide recognition for work well done
- Provide incentive to members to stay in a project over a longer time period

### **Life Skill Development and 4-H Advancement Programs**

Participation in 4-H Advancement programs is instrumental in the development of life skills, a major emphasis of 4-H programming. Young people who participate in 4-H are not just gaining knowledge about their project area, they are also developing skills that will be useful throughout their life. Specifically, the 4-H Advancement programs are designed to develop life skills in:

- Learning to learn
- Making decisions

- Keeping records
- Planning and organizing
- Achieving goals
- Completing a project or task
- Communicating
- Being responsible
- Developing self-esteem

### **About the Advancement Program Steps**

The advancement steps are written to provide a learning sequence for all members. Although all members should start with step one, the advancement program is designed so a 4-H member may advance as fast as he or she desires based on interest, effort, and ability. A fourth- or fifth-grade 4-H member may take 2 or 3 years to complete step one; an eighth- or ninth-grade member may complete one or two steps in a year.

Members should work on one step at a time. There are, however, times when a member may accomplish an activity in another step before completing the step on which he or she is working. Recognize that if there is considerable difference in the level of skill within a group, members may be working on several levels of the program at one time. Much of the information leaders and members need to complete advancement steps can be found in project materials. In advanced steps, members will need to refer to other sources.

### **Recording Progress in the Advancement Program**

Leaders should encourage members to keep the advancement program with their records. Doing so allows leaders and members to evaluate the 4-H experience, review progress, and establish goals for the future. Upon completing a step, the member fills in the date and has the leader initial the record.

### **Reviewing Advancement Progress**

Once a member has completed an advancement step, the leader should then arrange for a review of the experience. This review is often conducted through an interview process. If it is feasible, the interview can be conducted by someone other than the leader. It is a valuable experience for members to be interviewed by other people who have expertise in a particular area. Such interviews help

prepare members for job interviews and other real-life experiences. Leaders also may want to arrange for an advancement chairperson or committee to review each member soon after he or she has completed the step requirements.

The review is also an excellent opportunity to involve parents in club activities. Several parents can serve on the committee and two or three of them can conduct the interviews. The interviewers should be familiar with the 4-H program, its objectives, and the project area.

The advancement chairperson or committee should approve the advancement only when they are satisfied the member is ready to continue on to the next step.

### **How to Use the Advancement Program**

The advancement program should be presented at the beginning of the 4-H year.

#### **Review what was done last year.**

Before deciding on specific things to include in the club program, leaders should review what the members and club did previously. A review will allow discussion on “What did we do?” “What did we like?” “What needs improvement or expansion?” and “Was everyone involved?”

#### **Review the members’ present interests.**

Encourage members and parents to express their interests, needs, and goals. This allows them to feel important and committed to the final club program.

#### **Share county/statewide special programs.**

Tell your members about activities available to them through your county or the state. Share your special interests with members and parents. This allows members and parents to learn about new opportunities and helps determine whether the club should set specific goals related to them.

#### **Develop your program.**

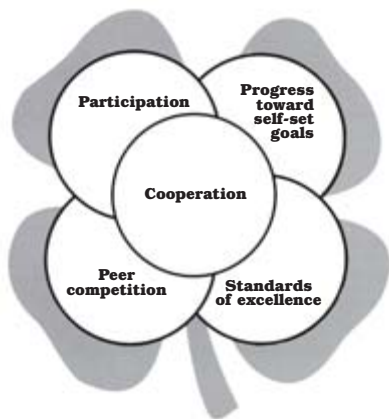
If your group of 4-H participants is small, all the members should be involved in determining the group goals for the year. If the group is large, a special committee may identify the goals for the year’s program. Goals should be based on the current-year members’ range of grades, levels of achievement, and interests. Design the program to meet the needs and interests of each member.

Establish goals to meet the interests and needs of youth, to provide for individual achievement for each member, and to be within range of accomplishment for each member.

If your club has a wide range of grades, interests, and abilities, divide the club into small groups to work with a Junior Leader. This enhances the learning and satisfaction of all members.

### **Recognizing Advancement**

The National 4-H Recognition Model outlines five different ways in which 4-H members can be recognized.



#### **Participation**

This type of recognition program emphasizes the importance of acknowledging young people who have been involved in 4-H educational experiences. For some youth, participation in a 4-H learning experience is an accomplishment.

#### **Progress toward self-set goals**

Parents and other adults can help youth set realistic goals. Recognition for progress toward self-set goals, no matter how small, is an integral part of this type of recognition.

#### **Achievement of standards of excellence**

Standards of excellence are established by experts in a given area. By measuring personal progress against standards of excellence, youth can gain insight into their own efforts and abilities.

#### **Peer competition**

Peer competition is a part of the model for recognition. This type of recognition subjectively identifies, in a concrete time and place, the best team or individual. It is a strong motivator for some youth but is inappropriate for youth under age eight.

#### **Cooperation**

Learning and working together promotes high achievement. Cooperation may take advantage of all the skills represented in the group, as well as the process by which the group approaches the learning task/goal. Everyone is rewarded.

#### **Advancement Certificates**

The 4-H Advancement Program is an excellent way to promote and recognize members' efforts in progressing toward self-set goals and achieving standards of excellence through learning. Advancement certificates that are customized for each project area are available from your county Extension office. Contact a county 4-H staff member to request advancement certificates in your project area.

Earning an advancement certificate deserves recognition. When members have completed a level of advancement, it should be recognized. This could be done at an achievement meeting or other community event. Extension 4-H staff members can also help leaders prepare pieces for newspaper and radio releases on the members' achievement.

# The Oregon 4-H Horse Advancement Program

The 4-H Horse Advancement Program will:

- Make your horse project more interesting
- Help you learn more about horses and horsemanship
- Help you develop greater skills with horses
- Provide you new, enjoyable experiences
- Allow you to advance according to your ability, interest, and willingness to work

This program is an important part of your 4-H horse project. It should be included as part of your project records. It is recommended that you complete certain advancement steps to benefit more from your experiences.

Information needed to pass the steps is found in the 4-H horse project manual and in many horse publications you can get from your library or bookstore.

As you complete each option, fill in the date and have your leader or examiner (junior leader, parent, or other designated person[s]) initial it. When you have completed the required number of options for a step, you will qualify for an attractive advancement certificate.

When you have passed step 1, go on in turn to steps 2, 3, and 4-A or 4-B or 4-C. You can work on options for higher steps while you are working on a lower step, but you can't complete a higher step until you have completed all preceding steps. If you have a colt, you may start with 4-B and then proceed to 1, 2, and 3.

Study each option carefully. Enjoy a new challenge.

Revised by the 4-H Horse Development Committee, Oregon State University. Originally developed by Duane P. Johnson, Extension 4-H specialist emeritus; and W.□Dean Frischknecht, Extension animal science specialist emeritus; with the assistance of the Development Committee for the horse project; revised in 2001 by J.□Bradford Jeffreys, former Extension 4-H specialist; Oregon State University. Introductory material about Oregon 4-H Advancement Programs prepared by Mary Arnold, Extension 4-H specialist, Oregon State University.

# Step 1. The 4-H Rider

This is the first step in the Oregon 4-H Horse Advancement Program. When you have completed 10 skill options, including the horsemanship tests, and 3 personal development options, you are ready to be a 4-H Rider. As a 4-H Rider, you may take part in club activities approved by your club leader.

## Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
1. Name, locate, and spell the following parts of a horse: poll, muzzle, withers, shoulder, forearm, knee, heart girth, flank, rump, hock, fetlock, and pastern.	_____	_____
2. Name, point out, and spell these parts of a saddle: horn, cantle, deerings, fender, pommel, and skirt.	_____	_____
3. Name, point out, and spell the following bridle parts: curb strap, headstall, noseband, bit, and throat latch.	_____	_____
4. What are two requirements of a saddle blanket?	_____	_____
5. Name and spell at least four breeds of horses that make good saddle horses.	_____	_____
6. Care and feeding:		
a. If your horse is in a corral or stall, how often should you feed him?		
b. When should he have water?		
c. When does a colt, a mare in foal, a saddle horse in use, need to be fed grain?		
d. Should you feed or water your horse when he is very hot?		
e. Should you ride your horse just after he has had a heavy feeding?		
f. Name two kinds of good horse hay.	_____	_____
7. Horsemanship:		
a. Halter and tie your horse.		
b. Properly brush and groom your horse.		
c. Bridle your horse.		
d. Saddle your horse and fasten the girth.		
e. Mount and dismount.		
f. Start and stop your horse.		
g. Unsaddle your horse.	_____	_____
8. Name six safety rules all 4-H members should observe when working with or riding their horses.	_____	_____
9. Name three "aids" used in riding.	_____	_____
10. Pose your horse as if you were in a showmanship contest.	_____	_____

## Personal Development Options

(Fill in option selected from page 11 of this Advancement Program.)

1. Give a demonstration or talk to your club.	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

_____	_____
<i>Name of club member</i>	<i>Age</i>
has satisfactorily passed all of the above tests and is now a qualified 4-H Rider.	
_____	_____
<i>Examiner(s)</i>	<i>Date</i>

## Step 2. The 4-H Trail Rider

This is the second step in the Oregon 4-H Horse Advancement Program. When you can pass the 10 skill options and 3 personal development options, you are ready to be a 4-H Trail Rider. As a 4-H Trail Rider, you may take part in activities as approved by your leader.

### Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
1. Name the five objectives of the 4-H Horse Project.	_____	_____
2. Spell and define the following horse terms: filly, mare, sire, dam, conformation, and hand.	_____	_____
3. Spell and tell where the following unsoundnesses are located: ring bone, curb, thorough pin, splint, side bone, and hernia.	_____	_____
4. Name and spell the parts of your horse's feet and legs: sole, frog, wall, gaskin, stifle, and cannon.	_____	_____
5. Identify at least three types of bits used by horsemen—describe differences and uses.	_____	_____
6. Explain and demonstrate using your horse. Ride at a walk, trot, and canter, left lead at the canter, right lead at the canter.	_____	_____
7. Demonstrate a stop from the walk, trot, and lope.	_____	_____
8. Demonstrate the principles and use of correct seat and balance.	_____	_____
9. Demonstrate using your horse:		
a. How to properly back your horse from the ground.		
b. How to side step your horse two steps both directions from the ground.	_____	_____
10. Demonstrate how to properly pick up a horse's front and rear feet; also clean the hoof.	_____	_____

### Personal Development Options

(Select from page 11.)

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

_____	_____
<i>Name of club member</i>	<i>Age</i>
<i>has satisfactorily passed all of the above tests and is now a qualified 4-H Trail Rider.</i>	_____
	<i>Date</i>
_____	
<i>Examiner(s)</i>	

## Step 3. The 4-H Horseman

When you pass the 10 skill options and 4 personal development options, you are qualified for steps 4-A, 4-B, and 4-C.

### Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
1. What medicines should you have on hand for first aid for the horse?	_____	_____
2. Demonstrate and explain what you do when you “gather” your horse.	_____	_____
3. Explain and demonstrate a “fixed” or “set” hand.	_____	_____
4. Demonstrate the proper aid (hands, legs, and weight) at the walk, trot, and canter.	_____	_____
5. Demonstrate how to tie a bowline knot. Tell why it is a good knot and where to use it.	_____	_____
6. Name at least three health precautions when taking a horse to a show.	_____	_____
7. Demonstrate proper cleaning and grooming of your horse’s coat, mane, tail, face, and feet.	_____	_____
8. Demonstrate how to measure a horse’s height.	_____	_____
9. Describe the characteristics, origin, and use of the following breeds of light horses: Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Quarter Horse, Arabian, and Morgan.	_____	_____
10. Do the following performance tests:		
a. Start canter from standing position, right lead, and left lead.		
b. Start canter from a walk, right lead, and left lead.		
c. Start canter from a trot, right lead, and left lead.		
d. Make a series of figure 8s at a canter, changing leads so your horse is always on an inside lead (with an interrupted or simple change).		
e. Make a series of figure 8s at a trot, posting on the outside diagonal.		
f. Back your horse in a straight line, two lengths while mounted.	_____	_____

### Personal Development Options

(Select from page 11.)

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

_____	_____
<i>Name of club member</i>	<i>Age</i>
_____	_____
<i>has satisfactorily passed all of the above tests and is now a qualified 4-H Horseman.</i>	<i>Date</i>
_____	
<i>Examiner(s)</i>	

## Step 4-A. The Advanced Horseman

This is an advanced step in the Oregon 4-H Horse Advancement program. After you have become a 4-H Horseman and have been recommended by your 4-H leader, you may try for the “Dad” Potter 4-H Horsemanship Award.

This award is in honor of the late E.L. “Dad” Potter, professor emeritus, Oregon State University, for any 4-H member who has completed the first three steps in the 4-H Horse Advancement program and can pass the performance tests listed below.

When you feel confident that you and your horse can pass these movements, ask your leader to arrange for you to try for the award. Your county Extension agent will arrange a time and place,



perhaps at your county fair or at a countywide 4-H horse event.

The application form (copies available from the Extension office) is to be completed in duplicate. One copy is for the club member and one for the state 4-H office. On receiving a completed form, properly signed by a “Dad” Potter certified judge and the county Extension agent, the state 4-H office will send a “Dad” Potter 4-H

Horsemanship medal to the county for you. If you are attempting to qualify for a second medal, it must be with a horse you have trained from a foal. The Three-Step Certificate of Merit is also available. Instructions for this award also are noted on the application form, available from county Extension offices.

### **Movements Required for the “Dad” Potter 4-H Horsemanship Award**

1. Walk forward and backward the exact number of steps indicated by the judge; repeat twice. The rider must specify the *exact way* the steps will be counted (all four feet or a specific foot). The number of steps requested may vary for each repeat. Do not count the last half step to bring the feet even. The front feet should be approximately within half the hoof’s length of being even at the end of each move. An inadvertent half step in the opposite direction (e.g., a half step forward when collecting the horse to back) is a fault.
2. Side step right and left as requested with at least 12 steps, or 6 crossovers, in each direction (1 crossover is 2 steps); repeat. The forefoot must cross in front of the stationary foot. The hind feet must cross in front or be placed side by side. Balance the horse before changing directions.
3. About on the forehand, *full* 360 degrees one way and then the other; repeat. The horse may be repositioned before repeating. *The movement must be done with forward motion*, with no backing around the pivot foot. Pivot foot must be the inside fore foot. It may move within a 24-inch diameter circle (12-inch radius from the starting point). *The rider must not be asked to place the horse in a circle drawn on the ground.* The judge will be prepared to measure a questionable distance. Keep forward motion.
4. About on the haunches, *full* 360 degrees one way and then the other; repeat. Pivot foot must be the inside hind foot. It may move within a 36-inch diameter circle (18-inch radius from its starting point). Keep *forward* motion.
5. Two track at least three times in each direction as requested at a walk or trot. The horse’s body must be kept straight ahead while tracking at a 45-degree angle. Forward motion must be combined with side motion in a consistent 45-degree line of travel. Allowing the horse to lead with its shoulders, then quarters, is not acceptable. The distance each way must be reasonable and not tire the horse. Two steps forward motion are allowed before the horse changes direction. The rider should not be asked for an exact number of steps.

6. Start a jog trot from a stand position; repeat two or more times. No walking steps are allowed. The *diagonal* feet should come up at the same time to start the two-beat trot. Proper collection and impulsion are required for a smooth start. Do not post.

7. Post the trot on a straightaway, starting on either diagonal, changing diagonals at least three times as requested by the judge; repeat twice. Demonstrate good equitation and smooth changes with no extra “bumps.”

8. Perform one figure 8 at the posting trot (change to the correct diagonal at the trot), then without halting execute a second figure 8 at the canter, using a simple change of lead. Halt. Execute a third figure 8 at the canter, using an interrupted change of lead. Start the canter from the halt, with no walking or trotting steps.

9. Execute one figure 8 demonstrating two complete flying changes of lead, continuing on to two circles to the right (or left). Make a third complete flying change and two circles to the left (or right). Halt at starting point. Change of leads may be executed with either the front or rear legs changing first. A delayed half stride in the rear, or disunited change, is not allowed.

10. Starting from a walk and at least 20 feet from a wall or fence, pick up a canter immediately. Execute two complete flying changes of lead on the straightaway. Maintaining the canter, return to center of the area and halt. Allow the horse to settle and stand for 30 seconds without moving any foot. (Thirty seconds are allowed to settle the horse.) The rider will indicate to the judge when the 30-second count should start, and this will be timed with a watch.

The horse must not be canted, or angled, for the lead changes; only a slight leading of the correct shoulder and haunch is acceptable. Trotting steps, a disunited change, resistance by the horse, charging, or unplanned changes are not acceptable.



## Step 4-B. The 4-H Colt Trainer (ground)

This step is for horse club members who are raising or training a colt. Demonstrate and explain the following with your colt.

	Date passed	Approved by
<b>All ages— weanlings, yearlings, two-year-olds</b>		
1. Haltering: halter your colt.	_____	_____
2. Teaching to lead: lead your colt as directed.	_____	_____
3. Teaching to back: back two lengths.	_____	_____
4. Picking up the front and rear feet.	_____	_____
5. Grooming as for show.	_____	_____
6. Posing as for show.	_____	_____
7. Sack out your colt.	_____	_____
8. Yield to pressure.	_____	_____
<b>Yearlings and two-year-olds</b>		
9. About on the forehand 180 degrees, right and left, pivot foot kept within 2 feet of starting point.	_____	_____
10. About on the haunches 180 degrees, right and left, pivot foot kept within 3 feet of starting point.	_____	_____
11. Side pass two steps right and left.	_____	_____
<b>Two-year-olds</b>		
12. Working on longe line at walk, trot, and canter: right and left.	_____	_____
13. Stop and rest colt on longe line.	_____	_____
14. Saddle your colt.	_____	_____
15. Driving with long lines.	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of club member*  
*has satisfactorily passed all of the above demonstrations and is now a qualified 4-H Colt Trainer.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Age*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Examiner(s)*

## Step 4-C. The 4-H Stockman

Older 4-H members should do all they can to assist their 4-H leader with other members of the club so they, too, can become horsemen. Do three or more group “A” jobs and one from group “B.”

### Group “A” Leadership Jobs

	Date passed	Approved by
1. Become a junior leader in a 4-H horse club.	_____	_____
2. Obtain three or more new members for your club or help organize a new horse club.	_____	_____
3. Help conduct a horse show.	_____	_____
4. Help organize and conduct an educational tour or demonstration.	_____	_____
5. Help organize and conduct a field day or judging event.	_____	_____
6. Help a leader work with younger members.	_____	_____
7. Demonstrate aids and leads to your club.	_____	_____
8. Help organize, train, or participate in a mounted drill team.	_____	_____
9. Help organize and conduct a trail ride.	_____	_____
10. Serve as an apprentice judge at a 4-H show.	_____	_____
11. Serve as a counselor to younger 4-H members.	_____	_____

### Group “B” Research Jobs

Study, prepare a paper (300 words or more), and give a report on one of the following topics:

1. General management of light horses.	_____	_____
2. Horse feeds—feeding and nutrition.	_____	_____
3. Basic aids—how to teach them.	_____	_____
4. A history and description of your favorite breed of light horse.	_____	_____
5. Safety precautions that should be observed by horsemen.	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

_____	_____
<i>Name of club member</i>	<i>Age</i>
<i>has satisfactorily passed all of the above tests and is now a qualified 4-H Stockman.</i>	_____
	<i>Date</i>

\_\_\_\_\_

*Examiner(s)*

# Personal Development Options

(Choose a different option each time.)

1. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge at a 4-H meeting.
2. Lead a song or a game at a 4-H meeting.
3. Preside at a meeting of your 4-H club.
4. Write a news story for a local paper.
5. Write a column for your club's newsletter.
6. Participate in a radio or television program.
7. Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club.
8. Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group other than your 4-H club.
9. Serve as host for a 4-H meeting. See that everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
10. Participate in a community service project.
11. Participate in a community pride project.
12. Prepare a display (pictures, clippings, things) that would be educational or helpful in stressing:
  - Clean air, clean land, or clean water
  - Conserving natural resources
  - Conserving energy
  - Practicing safety
13. Serve as chairperson of a club committee.
14. Participate in a horse judging or identification contest.
15. Serve as a Junior Leader.
16. Serve as a Teen Leader.
17. Attend 4-H Camp.
18. Attend 4-H Summer Conference at Oregon State University.
19. Serve as clerk, chairman, or apprentice judge at a 4-H show.
20. Be a teen counselor at Summer Conference or camp.
21. Develop and exhibit a science display related to horses.
22. Serve on the teen staff at State Fair.
23. Serve as a camp counselor.
24. Make arrangements for a tour by your club.
25. Arrange for a film to be shown at your club meetings.
26. Explore a career associated with horses and report on that career to your club.
27. Secure a speaker to talk at your club meeting.
28. Plan a fun activity for your club separate from a regular meeting.
29. Develop an option of your own with your leader's approval.
30. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
31. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
32. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
33. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
34. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
35. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
36. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
37. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
38. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
39. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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