The Montana Colt to Maturity project book is to be used to guide the Yearling to Maturity project in North Dakota.

The purpose of the Yearling to Maturity project is to give the participant hands-on experience in raising and training a horse, beginning with a yearling and raising it to a five-year old.

The 4-Her must enroll the selected horse in this project as a yearling. Yearling status occurs the 1st of January following the foaling date. This project is over by the end of the horse's 5th year.

Passing the levels identified in the adopted Montana project book completes this project. Showcasing at a county or state fair is not necessary. Levels may be passed at the pace set by the individual 4-Her. The objectives for each level can be assessed (passed/checked off) by any designated leader, coach, or judge appropriately skilled in the 4-H Yearling to Maturity Project. Assessor is to provide a signature and date in the project book of the 4-Her when level is “passed”.

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

This project can be for English horses or western horses.

In regards to the use of professional training, see page 2 of the Montana Colt to Maturity project book.

Demonstration Procedure and Guidelines

For Levels 1-5, patterns are to be developed by demonstration coordinator(s) according to the following guidelines. Questions may be asked of the participants.

Level 1
Horses shown in Level 1 may be shown individually as a showmanship class. Walk, trot, stop, back, turn (minimum 180 degrees), and do show pattern.

- Pick up feet of yearling
- Demonstrate how to stand the yearling square
- Answer basic questions about nutrition and health of the growing horse
- Explain what “conditioning a horse” means
- Explain haltering techniques

Level 2
Horses shown in Level 2 should be direct reined. One rein should be held in each hand. Reins should be bridged. (No additional credit will be given for neck reining.)

- Back horse at least one horse length while mounted
- Mounting and dismounting (with horse standing still)
- Ride your horse at a walk, trot and lope exhibiting proper leads
- Stop horse from a walk and trot
- Ride pattern as determined by show management

Level 3
Horses in Level 3 may be direct reined or neck reined with the snaffle, hackamore or curb. The horses will be evaluated on the quality of their performance without regard for the method of reining.

- Walk, trot, lope, and stop on the rail with correct leads. Be able to extend gaits (lengthen stride of each designated gait)
- Stop horse from a walk, trot, and lope
- Back while mounted
- Simple lead change (drop trot)
- Forehand turns (180 degrees left and right)
- Ride pattern as determined by show management

(Continued on back)
Level 4
Level 4 horses are to be shown with a curb bit. English horses may be shown with a pelham or Weymouth bit.
- Walk, trot, canter and stop from canter on the rail.
- Perform pattern including 3 gaits and 180° pivot on haunch.
- Side pass 6 feet both directions.
- Demonstrate 360° turn on haunch.
- Demonstrate simple lead change (can be part of pattern).

Level 5
The requirements for Level 5 have been designed to bring together all of the elements of the previous years to produce a supple, responsive, athletic horse that can and will perform the patterns smoothly and accurately.
- Walk, trot, canter and stop from canter on the rail.
- Perform a pattern, that includes a stand still to canter transition, two flying lead changes, and two 180° turns on haunch.
- Demonstrate 360° turn both directions on haunch (can be part of pattern).
- Back through 3 cones
- Pattern for the English horse may include jumps.

Faults
The following characteristics are considered faults and will be scored accordingly.
- Unnecessary roughness as determined by the judge.
- Equipment failure that causes an unsafe condition, as determined by the judge.
- Unsoundness as determined by the judge.
- Exhibitors’ failure to control the horse, endangering self or others, as determined by the judge.
- Failure to follow pattern in posted order.