



**4-H YOUTH PROGRAM OF OAKLAND COUNTY
HORSE PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL
STUDY GUIDELINES – LEVEL V
Oakland County 4-H Horse Ambassador
(Complete Levels I & II – Note: Level II has been waived for 2024)**

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE REQUIRED

An Oakland County 4-H youth member must first complete Horse Achievement Levels I and II to apply for the horse ambassador role (Level V). Ambassadors will receive a sash or other identifying apparel (shirt, button/patch, crown/hat) and be introduced and expected to attend several public 4-H events (i.e. awards, clinics, horse shows, fair). Duties of an ambassador will also include 4-H horse project promotion and recruitment efforts, club presentations/visits as requested or invited by clubs or 4-H program staff.

SECTION I

Demonstrate knowledge acquired

1. Pass (75% correct answers) a written test of previous topics from Levels I-II.
2. Complete an interview with a horse industry leader/professional.
3. Present a speech, demonstration or poster session. Choose a topic to present to club(s) or at county program/event. Some ideas are listed below (or any other topic approved by the Horse Council Education Committee):
 - a. Form to Function: Using a photo of your project horse, diagram and describe the potential uses and limitations based on the horse's conformation and way of going.
 - b. Riding Equipment – choose from types of saddles and/or harnesses. Research the history, changes throughout the years, present-day form, and future trends. Describe or demonstrate how to properly fit this type of saddle to both the horse and the rider.
 - c. Current horse related issue – Choose one current topic from the horse industry (i.e. breeding, disease management, genetic disorders, animal welfare, or training methods etc.) Information presented must include a minimum of three references of the topic.
 - d. Safety: Design and describe a detailed safety plan for a boarding facility for each of these: stabling area, riding arena, turn-out areas, and include any safety rules for boarders or visitors.
 - e. First Aid: Describe basic first aid and steps to take for each situation: severe lameness (no body weight on leg), colic, bleeding from injury to leg, and swollen eye.

SECTION II

Personal Essay

Write a personal story that describes the relationship you have with your horse(s), including training, personal accomplishments with your horse(s) and any other information that you feel is appropriate. *(Limit to two double-spaced pages. Enhancements should be limited to one page of photos and/or drawings.)*



SECTION III

Mounted/In-Hand abilities demonstration

Choose a discipline from the list below (or something else approved by the Education Committee)

1. Demonstrate one of the following patterns (or provide a score sheet from a class performed/judged within last 12 months):
 - a. Western riding (with gait transitions)
 - b. Reining
 - c. Hunter Over Fences (4-H minimum requirements)
 - d. Dressage test
 - e. Trail (4-H minimum requirements)
 - f. Saddle seat pattern
 - g. In-Hand, Driving or Ground-Driving specific to Miniature Horses
2. Interview with industry leader or professional in the chosen discipline and attach summary sheet. Must know any 4-H specific rules or requirements for your chosen area and be familiar with other general equine industry information specific to your chosen discipline.
3. Design and perform a two-minute free style program in the discipline of your choice. The creative program must be limited to two minutes and use maneuvers, gaits, etc. acceptable to the discipline being demonstrated. Attire appropriate to the discipline being demonstrated must be worn. Any music and/or audiovisual required to be supplied by the rider.



OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H HORSE CLUBS ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL V

NAME _____ 4-H HORSE CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ AGE _____

Level I & II Completed: (Signature— Education Committee)	Judge Initials	Date Completed
Section I:		
1. Pass (75% correct) a written test of previous topics from Levels I-II (separate sheet attached)		
2. Complete an interview with a horse industry leader/professional and attach summary sheet.		
3. Present a speech, demonstration or poster session. Choose a topic to present to club(s) or at county program/event.		
Section II – Essay completed		
Section III		
1. Demonstrate one of the following patterns (or provide score sheet):		
a. Western riding (with gait transitions)		
b. Reining		
c. Hunter Over Fences (4-H minimum requirements)		
d. Dressage test		
e. Trail (4-H minimum requirements)		
f. Saddle Seat pattern		
g. In-Hand, Driving or Ground-Driving specific to Miniature Horses		
2. Interview with industry leader or professional in the chosen discipline and attach summary sheet.		
3. Design and perform a two-minute free style program in the discipline of your choice. The creative program must be limited to two minutes and use maneuvers, gaits, etc. acceptable to the discipline being demonstrated. Attire appropriate to the discipline being demonstrated must be worn. Any music and/or audiovisual required to be supplied by the rider.		
JUDGE'S COMMENTS:		

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INDIVIDUAL HAS COMPLETED ALL PARTS OF ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL II-SECTION I.

Judge's Signature _____ Date _____



OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H HORSE CLUBS
ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL V
INTERVIEW SUMMARY SHEET

NAME _____ 4-H HORSE CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ AGE _____

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW: _____

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- 1. How many years have you been involved in the horse industry?
2. Why did you choose the discipline or area of this horse industry?
3. What steps did you take to become a horse industry leader or professional?
4. What do you like best about working in the horse industry?
5. What are some challenges working in the horse industry?

Please provide a summary of what you learned from interviewing this individual:

Table with 10 empty rows for providing a summary of the interview.



**OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H HORSE CLUBS
ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL V
SECTION I QUALIFYING TEST**

NAME _____ 4-H HORSE CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ AGE _____

	Judge Initials	Date Completed
1. Describe ten safety precautions and including each area: ground handling, catching a horse, mounting a horse, proper equipment, tack check, riding and showing with courtesy.		
2. Describe the flight or fight instinct and how it relates to horse behavior.		
3. Identify 15 body parts of a horse.		
4. What do horses eat and how much water do they consume?		
5. Discuss basic grooming equipment and the uses of each.		
6. Define the following terms: stallion, mare, colt, weanling, gelding, filly, conformation, horsemanship, sire, dam.		
7. Describe the 5 Freedoms and how they relate to horse care.		
8. Name six horse breeds and their characteristics.		
9. Name four (internal or external) parasites affecting horses and how to prevent each.		
10. Name the natural aids used to control the horse's movement when riding.		
11. Explain how to warm up and cool out a horse.		
12. Name 5 parts each of the English and Western Saddle. Name five basic parts of a headstall (English or Western).		
13. Name three bits (English or Western) and explain their purpose or effect.		
14. What is a right or left lead and how do you identify each?		
15. What is a left or right diagonal and how do you check your diagonal?		