177 Horse Training: How to Talk to Your Horse
Intermediate Level

This intermediate-level project may be taken a maximum of 2 years. Members have two (2) options to complete this book in its entirety.

Members do not need to purchase a new book each year. Instead, they will need to complete additional items under each interest area. Keep all of these activities in a notebook.

Members must have access to at least a yearling animal for their first year in the project and a two-year old or older to complete the book their second/third year. Members may choose, but are not required to, take this book in correspondence with a 4-H Production project. The production yearling can be used to complete the first year’s requirements and can be used to finish the book the next year as a two-year old. If the production animal is sold before the second year, the member can use a mature horse to complete the project.

General Guidelines

1. Complete “Planning Your Project” supplement
   a. Explore Interest Areas as outlined below completing at least five (5) Things to Do in each required area.
   b. Document all completed Things to Do in your project notebook (3 ring binder). This notebook should be cumulative and contain documentation of all completed Things to Do for each year of the project.
   c. Take part in at least two (2) Learning Experiences.
   d. Become involved in at least two (2) leadership/Citizenship Activities.
   e. Write a one page report telling about what you have done and learned in this project.

2. View accompanying Basic Horse Training DVD

3. Complete the Equine Record Book (R190)

4. Bring to Interview Judging
   b. Project notebook.
   c. One page report.
   d. Equine Record Book.
5. **Option 1: Two Year Plan**
   a. Year One: Weanlings and Yearlings (use yearling for all demonstrations)
      i. Training: How Do I Talk to My Horse (p 7-20)
      ii. Training: Developing a Partnership with Your Horse (p 20-48)
         1. Yearlings
         2. Methods to Develop Respect and Control on the Ground
         3. Leading Refined
         4. Trailer Loading: Getting on is Okay
   b. Year Two: 2-Year Olds and Older (use 2-year-old or older for all demonstrations)
      i. Training: Developing a Partnership with Your Horse (p 48-87)
         1. Training the Two-Year-Old, the Three-Year-Old (or the Older Horse)
         2. The Basic Aids of Mounted Training
         3. Counter Cues
         4. Logs, Gates, Leads, and Flying Changes
         5. Common Horse Behavior Problems

6. **Option 2: One Year Plan**
   a. This whole book can be completed in one year by either using a yearling and a mature horse or by using a mature horse alone. Even if a horse is broke to ride, reviewing ground training is always a good idea. Mature horses and ponies can stand harder work and often learn quicker.
   b. Members taking both a production and a riding animal may also choose to take this project in one year, using each horse or pony under its appropriate section.
   c. **Members who choose to complete the book in its entirety in one year must have each section finished by judging.**

7. **Fair exhibit**
   a. For completion of this project, your horse may be exhibited at the Tuscarawas County Fair. If your horse is not exhibited, an educational display or 14” W x 22” H poster illustrating and describing some aspect of your project must be present in your club’s fair booth.
Supplemental Member Project Guide: 177 Horse Training

General Project Guidelines

1. Complete the “Planning Your Project” section of this guide

2. Explore Interest Areas
   a. Option One
      i. Year 1: Explore “Weanling and Yearling” Interest Area, completing at least five (5) Things To Do
      ii. Year 2: Explore “Two-Year-Old” Interest Area, completing at least five (5) Things To Do
   b. Option Two
      i. Explore all interest areas, completing at least five (5) Things To Do in each area.

3. Take Part in at least two (2) Project Learning Experiences.

4. Become involved in at least two (2) Leadership/Citizenship activities.

5. Write a one-page report telling what was done and learned through this project.

6. Have access to a horse.

Planning Your Project
Step 1: Interest Areas

Explore Interest Areas in accordance to options listed above. As you begin to explore or re-explore an Interest Area, place the current date (mo./yr.) next to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Started (mo./yr.)</th>
<th>Interest Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Training Procedures for Weanlings and Yearlings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(pages 7-48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Training Procedures for Two-Year-Olds (pages 48-87)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tuscarawas County 4-H Guidelines – 177 Horse Training: How to Talk to Your Horse
Revised November 2014
Step 2: Things to Do

Within each of the Interest Areas, place a check mark next to the five (5) activities you plan to do. Activities may be added or changed at any time. Have your parent or advisor initial and date what you complete. Place completed activities in your project notebook.

1. Training Procedures for Weanlings and Yearlings (pages 7-48)
   - Demonstrate gentling techniques used on foals.
   - Demonstrate your ability to lead your foal.
   - Back your foal 4 lengths.
   - Enter your foal in a show.
   - Tie your foal using correct safety procedures.
   - Set your foal up squarely and stand.
   - Keep a health record of your horse.
   - Demonstrate lounging at a walk, trot, and canter both ways on the correct lead. Show a stop and rest on the lounge line.
   - Back your horse on the lounge line.
   - Explain common problems and how to handle them in teaching your horse to lounge. Lounge your horse using driving lines.
   - Demonstrate how to teach your horse to lead into a trailer.
   - Enter your yearling in a show.
   - Start to canter from a walk on the correct lead on the lounge line.
   - Start to canter from a trot on the correct lead on the lounge line.
   - Back your yearling 6 lengths.
   - Show the proper way to use a chain lead and explain why.
   - Describe the damages that can occur to a young horse if over worked

2. Training Procedures for the Two-Year Old (pages 48-87)
   - Demonstrate how to "sack the horse out".
   - Demonstrate lounging with the saddle and bridle.
   - Demonstrate how to set the horse’s head.
   - Demonstrate driving your horse while saddled and bridled.
   - Demonstrate the safe and correct way to saddle your two-year-old.
   - Write a report on different bits and their uses.
   - Have someone from a tack show visit your club and give a talk on bits and biting.
   - Show how to fit a bit correctly in a horse’s mouth.
   - Demonstrate how to mount a young horse for the first time.
   - Demonstrate a walk, trot, and canter while riding a two year old.
   - Demonstrate how to teach your horse to neck rein.
   - Demonstrate a stop and back your horse 4 lengths.
   - Demonstrate how to teach your horse to bend.
   - Using your Uniform 4-H Rule Book, describe the correct bitting for showing a two- to four-year-old horse in a snaffle or hackamore.
Step 3: Learning Experiences

Take part in at least two (2) of the sample Learning Experiences listed below. Plan your involvement in the chart (Report of Learning Experiences) provided. Before starting your project, enter your two (2) choices in the section labeled “Plan to Take Part In.” Then, once you have taken part in an activity record what you did and when. Learning Experiences may be added or changed at any time.

**Sample Learning Experiences**

- Demonstration
- Illustrated Talk
- Project Meetings
- Speech
- Exhibit
- Judging Team
- County Fair Judging
- Production Show
- Radio/TV Presentation
- Farm Tour
- Horse Camp
- Field Trip

**Report of Learning Experiences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan to Take Part In</th>
<th>What I Did</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Example) Clinic</td>
<td>Attended program at fairgrounds on training procedure for weanling horses.</td>
<td>5/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 4: Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Plan to do at least two (2) Leadership/Citizenship activities. Keep track of your progress by dating (mo./yr.) what you completed. Leadership/Citizenship activities may be added or changed at any time.

- Teach someone to tie a foal using correct safety procedures.
- Encourage someone to join your Club.
- Help someone decide which horse project to take.
- Arrange for your club to go on a tour.
- Have someone visit your club and speak about horses.
- Serve as a club officer.
- Help coach or assist with a Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, or Hippology Team.
- Help someone with his/her horse project.
- Help at a 4-H horse show.
- Write a news story about your club.
- Get sponsors for a 4-H horse show.
- Teach younger members riding skills at a club workout.