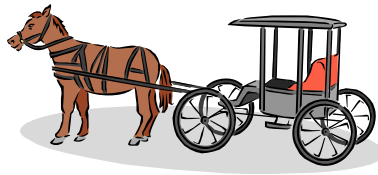
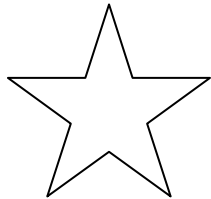


# 4-H MINIATURE HORSE DRIVING PROJECT



**This manual is a revision of the Montana State 4-H Horse Driving Project manual to be used for the Missoula County Miniature Horse Driving projects. March 2009**

## GENERAL RULES

*A member may start a driving project concurrent with horsemanship 1 as long as they are evaluated by a qualified horse committee member before the start of the project and member may progress to higher levels as deemed by the evaluator.*

- A. An uncontrolled horse will be immediately dismissed from the ring with assistance, if necessary. The judge or horse committee may excuse from competition any unruly or uncontrolled horse or improper or unsafe vehicle or equipment.**
- B. The age of the horse for Missoula County 4-H miniature horse driving project, may start ground driving at two (2) on up but no horses in cart before the age of three (3).**
- C. In case of a runaway, all other drivers will stop and listen to headers, ring steward or judge for directions.**
- D. Breakdowns are allowed five (5) minutes for repairs. If the animal is under control, other exhibitors may walk their animals or stand in center with headers until the class starts again.**
- E. Slower animals are encouraged to work “on the rail” on outside track, allowing faster horses to pass on the inside.**
- F. Large classes may be divided by show committee or judge.**
- G. Qualified headers 18 or older are mandatory for levels 1-2, and must ride with driver at these levels. Levels 3-4 a riding header is optional, but if chooses not to ride with member the header must be in the center of the arena ready to be used if needed. Headers may not touch the animal except in an emergency.**
- H. Use of both hands on reins is mandatory.**

**I. Helmet is mandatory in the driving projects.**

**J. Whips are optional.**

**Driving;**

- 1. Class procedures; Horses enter to the right (counter clockwise) at a walk. They will then work at the level of class they are in**
  - A. Ground driving –walk**
  - B. Level two –BASIC DRIVING-walk in cart**
  - C. Level three-INTERMEDIATE DRIVING- walk and slow trot in cart**
  - D. Level four- ADVACED DRIVING-walk, slow and extended trot in cart**

All classes will be worked both directions of the ring.

- 2. Extreme speed and/or extreme high action due to length of foot, pads, and/or weighted shoes will be penalized.**
- 3. Reverse is executed on the diagonal at a walk or working trot (depending on level) from a designated corner at the direction of the ringmaster or judge.**
- 4. Drivers must line up in the center of the ring at the direction of the judge. Horses must stand quietly in line. Headers are mandatory but must stand five (5) feet in front of horse and not touch the animal except in an emergency. Horses must back readily four (4) steps.**
- 5. Horses will be shown on the rail except when passing or reversing.**
- 6. Slower animals should use the outside track.**
- 7. Drivers must maintain sensitive contact with horse's mouth at all times.**

**BASIS OF JUDGING; The pleasure driving horse should have basically the same general qualities as the pleasure saddle horse. Special emphasis is placed on the walk and the pleasurability of the ride for the driver. The horse should be in balance with a head and neck carriage typical of its breed or type, should be light-mouthed, and have a free way of moving. At all gaits, it must work in form (i.e. head held quietly, mouth closed, and legs working beneath itself). The traces should be steady at all times, demonstrating consistency of forward motion and that the horse is pulling from the traces, not from the mouth or saddle. Erratic movements are highly undesirable. Hesitation or breaking stride will be penalized.**

**70% on manners, performance, condition, style, and way of going.**

**20% on fit, condition, and appropriateness of harness and vehicle**

**10% on driver's neatness and grooming of horse.**

Members enrolling in this project area should have the basic equipment necessary for driving and access to a suitable animal. Members may enroll in each level as many times as they wish and may progress according to their interest and ability. Before advancing to the next level, the member's and the horse's skills will be assessed by designated leader(s). This assessment should not be viewed as a test, but as a way of assessing whether both horse and member have mastered all the skills necessary to go on to the next level. Many members will not advance beyond the first or second levels and there should be no special distinction between levels as far as youth development is concerned. Most project levels will be on a project year basis, but progression should not necessarily be limited to this.

All new Driving Project members must enroll in Level 1, but experienced youth will rapidly advance on to the higher levels.

Each level will have a short workbook that will be completed as the members work on learning the skills required for that particular level. These workbooks will become reference sources to the members as they advance through the levels and begin teaching their skills to the less experienced members.

## **Level 1-Ground Driving**

You must complete the Introduction and three beginning horsemanship levels before beginning the Driving Project. Date completed these: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Section 1- YOUR HORSE**

Describe the horse you will be using for this project. Include age, and training it has had prior to becoming a Driving Project animal. \_\_\_\_\_

---



---

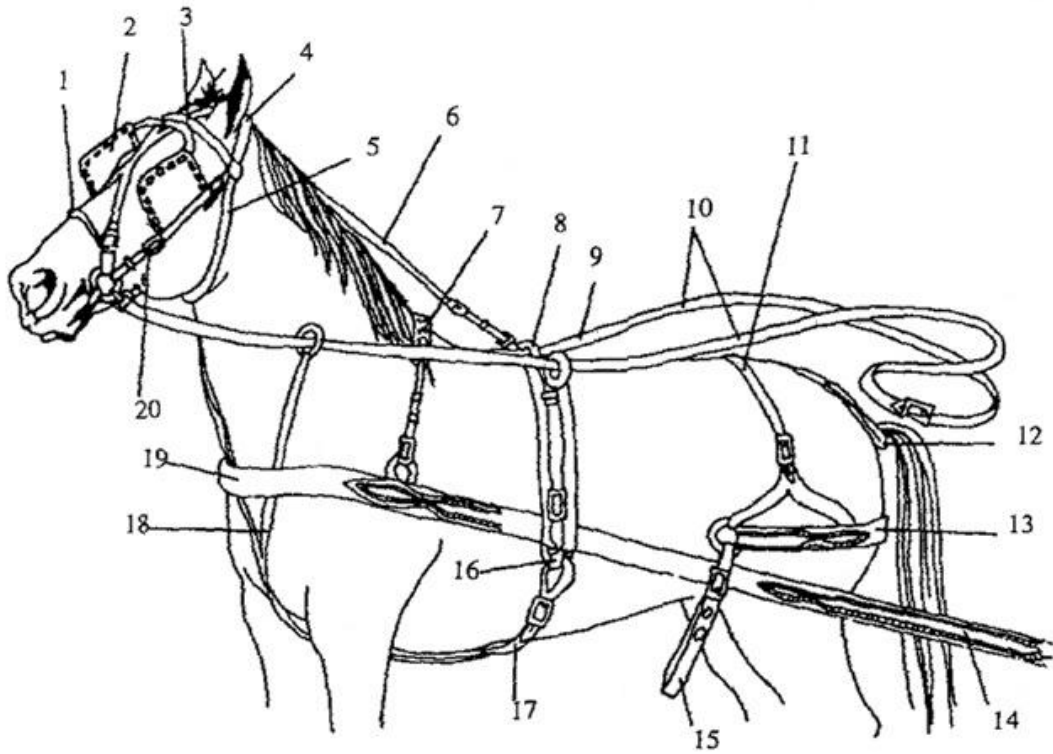


---



---

**Section 2-Label the parts of the harness.**



- |          |           |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  | 11. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  | 12. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  | 13. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  | 14. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ | 20. _____ |

**Section 3- DRIVING**

A. Name five (5) ways a driving horse can be used.

---

---

---

---

---

B. Driving horses are controlled by your hands and your voice. What are the cues you will use to turn your horse:

- To the left?
- To the right?
- To stop?
- To start?
- To speed up?
- To slow down?

**Section 4- PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

**DATE**

**LEADER**

A. Demonstrate haltering and leading your horse safely at a walk.

---

---

B. Demonstrate and explain how to harness your horse. Due to size of some members, an adult may assist with this portion. The member must be able to explain the process.

---

---

C. Ground drive horse in a simple pattern to include a circle, figure 8, a stop and backing up 4 steps and then move forward on command. Member should use appropriate cues.

---

---

D. Demonstrate the proper way to hold lines  
With a whip  
Without a whip

---

---

---

---

E. Walk between ground poles

---

---

F. Complete fair interview prior to fair

---

---

## **Section 5- GROUND DRIVING CLASS**

Members exhibit their horses individually at a walk. A pattern should be posted prior to the class. The pattern may include but not limited to:

- A walk on the rail
- A stop from a walk
- A back between objects
- A serpentine
- A figure 8
- Stand for five (5) seconds or more

Proper harnessing and correct driving techniques. The driver should be able to maintain contact and use correct driving techniques. You will be judged:

- 75% on handling of lines and whip and control and performance of pattern
- 25% on proper harnessing, condition of harness and neatness of exhibitor and horse

## **LEVEL 2 BASIC DRIVING**

### **Project objectives:**

- Begin learning to drive a horse in cart
- Begin learning to teach a horse to drive while hitched to a suitable vehicle

**The 4-H member enrolled in this project should have the opportunity to drive a horse that has been trained to drive before beginning to train a horse not experienced in driving**

### **Section 1-PROJECT GOALS**

- A. Describe you cart, wagon or conveyance.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. What do you hope to learn in level 2 and why?

### **Section 2- EQUIPMENT**

- A. Is your cart in safe condition? How do you know?

- B. What type of bit are you using and why?
- C. What kind of harness are you using and why?
- D. How long are your lines?
- E. How do you check your harness for wear and why?

**Section 3-DRIVING**

- A. What can you do if your horse refuses to stand still for harnessing?
- B. Describe four safety rules to follow while harnessing and hitching your horse.
- C. Where is the best place to harness and hitch your horse the first several times you work with him?

**EVENTS PARTICIPATED IN** (minimum of three events such as workshops, clinics, tours, shows, etc... at any level)

1.

2.

3.

**Section 5- PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

**DATE**

**LEADER**

- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| A. Demonstrate how to safely harness and hitch a horse. May use an assistant.  | _____ | _____ |
| B. Discuss the basic steps in training a horse to pull a cart or wagon.        | _____ | _____ |
| C. Demonstrate safe entrance to cart.  | _____ | _____ |
| D. Demonstrate correct driving position- body, hands and legs.                 | _____ | _____ |
| E. At a walk, drive a serpentine   | _____ | _____ |
| F. At a walk, drive a figure 8   | _____ | _____ |
| G. Demonstrate how to properly reverse directions in an arena.                 | _____ | _____ |
| H. Stand quietly for up to two minutes.  | _____ | _____ |
| I. Walk a serpentine of five cones   | _____ | _____ |
| J. Walk with wheels between ground poles                                       | _____ | _____ |
| K. Walk with a wheel between ground pole                                       | _____ | _____ |
| L. Stopping at markers, back a given distance<br>Stand for 20 seconds or more. | _____ | _____ |
| M. Complete project interview prior to fair                                    | _____ | _____ |



**Section 3-DRIVING**

A. List 10 safety guidelines you use when driving.

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

B. Define the following terms:

- Combined driving
  
- Roadster
  
- Docking a wagon
  
- Western country pleasure

**Section 4-PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

**Date**

**Leader**

- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| A. Drive a simple precision driving course<br>That includes;<br>Trotting a figure eight using cones to<br>Mark the centers of each loop. | _____ | _____ |
| B. Demonstrate gait transitions from a walk to a<br>Controlled trot, back to a walk and finally a stop                                   | _____ | _____ |
| C. Demonstrate maneuvers using obstacles such as<br>Poles, and cones.  | _____ | _____ |
| D. Stopping at markers, back a given distance, stand<br>For 20 seconds.  | _____ | _____ |
| E. Complete project interview prior to fair.   | _____ | _____ |



Be able to do a more complicated obstacle pattern with cones and poles where a walk, and controlled and extended trots are used.

Assist an instructor with a driving workshop for lower levels.

Project leader assessment of members  
project \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PROJECT LEADER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_