



**Livingston County 4-H**



# **Horse Performance Levels**

**Learn about HORSES – Open to ALL 4-H members in Livingston County (including Clover Buds)**

**You do NOT need a horse to start Levels \***

**Study Guides Available for each Level**

**---- Upon Request – Contact the Levels Coordinator or MSU Extension ----**

## **Levels Knowledge Performances**

**LEADERS: Make a date for your club to participate in Level 1 and 2**

**MEMBERS wishing to participate in Level 3, 4, or 5 should schedule with the Levels Coordinator**

**Levels Coordinator: Lynn Perry  
Lynn\_Perry@yahoo.com or 517.376.1164**

**\* See the back of this flyer for more information about Levels**

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# **Livingston County 4-H Horse Performance Levels**

**All Levels: You Must Wear Long pants and Closed-toe shoes – NO sandals**

**Learning references and ALL requirements for each Horse Level are listed in the Livingston County 4-H Horse and Pony Project Rules and are available at the Livingston County MSU Extension office. Contact Levels Coordinator if you have any questions about Levels.**

**Level I:** **Contact Levels Coordinator for Study / Evaluation times and locations. You must pass Level 1 to qualify as a State Horse Show Delegate.**

1. Tie a Quick Release Knot & Give Examples of safe & unsafe places to tie your horse.
2. Identify feeds: identify common Concentrates and Roughages by sight. Name the four main Types of feed & explain their usage (amount and frequency of feeding).
3. Grooming tools: identify and demonstrate use in the correct order. Explain how to store, clean, and care for tack (saddle, pad or blanket, grooming tools).
4. Demonstrate how to Lead and Turn a horse using proper position and proper direction of turn. Explain the two Danger Zones.
5. Identify Ten Safety Rules (one in each category), Identify and explain the three different ways to de-worm a horse and Name the six natural gaits of the Light Horse.

**Level II:** **You Must have passed Level I. (Levels I and II may be done the same year.)**

6. Tie a Bowline Knot; Demonstrate how to Correctly Clean a Hoof & Explain Proper Hoof Care.
7. Explain Proper fitting of tack (English and Western Saddles and bits) & How to cool down a horse.
8. Identify Parts of Horse, Parts of English and Western Saddles and Parts of Western and English Bridles (Hunt-style and Full/Double). Complete Level 2 by participating in a Livingston County horse show (volunteer or show).

**Level III:** **You Must have passed Level I and II in a prior year.**

9. Identify Body Colors and Markings, and Parts of Hoof.
10. Explain How to Keep a Horse Healthy (Daily management needs, parasite control, common immunizations). Explain Proper Care of the Hoof, and Knowledge of Grooming for Showmanship.

**Riding & Showmanship Demonstration** Demonstrate riding ability (tack up, mount, dismount, and ride with control at walk, trot, canter, reverse, and back) and demonstrate knowledge of Showmanship. You can still ride even if you don't canter; a wrong lead does not count against you. Bring a horse, a negative Coggins test, riding and showmanship tack; you must wear long pants, boots, and a helmet. Riding demonstration should be scheduled with the Levels Coordinator after completing steps 9 and 10. Complete Level 3 by giving an informational talk on an equine topic of your choice to your club and the Horse Committee.

**Level IV:** **Contact Levels Coordinator by March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

You must have passed Levels I - III in a prior year. You must keep a six-month record book, prepare a first aid kit, and more. Study materials are available from the Levels Coordinator. Evaluation is done by appointment by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Level V:** **Contact Levels Coordinator by December 31 to do Level V the next year.**

You must have passed Levels I - IV in a prior year. Level V is an in-depth take home project that includes documenting interviews with horse professionals, pressing samples of toxic plants, outlining plans for stable management and training, giving lessons, and more. Evaluation is done by appointment by August 31<sup>st</sup>.