

## 4-H LEADER GUIDE

# GREEN HORSE PROJECT

In this project the member is to learn principles and techniques of breaking and training a horse up to beginning performance level. The 4-H member must be an Intermediate or Senior and have completed the Basic Horse Science and General Horsemanship projects.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE MEMBER

1. Learn how to train and handle a green horse safely.
2. Learn how to train so the horse responds in a quiet and willing manner.
3. Be able to give reasons as to how and why a specific training technique is used, and be able to demonstrate specific training techniques.
4. Understand nature and reaction of the horse.
5. Learn patience, perseverance, self control, responsibility, and initiative.
6. Know and be able to discuss nutritional needs of a green horse in training.
7. Understand physical and mental limitations of a green horse.
8. Understand physical, structural, and mental growth and development of the green horse.
9. Know types of training equipment and its use and care.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEADERS

1. If needed, the leader should have a resource person to refer to if the foal and/or 4-H'er are having problems. Be sure to involve the resource person before the problem gets out of hand.

2. The member should *not* work with a green horse by himself or herself for safety reasons.
3. Emphasize the importance of getting the foal used to being away from its mother.
4. Stay with direct reining until the horse is three years old.
5. Use snaffle or basal hackamore, not a mechanical hackamore or leverage snaffle.
6. Stress to the 4-H'er that his or her horse may not be capable of all items listed in the horse's age group yet and that the 4-H'er should not attempt to go beyond the horse's capacity.
7. 4-H'ers should learn what clothing and equipment is needed for each phase of green horse training.

## TRAINING GUIDE OUTLINE

1. Trainer (4-H'er) must learn what makes a horse act or react the way it does: How the horse thinks, what its instincts tell it to do, and how to make use of this knowledge in training the horse.
2. Trainer must learn why he or she must have:
  - patience
  - gentleness and firmness (praise and reward)
  - an understanding of the need for repetition
  - self control
  - an understanding of the horse's attention span.

## Foal

*Phase 1.* Gentling or befriending the horse. This time to include short periods of time when mare and foal are separated, so that you may eventually have the undivided attention of the foal.

## Haltering

Break to lead, at walk and trot.

*Phase 2.* Tie.

Groom and gentle—use of clippers included.

Pickup feet.

Sack out using light saddle blanket.

## Yearling

*Phase 3.* Hobble Horse.

Work on longeline with snug-fitting halter or cavesson at walk, trot, reverse.

Backhorse straight.

Trailer training, loading, unloading, and hauling.

Teaching horse to yield to pressure.

## Two-Year-Old and Older

*Phase 4.* Snaffle bit the horse for a few days to get it used to it. Longe the horse with it carrying the bit without reins.

*Phase 5.* Saddle your horse.

*Phase 6.* Ground driving with saddle.

*Phase 7.* Rider mount with caution (not necessarily member and only with the help of resource persons).

Mount and dismount from both sides.

Direct or leading rein.

*Phase 8.* Walk and trot both directions of ring. Center on straight line only.

*Phase 9.* Leg aids.

Canter in circle both directions demonstrating proper lead, single changes, and canter departs.

Back (straight).

Side pass.

## IDEAS FOR LEADERS

### Teach By

1. Demonstrations (right and wrong ways)

- resource people
  - 4-H members
  - leaders
2. Lectures with illustrations
    - resource people
    - leader
  3. Visual aids
    - movies
    - slides, drawings, etc.
  4. Learning games
    - charades
    - quiz
    - horse bowl

## References

*Horses and Horsemanship*, CO/200

*Horse Science*, CO/201

*Western Horse Behavior and Training*, Robert W. Miller, Doubleday Dolphin Book

## 4-H GREEN HORSE FAIR CLASSES

In showing, emphasis shall be on the trainer as he or she demonstrates his or her knowledge and skills with the horse in training.

### Class 1: Foals

Minimum age: 2 months. Tack: well-fitted halter, lead shank about 7 feet long, leather gloves, and light saddle blanket.

1. Lead foal into the ring. Mares *must* be left out of sight and hearing of the foal.
2. Lead foal as directed.
3. Foal should stand quietly for 10 seconds.
4. Pick up feet as directed.
5. Show that you are able to hand rub the foal all over.
6. Demonstrate sacking out foal with a light saddle blanket.

### Class 2: Yearlings

Any of the training tests in Class 1 may be requested. Tack: same as Class 1, plus longeline, whip, and hobbles (sack hobbles may be used).

1. Pose for show 10 seconds.
2. Hobbling.



3. Load and unload out of trailer.
4. Work on longeline. Walk, trot, halt, and reverse.
5. Back straight at least 6 steps.

### **Class 3**

---

Any of the training tests in Class 1 and 2 may be requested.

Tack: same as Class 1 and 2, plus saddle, bridle, and driving lines.

1. About on forehand right and left.
2. Saddle and bridle horse.
3. Ground driving.
4. Mount and dismount both sides.

### **Class 4**

---

1. All participants will enter the ring mounted, they will walk, trot, and canter as a group on the rail both directions.
2. Demonstrate side pass.
3. Turn on forehand.
4. Turn on hindquarters.
5. Demonstrate a balanced stop at a canter.
6. Back straight.
7. Participant may be asked to demonstrate teaching techniques.

Issued by Washington State University Cooperative Extension, J. O. Young, Director, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Washington Cooperative Extension programs and policies comply with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and handicap. Published July 1982; price 25¢.

*This guide was written by Ladd A. Mitchell, Area Extension Agent, Ephrata, and Grant County 4-H horse leaders.*



