



4-H Horse Safety Testing

Wyoming 4-H

4-H Horse Safety Testing

Horse Safety Testing Overview

All youth must complete certification process on each and every horse they will compete with at a 4-H sponsored or endorsed horse event, along with corresponding endorsements for each horse. **This includes youth who have previously passed the level 1 test.**



Horse Safety Testing should be interactive and a fun learning experience!

Testing is broken down into four different sections. Each section builds on the skill and ability of the youth and the horse and **must** be completed in order. Example: Section 1 must be completed before Section 2A, which must be completed before section 2B, before anything in Section 3 can be completed.

- Section 1 – Completion by youth intending to compete with a horse (Done one time per youth)
- Section 2A – Completed by youth that doesn't intend to ride but will compete in competition classes such as halter and showmanship
- Section 2B – Completed

by youth intending to ride for competition classes such as reining, equitation, pleasure, etc.

- Section 3 – Specific endorsements for classes involving speed or external items. Just like people, each horse has its own personality, likes and dislikes, and may or may not be safe for a youth to do certain competitive events. For each event, they are required to pass off the associated endorsement. There are four endorsements available: Trail, Speed/Cattle (barrels, poles, goat tying, cattle boxing, etc.), Jumping (hunter hack, dressage, etc.), Roping.

Inside this issue:

Section 1	2
Safety Zones	2
Proper Attire	2
Section 2A—Groundwork	3
Section 2B—Riding	3
Section 2B, Cont.	4
Endorsements	4

Special points of interest:

- Horse ID Sheets no longer need to be filled out.
- The Extension Office will not keep any Lease Agreements.
- More than one family member can use the same horse.
- Youth only take Section 1 once, but the other sections must be completed on each horse the youth wishes to show.

How to study for the Horse Levels Test

It is recommended that you be familiar with the Horse Project manual. This manual covers everything that will be covered in the safety testing and more. Project manuals may be ordered at the Extension Office or through the University of Wyoming 4

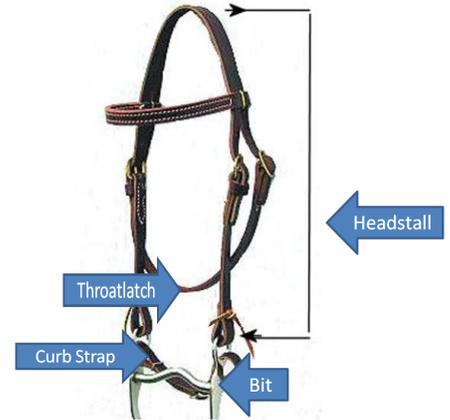
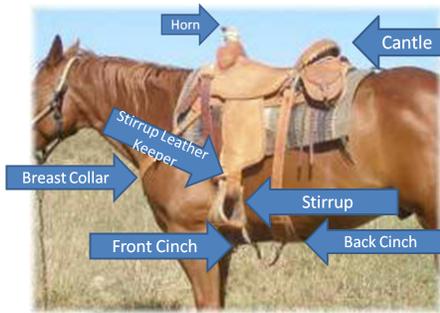
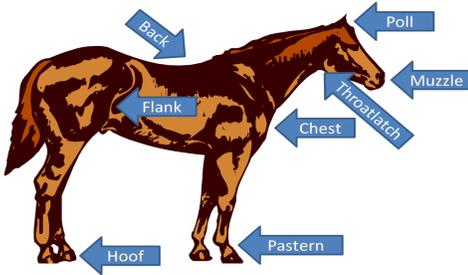
-H website. Youth may also use this study guide as a resource.

To prepare for Sections 2A, 2B, and 3 time spent working with your horse will be very important. Having a parent that can help study

on safe horsemanship practices is also a great help. Experience is often the best teacher so time spent working with your horse will show. If you have specific questions you can always contact your horse leader or the Extension Office.

Section 1

This section will evaluate the youth's knowledge of safety when working with any horse. After Section 1 is completed, the youth will not have to complete it again, even if certifying another horse. The information in the following diagrams will be on Section 1.



Safety Zones

Show and explain the safety zones when being around a horse.

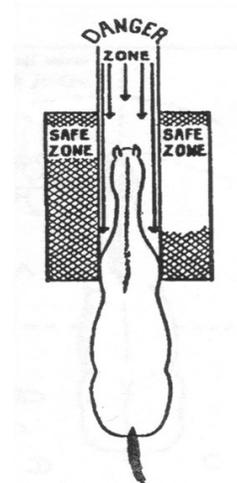
Youth should explain two methods of safely moving around the horse.

1. Walk way out around the horse at a safe distance as to not be kicked.
2. Place one hand on the horse, and walk behind while keeping hand on the horse and talking to it.
3. Always walk behind the horse unless it is cross-tied.

Youth will identify and explain safe locations to tie a horse.

1. Tie to a secure object such as a post.
2. The halter rope should be secured so that the horse cannot walk up and down the fence, trailer, etc.

Proper knots and tying procedures may be found in the horse project manual.



Proper Attire

Boots are an important part of safety when working around horses. Boots must have closed toes and heels. They should be made out of a sturdy material such as leather. Boots should have a heel on them to prevent the foot from slipping through the stirrup. Boots must have a slick sole. Some of the more fashionable styles of boots have a rubber or crepe sole, which can become

“stuck” in the stirrup during a riding accident. It is also important to remember that when riding you are exposed to the sun. On the day of the horse show and for testing you should wear appropriate horse show attire, consisting jeans or riding pants, a long sleeved shirt, and western hat or helmet. More information on horse show attire is given in the horse project manual.



Closed toe boots with a heel and smooth, hard soles are considered necessary and appropriate.

Section 2A—Groundwork

Section 2A specifically asks youth to demonstrate safe handling of the horse from the ground. Evaluation of both the youth's knowledge **and** how safe the horse is to handle.

Upon completion of 2A, youth may participate in halter, liberty, ground obstacles and showmanship classes.

Catching the Horse

- Make sure halter is ready. Keep halter rope from dragging on the ground.
- Approach horse at an angle from the left side near the throatlatch. Talk to the horse while approaching so it knows you are there.
- Put the halter rope around the

horses neck, near the ears to keep the horse from leaving.

- Put the halter on and adjust correctly.

Leading

- Stand on the left side near the throatlatch.
- Push the halter rope forward and walk at the horse's throatlatch. Make sure the horse walks with you. Don't run ahead or lag behind.
- Be sure the halter rope is in a figure 8 in the hand. It should not be looped or coiled in a way that the hand can be caught if the horse spooks.

Tying – Should be done a minimum of twice in order to pass off.

- Be sure to find a safe, secure object to tie to.
- Tie the horse about shoulder height.
- The rope from the horse to the post should be about the length of the horse's neck...not too long or too short.
- A proper quick release, or manger knot, must be used. (It can be found in the Wyoming 4-H Horse Manual.)



Section 2A Continued

The feet

Demonstrate how to correctly pick up a front foot and demonstrate/explain how to pick up a rear foot

- Face the hindquarters of the horse
- Put your hand that is closest to the horse, on the shoulder or hindquarters and run it down the leg
- Ask the horse to pick up its foot while squeezing the tendon or fetlock area.

Clean the foot using a hoof pick.

- The hoof pick should be in the

back pocket while the hoof is picked up

- The hoof should be held in the hand closest to the horse, while the other hand operates the pick
- Be sure to pick away from your body

Controlling the horse from the ground

- Safely change sides of the horse
- While the horse is standing still, move from one side of the horse to the other safely.

- Back the horse- (suggested a horse length)
- Turn and face the horse. Push his nose into his chest and ask him to back up. Handler should stay at the side in the safe zone.
- Turn to face another direction
- Always turn the horse away from you as to avoid being stepped on.
- Trot the horse- (suggested arena length)



Section 2B—Riding

This section evaluates the youth's knowledge of these safety actions, as well as whether or not the horse is safe enough for the youth to ride. Youth may only complete this section if they have completed all tasks in Sections 1 and 2A. Upon completion of Section 2B, youth may participate in most horse show events, except speed events, cattle/roping events, trail, or jumping events.

Correctly change from the halter to the bridle

- The horse should not be tied during this process
- Remove the halter and place around the neck
- Then put the bridle on before removing the halter
- Bridle adjustment areas to check and explain: throatlatch, curb

strap, bit, etc.

Clean the back and girth for safe saddling using the proper grooming equipment

- These are the key areas to ensure there is no dust, mud, or stickers to keep your horse safe

Section 2B Continued

Demonstrate proper saddling and adjustments

- Check saddle blanket for foreign objects.
- Secure front cinch first, then back cinch, then breast collar.
- Tack should be adjusted for proper fit, including: placement on back, cinch, back cinch, breast collar

(Many youth will not be physically strong enough to saddle on their own. However, they should be able to explain how to do it correctly.)

- Explain and adjust equipment for proper fit for rider and horse: stirrup length, rein length, saddle size, etc.

Show and explain proper mounting and dismounting as shown in the Wyoming 4-H Horse Manual

- Smaller youth may need help mounting and dismounting, but they should explain how to do it correctly.

Controlling the horse

- Ride at a controlled walk in a full circle both directions. Stop the horse.
- Ride at a controlled trot in a full circle in both directions. Stop the horse.
- Ride at a controlled lope in a full circle in both directions. Stop the horse.
- Back the horse while mounted-

(suggested a horse length)

- Use direct (plow) rein or in-direct (neck) rein to turn the horse to the right and left.



A red tail flag means a horse that will kick! Give space and use proper caution.

Section 3—Endorsements

None of this section can be passed off until the youth has completed sections 1, 2A, and 2B. A youth can select which endorsement that they would like to pass off on each horse. Some horses may only be passed off for a speed endorsement, while others may have all four. Youth can add additional endorsements for a horse with the assistance of a trained, key horse leader.

If a youth adds an additional endorsement, they need to be sure the 4-H leader initials their Horse Safety Card and turns in the certification form into the Extension Office.

Roping

- This endorsement requires the completion of three tasks. It could be administered with or without the use of cattle.
- Youth must safely swing and throw a loop multiple times while mounted on their horse that is standing still
- Youth must safely swing and throw a loop multiple times while mounted on their horse that is moving.
- Youth must safely demonstrate and explain dallying around the saddle horn.
- 4-H leaders will evaluate proper hand setting and rope handling

techniques.

- This endorsement would enable youth to participate in classes such as dummy roping, team roping, breakaway, etc.

Speed/Cattle

- This endorsement requires the completion of three tasks. These could be passed off with or without the use of barrels, poles or goats.
- Youth must be able to demonstrate a controlled gallop –which is normally faster than a lope.
- Youth must be able to repeatedly turn their horse while galloping.
- Youth must repeatedly demonstrate a controlled stop from a gallop.
- 4-H leaders will evaluate youth on the control, stopping ability and body position when completing tasks at a high speed.
- This endorsement would enable youth to participate in classes such as barrels, poles, goat tying, key hole, cattle boxing, working cow, cutting, etc.

Trail

- This endorsement requires the completion of three tasks. Leaders will need a gate, a bridge, and ground and weave poles to com-

plete.

While mounted, a youth must:

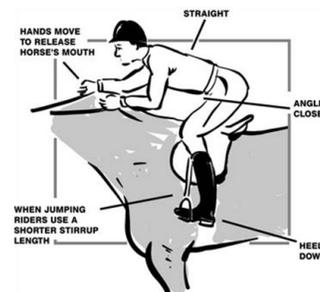
- Open, pass through, and close a gate (letting go of gate is acceptable for safety certification)
- Cross a bridge
- Weave between and cross over poles.

Jumping

- This endorsement requires the completion of two tasks.

Youth must:

- Be able to cue their horse to jump while in motion
- Repeatedly show proper body position of rider while on horse landing from jumping.
- Leader will not evaluate how well the horse jumps just that is does in a safe manner, does not refuse jumping and the youth is able to hold a safe body position while completing the jumps.



MODIFICATION OF THE RIDER'S SEAT FOR JUMPING POSITION OF RIDER DURING LAST THREE STRIDES OF A JUMP