# Working Ranch Horse Optional Focus Area Skills Checklist

Member’s name:__________________________________________________________________________

Mastering these Ranch Horse skills will provide a solid foundation upon which the member may build. Working cattle in ranch sports (cutting, team penning, roping, etc.), in a feedlot situation or on a working ranch requires specific knowledge and skills. The skills listed below will help 4-H leaders know what to teach and 4-H members to know what they need to learn. Have your leader initial and date each skill as completed. Each level may take more than one year to complete.

### Level 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1.** Demonstrate your horse’s ability to ground tie and be hobbled.

**2.** Name branding method used for horse identification.

**3.** Roping:
   - a. Name the parts of the rope.
   - b. Demonstrate the ability to coil and handle a rope.
   - c. Demonstrate roping a dummy (heading and heeling) from the ground.
   - d. Demonstrate roping a dummy (heading and heeling) from a horse.
   - e. Demonstrate a proper dally while roping a dummy from horseback.

**4.** Cattle working skills:
   - a. Describe the term “read cattle.”
   - b. Demonstrate your ability to read and handle one animal on foot.

### Level 2 – Complete Level 1 before proceeding to level 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1.** Demonstrate the following youth/horse skills while mounted.
   - a. Ability to sort and pen cattle.
   - b. Open, go through, and close gates (wood, metal)

**2.** List the equipment and gear that may be necessary during a ranch working day.

**3.** Demonstrate the following roping skills from horseback:
   - a. The purpose of each part of the rope.
   - b. A proper dally when heading a calf as if you were in an actual ranch situation (using a break-away hondo).
   - c. A proper dally when heeling a calf as if you were in an actual ranch situation (using a break-away hondo).
d. Demonstrate your ability to safely ride in different kinds of ranch terrain (up and down hills, cross creeks, brush, trees, etc.).

Level 3 – Complete Level 2 before proceeding to level 3

1. Demonstrate how to sort out a cow and hold it away from the herd.
2. Demonstrate your ability to open, go through, and close a wire gate while leading your horse.
3. Demonstrate the following roping skills:
   a. In actual ranch situation rope, dally, and hold a cow (heading and heeling).
   b. The ability of your horse to stand and keep the rope tight after animal is roped:
      • While mounted
      • After rider dismounts
4. Leadership:
   a. Help teach a related 4-H project.
   b. Demonstrate working ranch horse skills to younger members.