

# Jackson County 4-H Levels Program and Horse Show Guidelines

## Levels Program Description

The Levels program has been developed to ensure 4-H members have the basic skill and knowledge necessary to safely care for their horse, and that the member has the riding skills necessary to safely compete with their horse. The Levels Program is divided into four leaves (divisions):

**Health, Management, Riding, and Safety.** It is the belief of the Equine Council that certain knowledge is fundamental and necessary for a person to remain safe and to keep a horse safe and healthy.



The Levels Program provides education to youth and a safe environment in which the members can compete with other members of their same skill level. The basic thought that governs the Levels Program is that age and skill level are not necessarily the same thing. A Level 1 Beginner is a beginner whether they are eight or eighteen years old. The same basic skills need to be learned by both.

## Levels Program Curriculum and Testing

The Jackson County 4-H Levels Program has three different levels; Level One, Level Two and Level 3. For Level One and Level Two we will be using the Junior Master Horseman materials. There is a youth guide for each level. The youth guides are full of fun age appropriate activities and lessons to help youth learn all about horses. For Level Three we will be using the Nebraska Level Three program materials. Youth please contact your club leader about getting your levels books. The books will be used for instruction, activity guides in club meetings and for individual learning.

### Written/Online Tests for Health, Management and Safety

- Level One and Two

EACH 4-H member who will be working on Level 1 or 2 must create an account on the Junior Master Horseman website at [www.juniormasterhorseman.com](http://www.juniormasterhorseman.com) and join the Jackson County, Missouri 4-H group - **Code JCMO4H**. To create an account, you will click on the option of registering your book. It will ask you for a group code, type in **JCMO4H** and complete the rest of the information. Written testing for Level One and Level Two will take place online on the Junior Master Horseman website. If you have questions, contact Amanda.

- Level Three

For those 4-H members working on Level 3, please use the Nebraska website listed below for your study guide, skills test, record sheet, feeds chart and health care chart. Written tests will be available from Amanda at the Extension Office. Tests must be requested by your club leader or project leader.

### Riding/Skills Tests for ALL Levels

For the riding/skills test portion of the levels program, all levels will use the Nebraska skills test appropriate their level. The skills tests can be found at:

<http://animalscience.unl.edu/ANSC4HHorseProgramAdvancementLevels>

# Jackson County 4-H Levels Program and Horse Show Guidelines

## Testing Requirements

Tests will be scored and any member achieving 70%-79% passes the test and will receive a Bronze Medallion for that testing leaf (division). An 80%-89% score receives a Silver Medallion for the leaf (division). A 90%-100% score receives a Gold Medallion for the leaf (division). The Tests may be taken as many times as necessary to pass.

All of the Level 1 Tests (written and riding) must be passed with a 70% or better score for the member to compete at the County Fair. The only exception to this is members competing in the un-mounted classes, who must complete all except the Riding leaf.

## Levels Horse Show

The Levels Horse Show is a test of the rider's abilities. Therefore each individual will be judged and scored against themselves according to the pattern and number scores assigned to each element of each pattern. Ribbons will be awarded according to the points scored by each individual.

- 90 to 100 percent will receive a Gold Ribbon
  - 80-89 percent will receive a Silver Ribbon
  - 70-79 percent will receive a Bronze Ribbon
  - 0-69 percent will not receive a ribbon
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- **Level 1** = Riders have taken and passed All Level 1 Tests (written and riding). Level 1 is walk, trot/jog, and back.
  - **Level 2** = Riders have taken and passed All Level 1 & 2 written and riding tests. Level 2 is walk, trot/jog, canter/lope, and back.
  - **Level 3** = Riders have taken and passed All Level 1, 2 & 3 written and riding tests, and completed all other components of Level 3. Level 3 is walk, trot/jog, canter/lope, back, and other movements as specified.
  - **Youth Trainer** = horses that are being trained by their 4-H member with no professional training, horse may be shown in the Trainers Classes only and will be judged by the Level 1 expectations. **Rider must have passed Level 2 Testing.** Rider may show a different horse in other classes.

*\*Note: Exhibitors may participate at a Level lower than they have tested, but not higher. Example: An Exhibitor may be showing at Level 3 in Showmanship, or Western Riding, but only in a Level 1 for Dressage, or Hunt Seat. It will be the Leaders responsibility to make sure the Exhibitor is participating in the correct Level for safety.*

## Levels Horse Show Rules

The classes at the Levels Horse Show are equitation classes, the rider is being judged. Horses may be shown according to their breed. For general rules the Missouri 4-H Horsemanship manual will be followed. Saddle Type horses will be judged using the AHSA rules. Stock Type horses will be judged using the AQHA rules.

# Jackson County 4-H Levels Program and Horse Show Guidelines

## Jackson County Missouri 4-H Helmet Policy

All 4-H members must wear a SEI/ ASTM Helmet with a fastened strap, while participating in Jackson County 4-H equine events. Such events include but are not limited to county horse show, levels show, trail rides, parade entries as 4-H representatives, clinics, and 4-H riding lessons etc. Members should wear their helmets while mounted on horse or in cart. Members who disregard these regulations can be asked to dismount and cannot participate until they put on their helmet. The first offense of not wearing a properly fastened helmet will result in a warning, and second offense will result in disqualification for the event or program without refund. **If the event is sponsored by the Jackson County 4-H, then rule applies.**

## Show Attire for Levels Show

The following Show Ring “Uniform” will be used for ALL Western Classes for the levels show.

- Shirts and blouses must be all white, including buttons, thread, etc. with convertible collars (one that is meant to be folded at the seam line and may or may not be buttoned at the base of the neck). Tuxedo, turtleneck or other stand up collars are NOT permitted. A colorful scarf worn around the neck or a necklace is optional.
- Dark blue denim jeans must be worn and a belt is recommended. Heavy contrasting threading and fringes are NOT permitted.
- A western hat or helmet must be worn and should stay on during the performance.

## Prohibited

- Ball caps, or hats other than western.
- Chaps in pleasure, horsemanship, halter and showmanship classes.

English/Saddleseat Classes- standard english/saddleseat show attire.

## Levels Horse Show Class Descriptions –

- Patterns will be provided at the show for all classes.
  - Patterns for Level One and Level Two classes can be found online at the Jackson County 4-H website.
- 1) **Showmanship** – Class that involves a person on the ground leading a horse, wearing a halter or bridle, through a series of maneuvers called a pattern. The horse itself is not judged on its conformation. Rather, the exhibitor is judged on how well he or she exhibits the animal to its best advantage.
  - 2) **Bareback**- May be either Western or English. Use of the appropriate bridle is required.
    - Level 1 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Come in and line up.
    - Level 2 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Come in and line up.

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- Level 3 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Line up at one end. Riders will be ask to execute a simple pattern that will include large circles, a figure 8, and either a turn on the forehand or a turn on the haunches.
- 3) **Tandem-** May be either Western or English. Front rider will guide the horse. Rear rider will keep hands lightly on the front riders hips (on the outside of any jacket or vest) – on or at the belt (do not hook fingers into the belt or belt loops). Matching attire is recommended.
- Level 1 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Come in and line up.
  - Level 2 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, **riders will be ask to switch places**, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Come in and line up.
  - Level 3 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, **riders will be ask to switch places**, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Line up at one end. Riders will be ask to execute a simple pattern that will include large circles, a figure 8, and either a turn on the forehand or a turn on the haunches.
- 4) **Trail-** This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement.
- 5) **Western Horsemanship-** Class is designed to evaluate the rider’s ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.
- 6) **Reining-** To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely.
- 7) **Pairs** – May be either Western or English. Riders are expected to perform their movements in unison. To be judged on their ability to match pace, start together, turn together, stop together, back together, and perform all movement together. Matching attire is highly recommended.
- Level 1 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Come in and line up.
  - Level 2 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Come in and line up.

# Jackson County 4-H Levels Program and Horse Show Guidelines

- Level 3 is walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail, reverse, walk on the rail, trot/jog on the rail, canter/lope on the rail, stop and back on the rail. Line up at one end. Riders will be ask to execute a simple pattern that will include large circles, a figure 8, and either a turn on the forehand or a turn on the haunches.
- 8) **Pau de Dux-** This class is based on the classical horse movements ‘The Dance of Two’. May be either Western or English. Riders will be expected to execute a pattern that they have created and which will last no longer than 3 minutes. The use of music is optional. Matched attire is highly recommended. This class will be judged on: correct execution of the pattern that is turned into the Judge, choreography, elements as appropriate to the Level, beauty, and correctness of horse and rider.
- Level 1 will contain the following elements:
    - a) walk,
    - b) trot/jog
    - c) one or more stops
    - d) one or more backs
    - e) one or more reverses
    - f) one or more of the following; circle, figure eight, serpentines
  - Level 2 will contain the following elements:
    - a) walk
    - b) trot/jog
    - c) canter/lope
    - d) one or more stops
    - e) one or more backs
    - f) one or more reverses
    - g) four or more of the following; circle, figure eight, serpentines, turn on the haunches, turn on the forehands, spins, rollbacks, sliding stops, collected trot/jog, collected canter/lope, extended trot/jog, extended canter/lope, etc
  - Level 3 will contain the Level 2 elements and 6 instead of 4 of the g) elements. Level 3 will be judged more harshly for correctness, fluidity, choreography, and accuracy in adhering to the submitted pattern.
- 9) **Hunt Seat Equitation-** In equitation competition, *flat classes* (those that do not including jumping) can include judging at the walk, trot, and canter (for Level 2, Level 3 and Youth Trainer) possibly in both directions.
- 10) **Equitation Over Fences-** Will be evaluated on the rider’s ability over the fences, not the horses. Only the effect the rider has on the horse is to be considered. How a rider elects to ride the course, the pace and approach to the jumps are used to evaluate the rider’s judgment and ability.
- Level 1 is walk, trot, and cavalitie work.
  - Level 2 is 18” solid bars, cross bars and ground poles.
  - Level 3 is 24” solid bars, cross bars and ground poles.

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**11) Saddle Seat Equitation-** Saddle seat is style of English riding that differs considerably from other styles such as hunt seat and dressage. To the casual observer the rider sits well back in the saddle, carrying his or her hands higher than in other disciplines.

**12) Dressage-** Rider will declare their own test .

From the AHSA Rules Article 1918. Tests for Dressage Competitions.

- Level 1 = Training Level. To confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose, and that it moves freely forward in clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit.
- Level 2 = First Level. To confirm that the horse in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed thrust (push power) and achieved a degree of balance and thoroughness.
- Level 3 = Second Level. To confirm that the horse, having demonstrated that it has achieved the thrust (push power) required in First Level, now shows that through additional training it accepts more weight on the hind quarters (collection), shows the thrust required at medium paces, and is reliably on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, thoroughness, and self-carriage is required.

*Updated 2/12/2015*



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