



The purpose of the Green Horse Training project is to give the participant hands-on experience in raising and training a horse. This is intended to be a demonstration project in which participants can move through the levels at their own pace. Each level must be completed in order, and all skills within a level must be completed prior to beginning the next level.

Skills for each level can be assessed (passed/checked off) by any designated leader, coach or judge appropriately skilled in the 4-H Green Horse Training Project. If certain skills could not be demonstrated, the assessor should mark the checklist accordingly and provide comments to the participant. Only when **all** skills are demonstrated adequately is the level is considered "passed." The assessor should provide a signature and date in the project book of the 4-H'er when each level is passed. Showcasing the project at a county fair or achievement day is not necessary.

North Dakota 4-H

Green Horse Training Project



Carrie Hammer, Assistant Professor, NDSU Department of Animal Science
Tara Swanson, Lecturer, NDSU Department of Animal Science

Who can participate?

Before starting the Green Horse Project, participants must be comfortable with basic horse-handling and riding skills. Participants should be able to demonstrate the ability to work with a horse on the ground, including catching, haltering, leading and grooming. Participants also should be able to demonstrate basic riding skills, including saddling and bridling, and maneuvering through a pattern at the walk, jog and lope. This is not an appropriate project for 4-H'ers with limited horsemanship skills.

All training is to be completed by the participant. Horses that receive professional training are ineligible for this project. Participants are encouraged to get advice from professional trainers as they progress through the levels; however, professional help should be in the form of instruction only, and the professional trainers should not be participating actively in the training of the horse.

What is a 'Green Horse'?

A green horse is considered to be one with little to no training. The Green Horse Project was developed for young horses (weanling, yearling or 2-year-old); however, any age horse can be used. The amount of training is what determines whether a horse is eligible to begin the project.

Only one horse may be used per project. If the project is discontinued for any reason, the 4-H'er must start over at Level 1 with a new horse.

Levels

- Level 1 — Unmounted Skills**
(suitable for any age horse)
- Level 2 — Unmounted Skills**
(suitable for yearlings and older)
- Level 3 — Mounted Skills**
(suitable for horses age 2 years and older; horses should be ridden with a snaffle bit (or bosal) with two hands on the rein)
- Level 4 — Mounted Skills**
(suitable for horses age 2 years and older; horses should be ridden with a snaffle bit (or bosal) with two hands on the rein)

Equipment

The following basic equipment will be necessary throughout the training process:

- Well-fitting halter
- Sturdy cotton or nylon lead rope (8 to 10 feet) with snap (no chain)
- Nylon or cotton lunge line
- Saddle pad/blanket
- Saddle (English or Western)
- Bridle with snaffle bit (English or Western)
- Grooming bushes, hoof pick

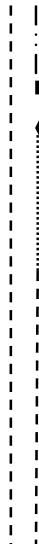
Make sure all equipment used properly fits the horse because ill-fitting equipment may lead to training problems.

Level 2 Patterns

2



Judge



Pattern 1

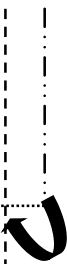
1. Start at Cone 1 and trot to Cone 2
2. Stop at Cone 2 and set up for inspection
3. Following inspection back 5 steps and perform a 180° pivot
4. Walk halfway to Cone 1 and then pick up a trot and continue to trot to Cone 1
5. Stop at Cone 1, upon completion trot back to line

1



Judge

2

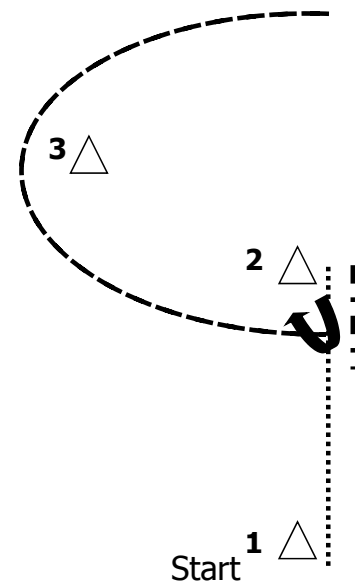


1



Pattern 2

1. Start at Cone 1 and trot to Cone 2
2. Stop at Cone 2 and back to a point even with the judge
3. Stop and perform a 270° pivot
4. Walk to judge and set up for inspection
5. When dismissed trot back to line



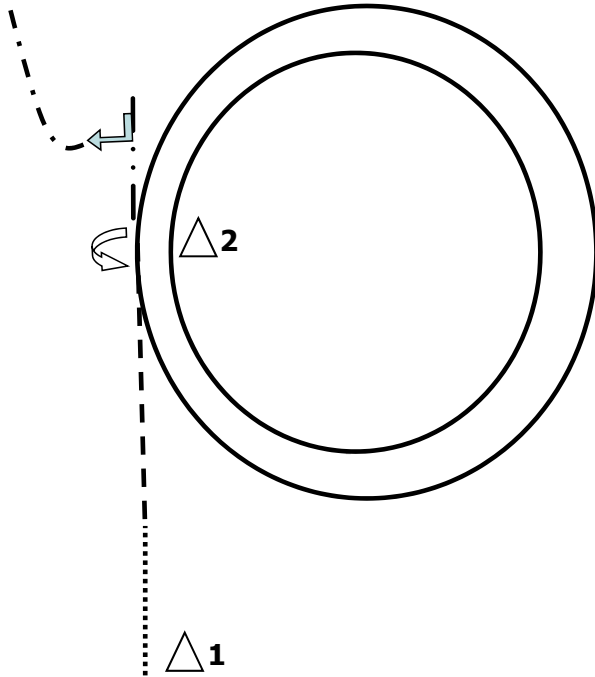
Judge

Start

Pattern 3

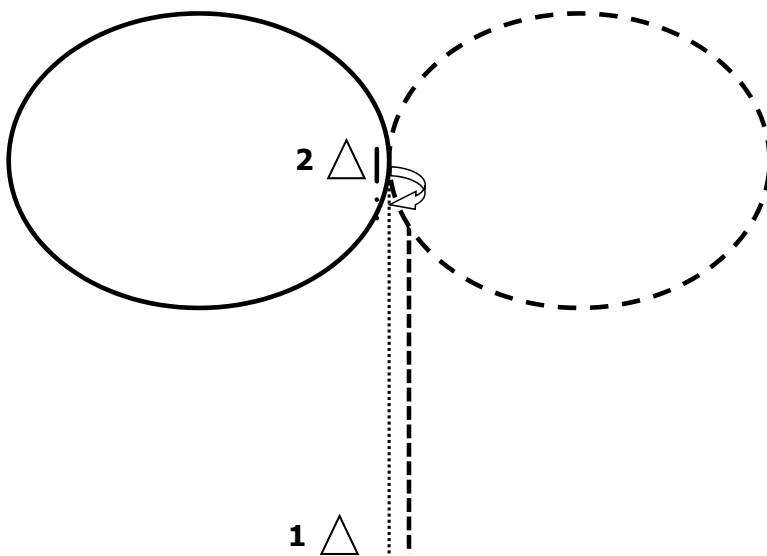
1. Walk from Cone 1 to Cone 2
2. Stop and back 4 steps
3. Perform a 270° pivot
4. Trot around Cone 3 to a point in line with the judge
5. Stop and set up for inspection
6. Following inspection trot back to line

Level 4 Patterns



Pattern 1

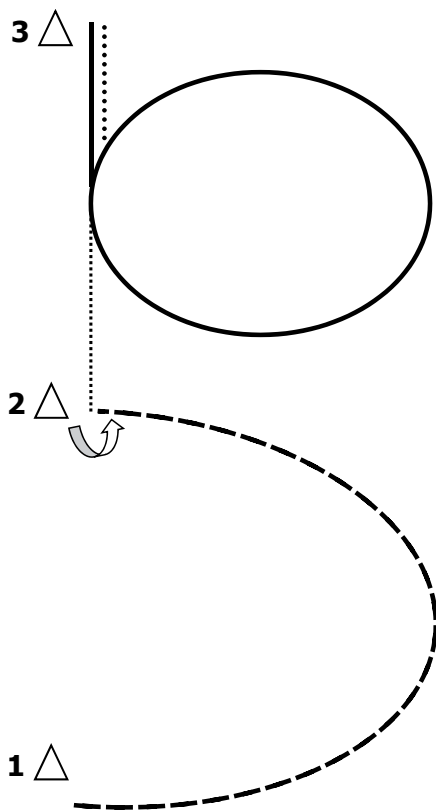
1. Start at Cone 1 and walk half way to Cone 2, then pick up a jog and continue to Cone 2
2. At Cone 2, lope a circle to the right back to Cone 2
3. At Cone 2, stop and pivot 180° to the left
4. Lope a circle to the left
5. Stop at Cone 2 and back
6. Pivot 90° to the right and jog back to line



Pattern 2

1. Walk from Cone 1 to Cone 2
2. Stop at Cone 2 and back 5 steps
3. Jog a circle to the right back to Cone 2
4. At Cone 2 pick up a lope on the left lead and lope a circle to the left
5. Stop at Cone 2 and perform a 180° pivot to the right
6. Jog from Cone 2 back to Cone 1 and stop at Cone 1
7. Jog back to line

Level 4 Patterns (continued)



Pattern 3

1. Start at Cone 1 and jog an arc, stop directly in front of Cone 2
2. Perform a 270° pivot to the left
3. Walk halfway from Cone 2 to Cone 3
4. Pick up the right lead and lope a circle to the right, continue to lope to Cone 3
5. Stop at Cone 3 and back 5 steps
6. Jog back to line





Level 1 – Unmounted Skills

(suitable for any age horse)

Skill	Passed	Comments
Safely approach and halter your horse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brush and touch the entire body on your horse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pick up and clean out all four feet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demonstrate how to safely tie your horse using a slipknot.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Show that your horse can move its forehand and hindquarters away from pressure when asked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demonstrate that your horse can lead by having it walk, trot, stop and back up. Horses should back a minimum of one horse length.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have your horse stand quietly for inspection (stand square or other breed-appropriate stance while the assessor walks around the horse).	<input type="checkbox"/>	

General Comments:

Name _____

Club _____ County _____

Evaluator signature _____ Date _____

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Level 2 – Unmounted Skills

(suitable for yearlings and older)

Skill	Passed	Comments
Demonstrate a showmanship pattern including a pivot (minimum of 180 degrees).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use a halter display that your horse can flex its neck both directions and also give to pressure on the poll.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lunge your horse in both directions at all gaits (walk, trot, canter).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Show that you can halt your horse on the lunge line.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demonstrate your horse's ability to remain calm while being sacked out (desensitized) with various items (plastic bag, blanket, tarp, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Saddle your horse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bridle your horse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

General Comments:

Name _____

Club _____ County _____

Evaluator signature _____ Date _____

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Level 3 – Mounted Skills

(suitable for horses age 2 years and older; horses should be ridden with a snaffle bit (or bosal) with two hands on the reins)

Skill	Passed	Comments
Demonstrate that your horse will stand still and quietly while you mount and dismount.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
While mounted, flex your horse’s neck both directions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Exhibit that you can ride your horse at the walk, jog and lope. Horses must be able to pick up the correct leads for the direction they are going (clockwise – right lead; counter-clockwise – left lead).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Show the ability to turn your horse utilizing direct rein contact (using two hands on the reins, pull with right rein – horse turns right; pull with left rein – horse turns left) at all gaits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Back your horse at least one horse length.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Exhibit both upward and downward transitions between gaits (move from a walk to a jog to a lope; move from a lope to a jog to a walk).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demonstrate the ability to stop your horse from all gaits and have it stand quietly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

General Comments:

Name _____

Club _____ County _____

Evaluator signature _____ Date _____

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Level 4 – Mounted Skills

(suitable for horses age 2 years and older; horses should be ridden with a snaffle bit (or bosal) with two hands on the reins)

Skill	Passed	Comments
Side-pass your horse both directions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perform a pivot on the haunches (move your horse's forehand around its hindquarters – minimum of 180 degrees) in both directions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perform a pivot on the forehand (move your horse's haunches around its forehand – minimum of 90 degrees) in both directions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demonstrate upward transition from the walk to the lope and downward transitions from the lope to the walk and stop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ride a figure eight with a simple lead change (drop to a jog and switch leads).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Be able to extend all gaits (show a lengthening of stride, not an increase in speed).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perform a simple pattern that includes demonstrating all three gaits, at least one circle in each direction, a pivot and backing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

General Comments:

Name _____

Club _____ County _____

Evaluator signature _____ Date _____

Cut along dotted line.

