

Allegan County 4-H Cloverbud Horse Sheets

SAFETY



Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

Safety Around Horses

Some simple safety rules must be followed when working with or around a horse.

1. Always let the horse know that someone is around. A horse has very good hearing, but it cannot see in all directions.

Speak to the horse when approaching.

Approach a horse from the side, at a walk. Don't run up behind a horse as it might kick.

Be very careful when approaching a strange horse.

2. Stand in a "safe" position when working around a horse.

Stay in a position as near the shoulder as possible.

Never stand directly behind or in front of a horse. It may kick or jump forward quickly.

Do not walk UNDER any part of a horse, no matter how gentle the horse is.

Always walk around a horse out of kicking range.

Never walk under or step over the tie rope.

3. Practice safety rules when leading a horse.

Walk beside the horse's shoulder when leading. Do not walk ahead of or behind the horse.

Use a long lead strap and both hands when leading. If the horse rears, release the hand nearest to the halter and keep both feet on the ground.

Never wrap the lead rope or reins around any part of the hand, wrist or body. The body could become tangled and be badly injured.

4. Keep the horse under control when riding.

When a horse is frightened and attempts to run, turn it in a circle and make the circle smaller until it stops.

When riding in groups, do not ride too close to the horse in front. Some horses kick when another gets too close.

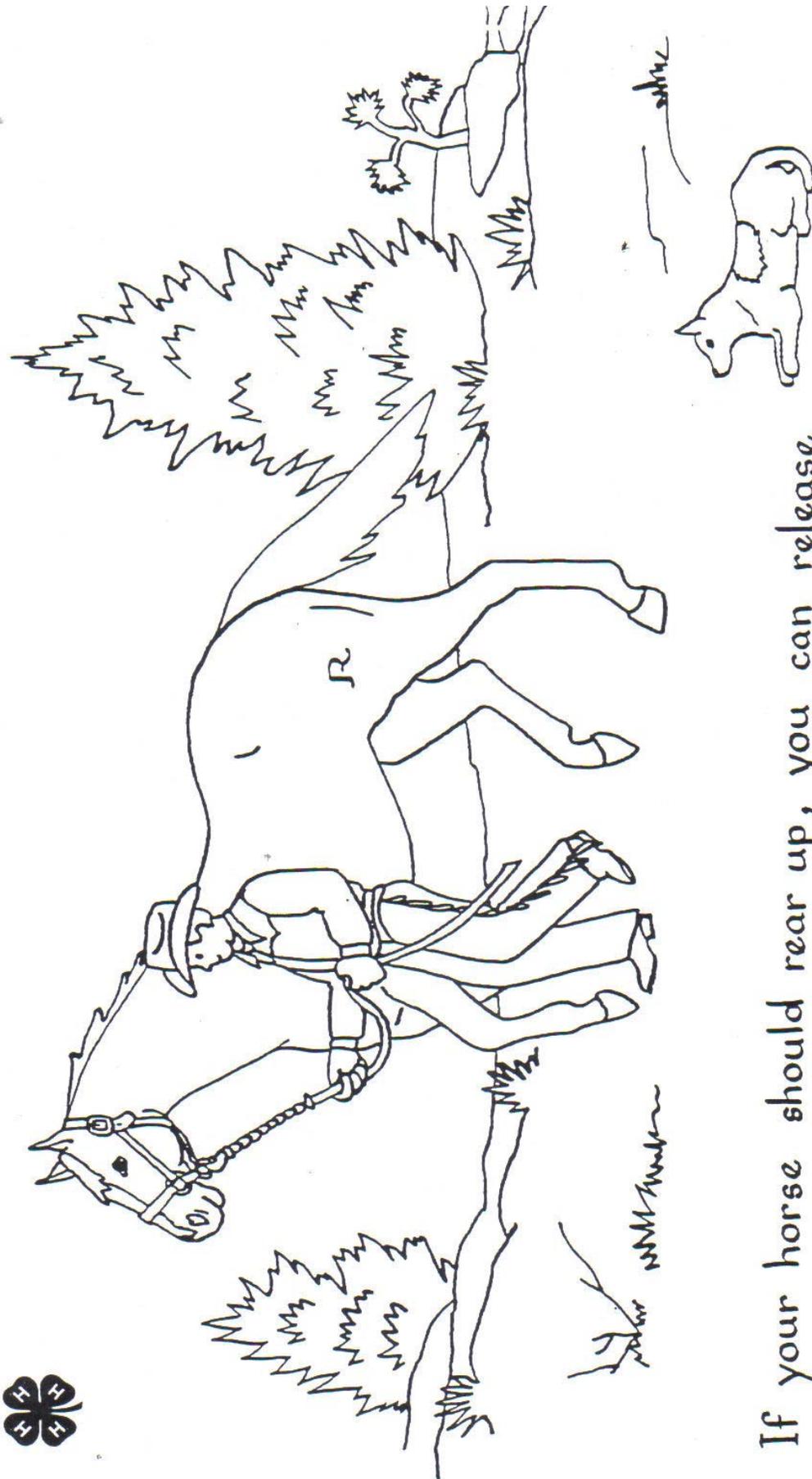
Hold the horse to a walk when going up or down a steep hill.

Reduce speed when riding rough ground or in sand, mud, ice or snow where there is danger of the horse falling or slipping.

Don't let a horse run to and from the stables. Walk the first mile out and the last mile home.

5. Always watch for low tree limbs, wire, holes in the ground or other riding hazards.
6. Yelling, clowning around and acting silly has no place around horses. The horse could become frightened and someone might be hurt.



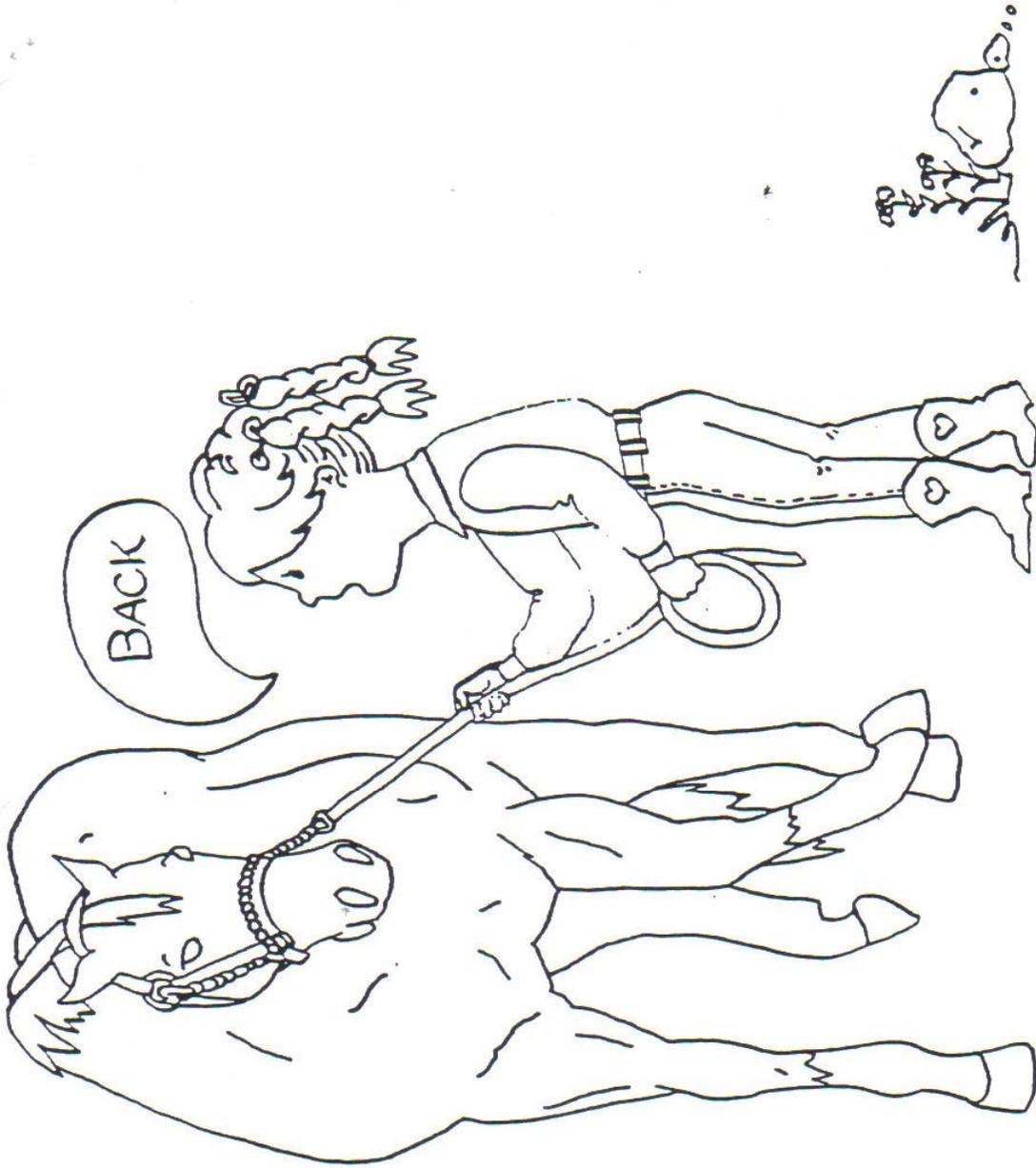


If your horse should rear up, you can release your right hand hold on the lead strap, and still have hold of the lead with your left hand. When turning, always turn your horse to the right and walk around him.



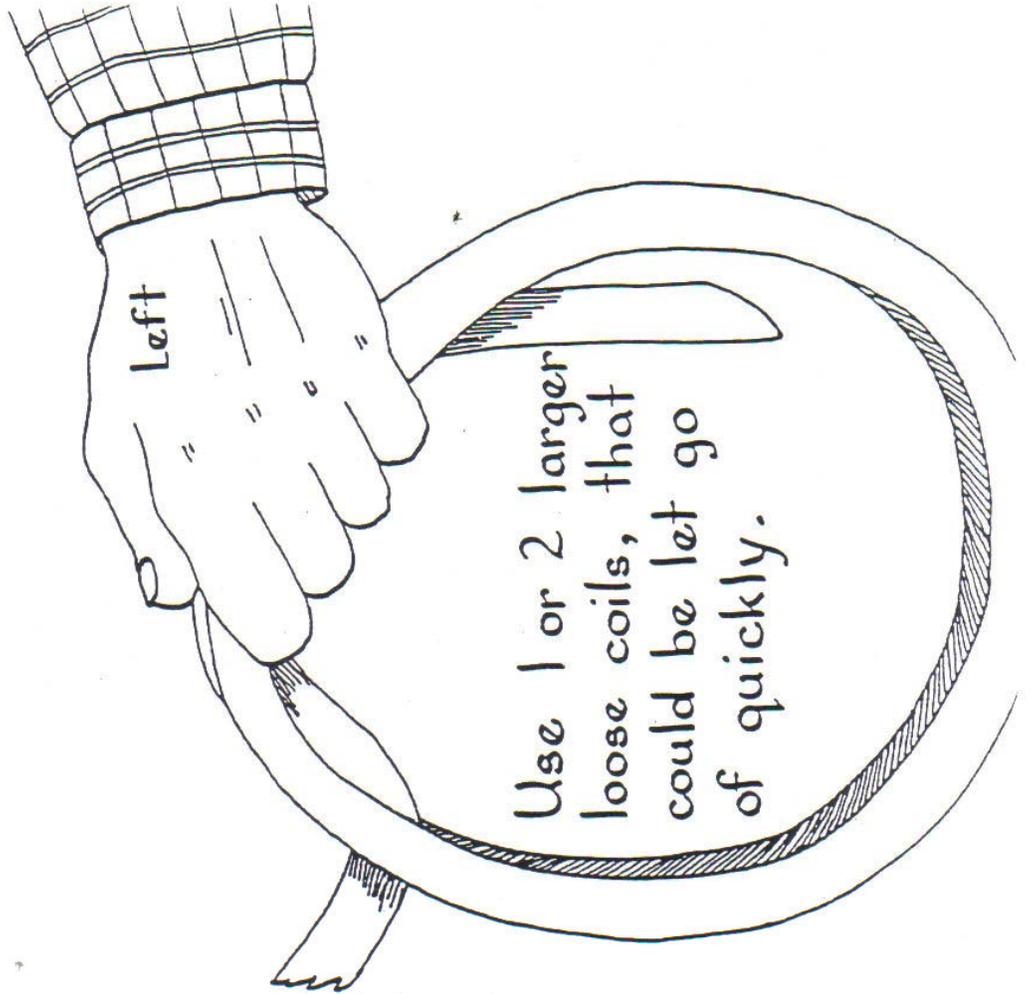
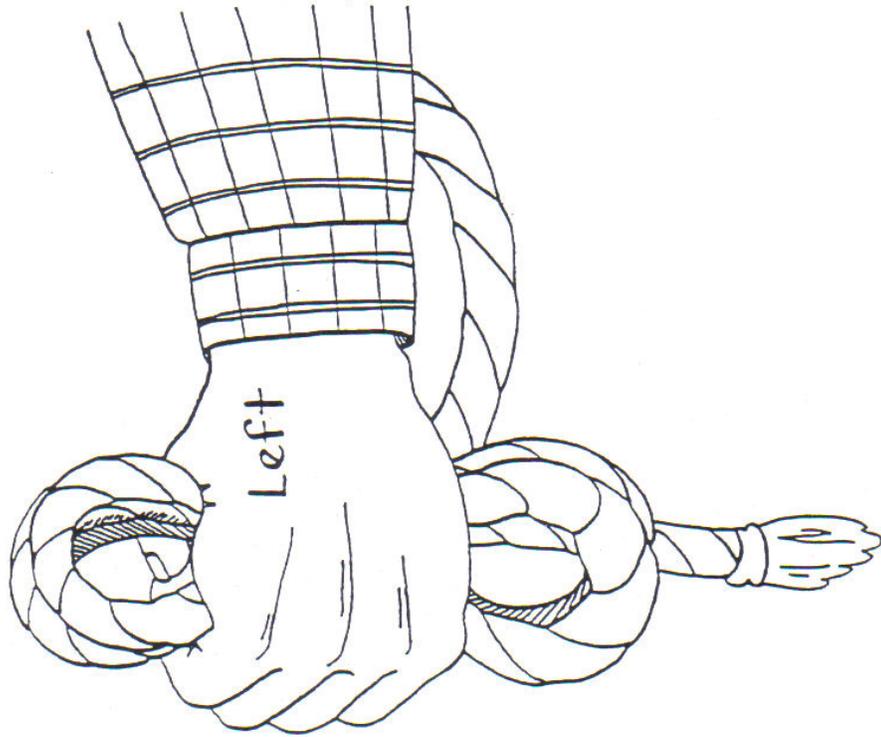


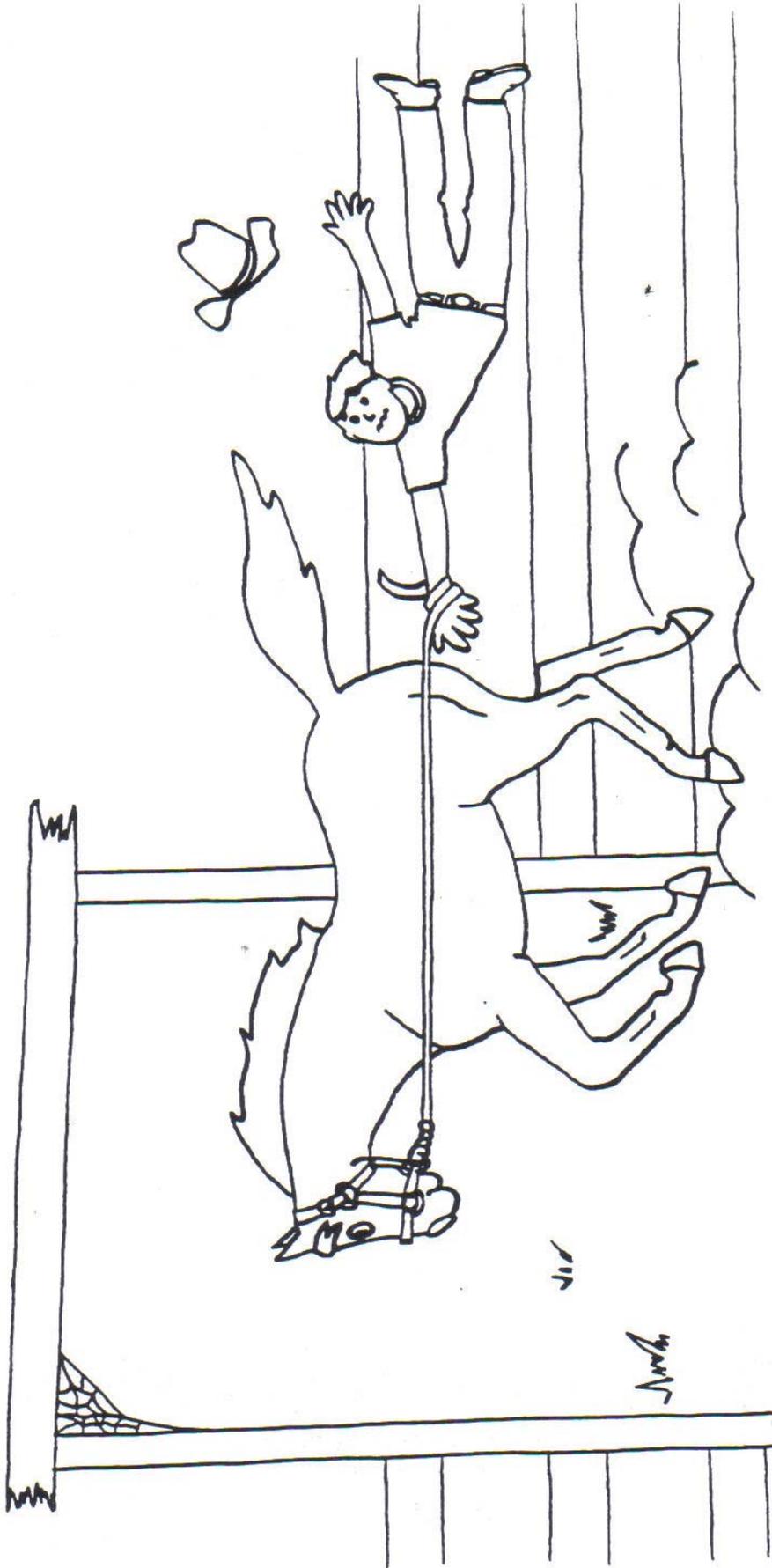
Even a gentle horse can become frightened and rush forward into you. Always stand by the horse's side, at his neck to lead or to hold him.



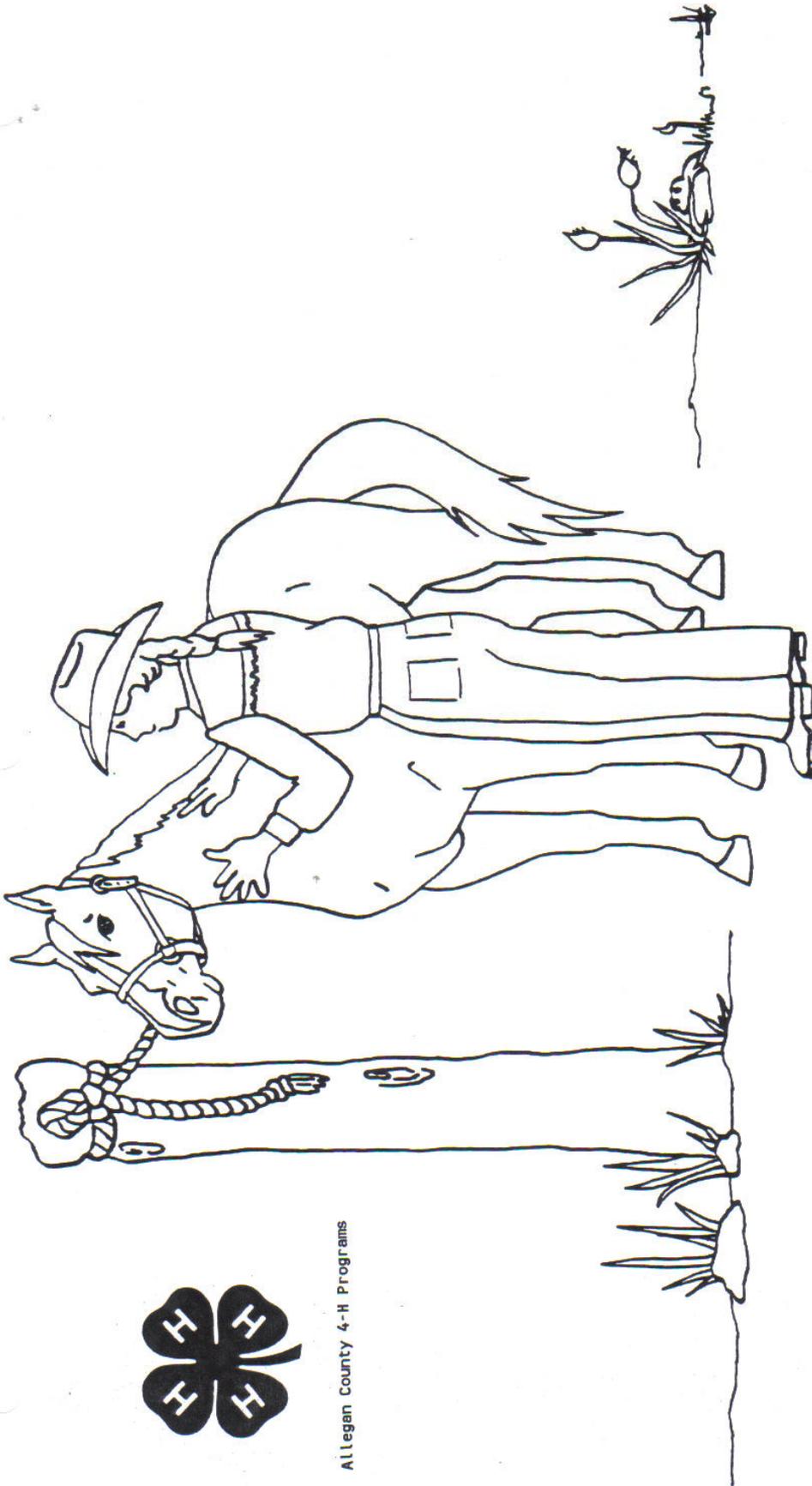
When your horse gets too close for safety, say "BACK". Use your lead shank with firm tugs to move your horse back.

Here are the ways you can coil the extra lead strap
in your left hand.





Wrapping reins or lead ropes around your hand or body is dangerous.

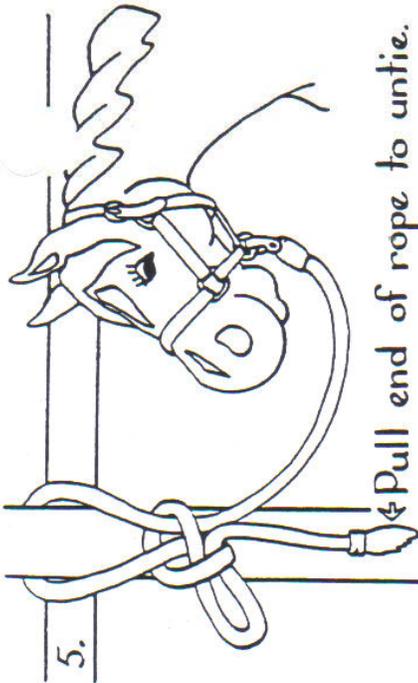


Alleghan County 4-H Programs

Approach your horse from the _____ around his shoulder when possible. The neck and shoulder area is the place to pet your horse. Petting his nose encourages biting.



Tie your horse higher than his withers, close to a well anchored post, and with a slip knot. Use a sturdy halter, not a bridle.

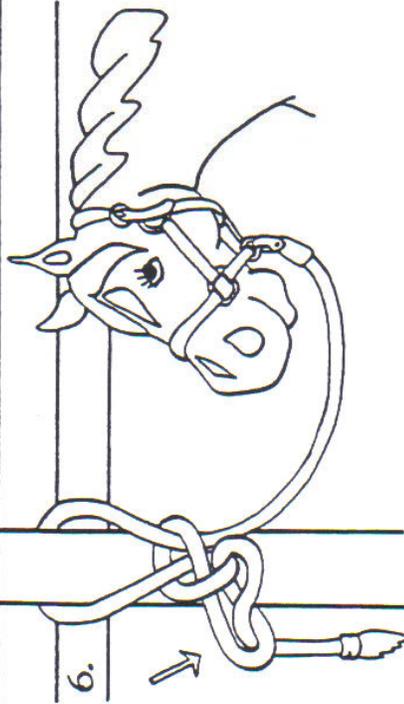


Pull Snug-

Did you keep your fingers out of the loops?

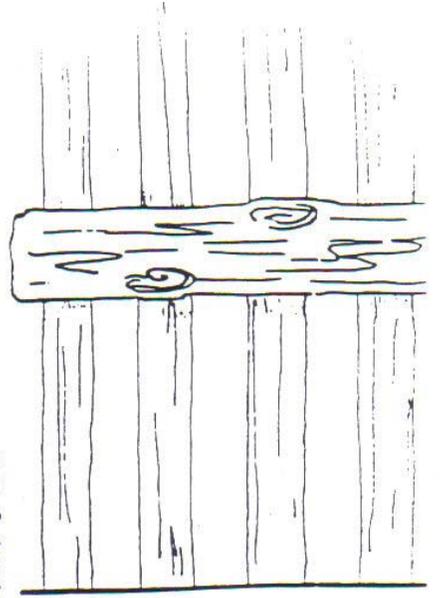
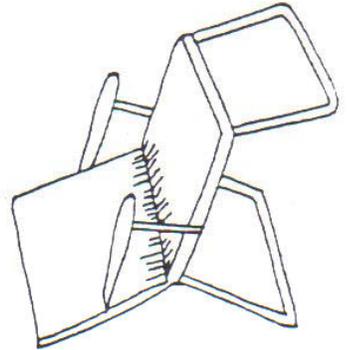
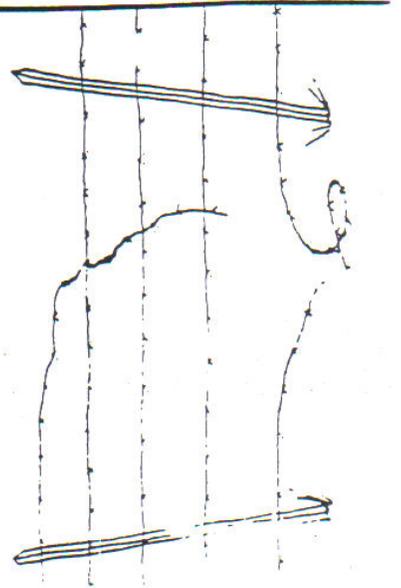
Did you use a good stout halter, lead rope & snap?

Did you tie your horse close, higher than his withers, & to a stout post in a safe place?

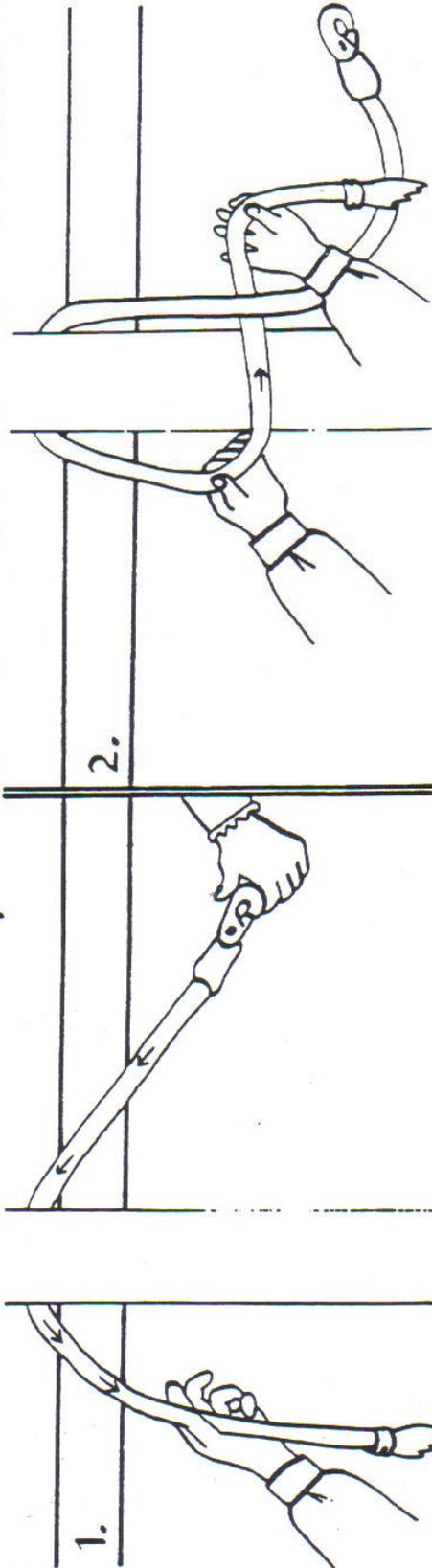


If you need to leave your horse tied for awhile, put the end of the lead rope through the loop to keep the knot from working loose.

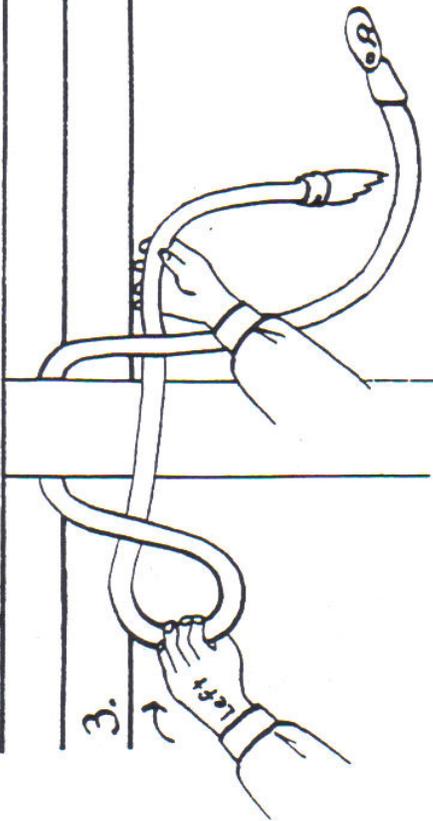
With a brown crayon, color the picture that would be the only safe place to tie up your horse.



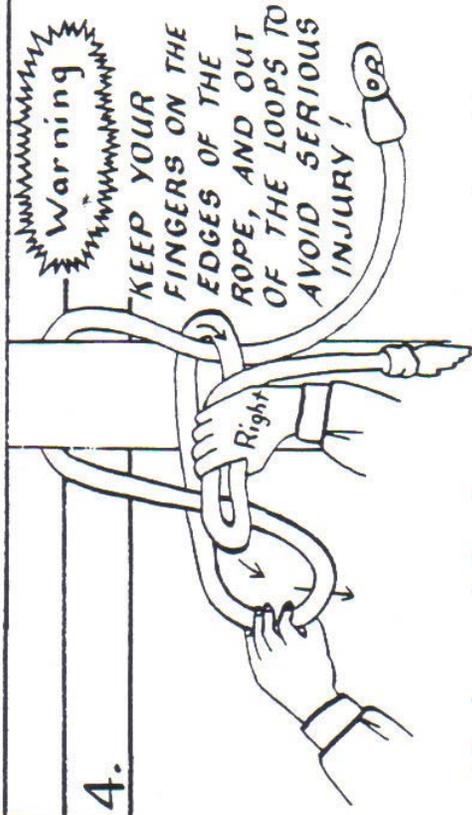
Practice this Slip Knot with a friend.



Draw lead rope around pole left to right.



Do you see the 4 shape?

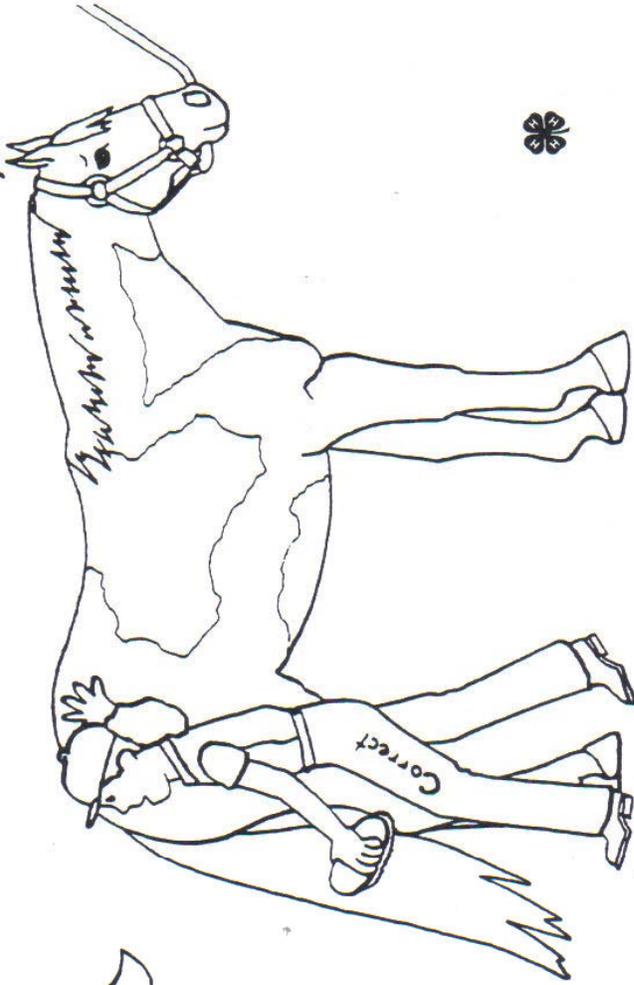
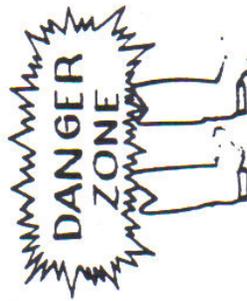
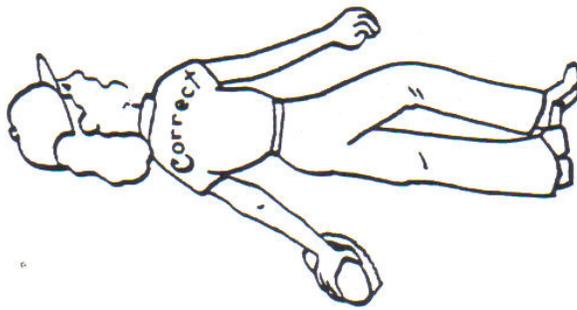


Turn over your left hand. Do you see an 8 shape?

Put right loop through the bottom of the 8 shape.



How to get to the other side safely.



DO'S

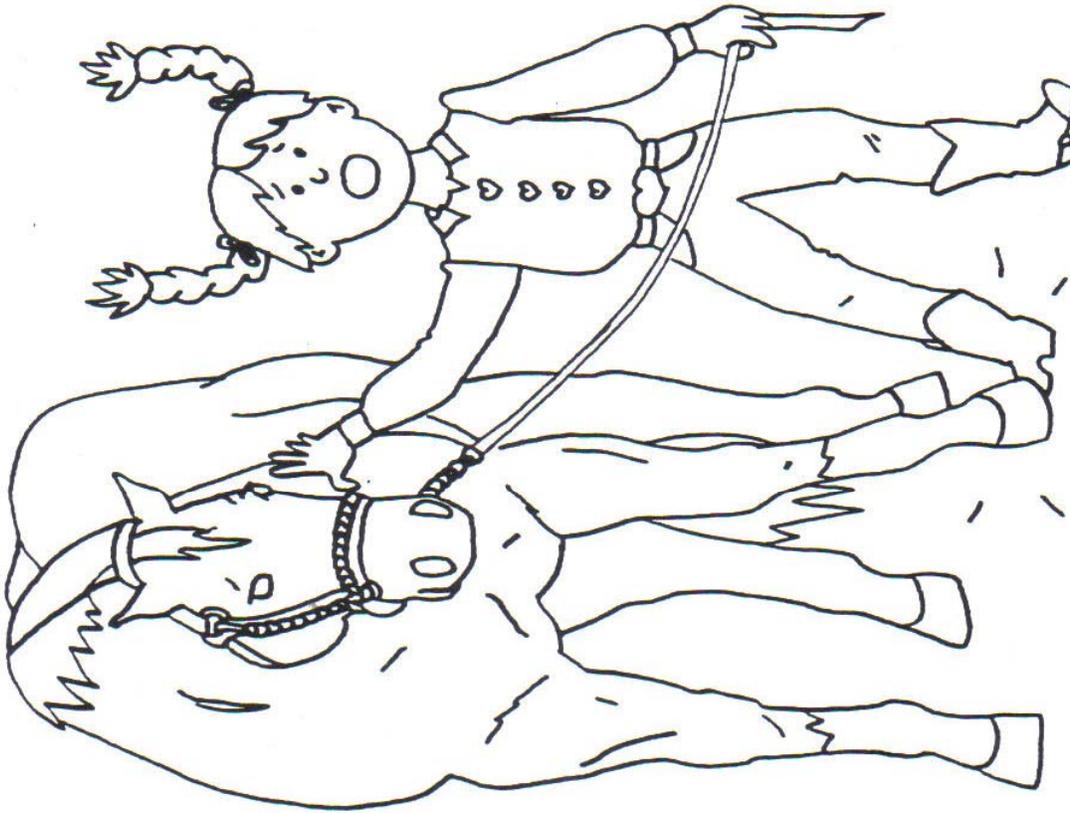
1. Speak to your horse to let him know where you are.
2. You can choose to walk very close to your horse, or to walk completely out of kicking range.
3. If you pass close, speak soothingly and stroke him gently.

DON'T'S

1. Don't walk in the Danger Zone. That is where a kick would be the strongest.
2. Walking over or under the lead is risky business.
3. Crawling under the belly is extremely dangerous.

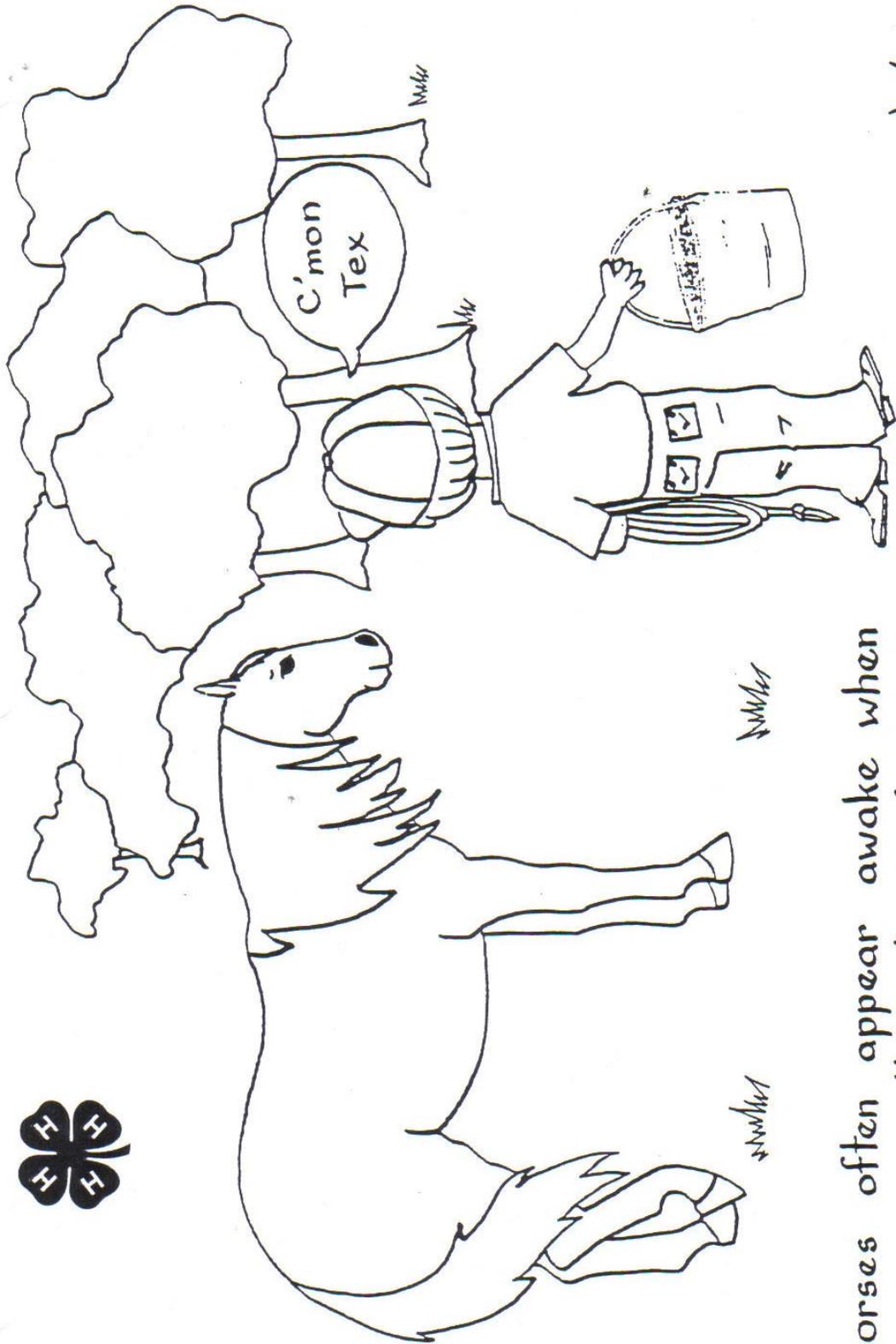


Allegan County 4-H Programs



How much does this horse weigh? _____
He weighs a lot when he is standing on your foot. Teach your horse to stay away from your feet!

Answer:
1000 pounds



Horses often appear awake when they are really asleep. As you approach your horse, speak to him so he won't become frightened and kick.

Follow safety rules around horses.

Circle pictures which show what to do.

Put an X through pictures which are not safe.

