

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OF OAKLAND COUNTY HORSE ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Oakland County 4-H Horse Achievement Levels have been established to recognize those individuals who have attained certain skills in horse handling, knowledge and safety. These skills are necessary for anyone who owns a horse, is presently leasing a horse or pony, or has the desire to work with one in the future. This evaluation could also apply as resume information for possible future employment in the horse-related industry.

The Oakland County 4-H Horse Council, by establishing the availability of personal achievement level challenges, intends to provide additional recognition beyond the show ring and challenge 4-Hers' knowledge. This will also provide any Oakland County horse club with a foundation and guideline to educate members at different levels of learning.

The Horse Achievement Level program is five levels and structured as follows:

- **Level I Intro:** Cloverbud or beginning horse project members and adults
- **Level II Novice:** Novice horse project members at walk/trot or early canter experience
- **Level III Intermediate:** Intermediate horse project members at walk/trot/canter level and generally old enough to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show
- **Level IV Advanced:** Advanced horse project members ready to learn scientific aspects of horse education
- **Level V Ambassador:** Advanced horse project members showcasing their knowledge for a specific aspect of horse-related activity. Member must have completed Level I, II, III

Successfully completing Level I is necessary for any 4-H Member who desires to compete in the Michigan State 4-H Horse Show during the first year (2023-2024) of these new Achievement Levels. Also, any new participants to Oakland 4-H that otherwise qualify for the State 4-H Horse Show will only need to complete Level I during their first year prior to the Delegate Deadline. Any Members attending the State Show for additional years will need to complete Level II followed by one section from Level III and above each year. The Member is expected to continue additional Sections each year.

The Horse Achievement Level tests should be completed, signed by an Adult Horse Council Member, Leader, or 4-H staff person, and submitted to the Oakland County 4-H Office by August 15 for NON-Delegates in order to be recognized for this

program year's Awards. Members that are working toward earning a Delegate Slot to the State 4-H Horse Show will need to adhere to that program's Eligibility deadlines.

Youth that have accomplished Horse Achievement Levels or completed Sections will be recognized at the Equestrian Award Event hosted by Horse Council each year. Youth attaining Ambassador Level will receive identifying apparel (such as shirt, sash, patch, crown, hat).

We hope you will choose to challenge the endless and forever-changing equine knowledge. You and your horse will be a better team for it.

"Horse Science" and "Horses and Horsemanship" booklets for use as reference materials may be purchased at <https://shop4-h.org/collections/horse-curriculum>.

Horse Achievement Level test questions do not have to be completed in order or all at one time. It may take different times to complete the various questions or tasks. However, the entire test (Section) must have **all** areas completed and signed before submitting to the 4-H Office.

Horse Achievement Level Rules

1. Appropriate attire is required when working around horses or dress codes for events (show, awards, etc.).
2. Courtesy is expected.
3. Any test that involves the use of a horse will require scheduling coordination between the Member and the Test Administering Adult.
4. Any Members working on the Ambassador Level will need to complete all non-riding requirements prior to Fair and then participate in the Ambassador Showcase during Fair. Ambassador Awards will be presented following the Ambassador Showcase.
5. Any protests or questions in regard to any test shall not be made in a manner to interrupt the test procedures. They may be brought to the attention of the committee members for discussion or submit them in writing to the 4-H Horse Council.
6. Any questions or areas not covered by these rules will be decided by the 4-H Office by August 15.

DEMONSTRATIONS

In order to successfully complete Achievement Level I Section III, a demonstration (horse related) must be given at a 4-H Club meeting or event. The Member must coordinate with the Club Leader(s) to schedule the demonstration. The Event Sheet must be completed and signed by the Leader and submitted upon completion of the Section.

EVENT PARTICIPATION

In order to successfully complete Achievement Level II, Section II, a member must participate in at least one Oakland County 4-H Horse Show, Proud Equestrian Program (PEP), Oakland County Fair, Oakland County 4-H Horse Program clinics, Oakland County Horse Judging or Hippology teams (volunteer or participate), or any other event approved in advance by the committee.

Coordinate with the Club Leader(s) or event coordinator to participate or work the event. The Event Sheet must be completed and signed by the Leader or event coordinator and submitted upon completion of the Section.