

Allegan County 4-H Horse Notebook Guidelines

A notebook of this type should be a reference book that should be added to each year. It is to provide information that is helpful. Each leader should encourage each member to participate in putting together a notebook.

Pages should be numbered and put in protective covering.

1. Loose leaf reference notebook to be used for ten years and to be cumulative and organized according to the outline listed under “Yearly Requirements”.
2. A notebook **must** have (in this order):
 - a) Decorative cover
 - b) Title page (*must have title, name, club, year in project*)
 - c) Table of Contents or Index
 - d) Current year personal story and pictures. (*Should include: name, age, school, grade, family, pets, description of horse/pony, what was learned in the project this year, other projects, club activities, non 4-H activities and goals.*)
 - e) Horse & Pony Feed & Care Record and Stable Record Card (4-H 1072 & 4-H 1073)
(*12 months required September 1-August 31*)
 - f) Yearly requirements:
 - Reports pertaining to subject (all articles from magazines must have a summary of what you learned from it.)
 - Diagrams, pictures drawn or cut out.
 - Samples or collections and they must be attached to the notebook.
3. A notebook should be neat and clean.
 - a) All reports can be in longhand, typed or done on computer.
 - b) Notebooks **must** be indexed by years and have dividers between each year and new numbering sequence.
 - c) Pages should be neatly arranged, numbered and in **protective covering**.
 - d) Pages should be written so they are easily read.
4. Notebooks should start with the member’s current year in the 4-H Horse Project and then added in as desired. (Example: 4th year member starts with 4th year notebook requirements and may add in earlier year requirements as desired.)
5. The Horsemaster program compliments the notebook and doing a notebook helps a member with the Horsemaster Program.
6. List yearly requirements from Score Sheets. (similar to old guidelines)
7. A Leader comment sheet should be utilized for young participants, special needs or special comments.

Yearly Requirements

First Year:

- 10 parts of the horse
 - Identification of proper feeds
 - How to properly tie a horse
 - 10 safety precautions
 - Proper grooming tools (*examples*)
 - Parts of a saddle and bridle
 - 2 horse colors (*picture & description*)
 - 1 breed of horse (*picture & characteristics*)
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Second Year:

- 20 parts of the horse
 - How to bridle, saddle and mount
 - Proper care of the feet
 - Care of an overheated horse
 - Proper care and use of equipment
 - Parasites (*2 internal & 2 external*)
 - 1 first aid application
 - 2 more colors of a horse (*picture & description*)
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Third Year:

- 3 breeds of horses
 - 3 gaits of horses
 - 4 face & leg markings (*pictures & descriptions*)
 - 33 parts of the horse
 - Parts of the hoof
 - Proper feed requirements for your horse
 - Safe housing & fencing
 - When to call a vet
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Fourth Year:

- 3 more breeds of horses
 - 3 first aid applications
 - Describe care of teeth
 - Preventive shots & worming
 - How to improve your horsemanship
 - Horse show grooming
 - 5 unsoundnesses & 5 blemishes
 - 2 more colors of horses (*picture & description*)
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Fifth Year:

- How to buy & store feed and grain
 - Proper barn & pasture management
 - Feeds & feeding of horses at different ages
 - 2 more horse breeds
 - How to transport a horse safely
 - Techniques of lounging and ground driving
 - Mare care during gestation
 - Halter breaking a foal
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Sixth Year:

- 3 examples of judging conformation
 - Describe 3 examples of judging a pleasure horse (*i.e. headset, rein length*)
 - Describe 2 different ways of riding (*hunt seat, western, etc.*)
 - 4 examples of poisonous plants
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Seventh Year:

- 10 horse behavior gestures (*pining ears, spooking*)
 - Muscle structure of a horse
 - Describe horse's visual sight
 - 5 bits and proper use
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Eighth Year:

- How to start a young horse in riding
 - Details on how to manage your own stable
 - Cost of feed, veterinarian, insurance, etc.
 - Selecting a mare & sire for breeding
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Ninth Year:

- Describe 5 horse related professions (*include education, salaries, job availability*)
 - Conduct an interview with a horse professional.
 - Describe what business area you would choose.
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Tenth Year:

- A complete analysis of your years in the 4-H horse project. (*include what activities were meaningful to you and how you feel about the knowledge you have acquired and your evaluation of the 4-H Horse Program, good or bad.*)