



CCE Clinton County 4-H Horse Program

Horse Level Safety Evaluation Form

On-the-Ground Skills, Riding, and Driving



The overall goal of the CCE Clinton County 4-H Horse Program is to provide a safe, positive, educational experience for 4-Hers and their horses.

- This form needs to be used for all 4-H youth that have riding and/or driving experience and are being evaluated for CCE county-sponsored programs and events. Evaluation forms will be kept on file in county CCE/4-H offices.
- Riding and Driving Level Evaluation Committee consists of 3 individuals from the approved list available at the CCE Office. A child may not be evaluated by their parent.
- Youth wishing to change levels or horses must be re-evaluated.
- Youth must be evaluated on the horse they will be showing or using.
- This riding level evaluation form is not required for club activities.
- Any Cloverbud youth must have demonstrated their ability to ride safely to their Leader before they are to be involved in CCE county-sponsored programs and events. All Cloverbud policies apply (see Guide to 4-H Policies).

4-Her's Name: _____ **Age Group:** Senior (14-18 years old) Junior (8-13 years old) Cloverbud (in K-2nd grade)

Address: _____

Club Name: _____ **Club Leader(s):** _____

	Horse 1	Horse 2	Horse 3
Barn Name	_____	_____	_____
Registered Name	_____	_____	_____
Current Level (choose one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Skills Only <input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Lead Line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Line (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Walk/Trot <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk Only <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot/ext. trot	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Skills Only <input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Lead Line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Line (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Walk/Trot <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk Only <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot/ ext. trot	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Skills Only <input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Lead Line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Line (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Walk/Trot <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk Only <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot/ ext. trot
Level to be Evaluated on (choose one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Skills Only <input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Lead Line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Line (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Walk/Trot <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk Only <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot/ext. trot	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Skills Only <input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Lead Line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Line (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Walk/Trot <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk Only <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot/ ext. trot	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Skills Only <input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Lead Line <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Line (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Cloverbud Walk/Trot <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18) <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk Only <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Walk/trot/ ext. trot

Descriptions of Levels are on page 2. Cloverbuds may only ride at Lead Line and Walk/Trot levels. They may not drive.

Parent/Guardian Signature

This is required for the evaluation to take place. This signifies that the child and parent/guardian are interested in this child having a riding experience; and that the parent/guardian is giving their approval for this evaluation and for the child to ride a horse.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Horse Levels

Ground Skills Only

Youth demonstrates safe “on the ground” skills around his/her horse but the team is not ready for a riding or driving experience. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Mini

Youth demonstrates safe “on the ground” skills around his/her miniature horse. Junior and Senior youth at this level can qualify for State Fair.

Lead Line

Youth can be Cloverbud or older. The child is mounted and led by a side walker, who is 18 years of age or older and has horse related experience. A properly fitted halter must be over the bridle and a lead line must be attached to the ring at the bottom of the halter, not on the side or to the bit. Youth must be capable of holding the reins in their hands. Cloverbuds will not be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Walk/trot or Walk/jog

Youth can be Cloverbud or older. The child is mounted and can ride safely in walk/trot or walk/jog situations. Youth may or may not be expected to know their diagonals, depending upon the level ridden or class entered. Youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting and stop the horse safely. Youth will not be asked to back their horse. Separate events/classes must be held for Cloverbud youth. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Walk/trot or jog/beginning canter or lope (diagonals count, leads do not)

This level is designed for youth that are not a Cloverbud, that have mastered the skills of walking, trotting or jogging, and cantering or loping the horse safely, but not the skill of asking for the correct lead at the canter. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting, stop the horse safely, and back the horse. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Walk/trot or jog/canter or lope (diagonals and leads count)

This level is for youth that are not a Cloverbud. Youth must have mastered the skills of walking, trotting or jogging, and cantering or loping the horse safely. Youth must know their diagonals and be able to canter or lope the horse on the correct lead. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting, stop the horse safely, and back the horse. Youth at this level may be asked to do independent patterns or more complicated riding skills demonstrations, depending on the classes they enter. Youth at this level can qualify for State Fair.

Driving Walk Only

This level is for youth that are not a Cloverbud. This level is for educational clinics only—not for 4-H shows. The child is driving with the assistance of a person riding in the cart, who is 18 years of age or older and has equine related experience. Youth must be capable of skillfully holding the reins in their hands. Youth will drive at the walk only. Headers will be required during line up (separate from the person riding in the cart). Youth will not be asked to back their equine. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Driving Walk/trot

This level is for youth that are not a Cloverbud. The child is seated and can drive safely at the walk and trot. The youth will be asked to back their equine. The youth must be able to control their equine in a group setting. Headers will be required during line up. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Driving Walk/trot/extended trot

This level is for youth that are not a Cloverbud. Youth must have mastered the skills of walking, trotting, and extending at the trot. The youth will be asked to back their equine. Youth at this level may be asked to do independent patterns or more complicated driving skills demonstrations, depending upon the classes they will enter. The youth must be able to control their equine in a group setting. Headers will be allowed during line up. Youth at this level can qualify for State Fair.

On the Ground Skills

Youth must demonstrate safe on the ground skills around horses in order to be considered to have a riding experience.

Ask the youth the following questions and record their response:

Do you like horses?	Yes	No
Are you afraid of horses?	Yes	No
Are you afraid of this horse?	Yes	No
Have you learned to groom a horse?	Yes	No
Do you know how to safely work around a horse?	Yes	No
Do you want to learn to ride a horse?	Yes	No
Do you want to learn to ride this horse?	Yes	No

Use the following scale to evaluate the youth's skills:

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**
 not at all little skill fair amount of skill good skills excellent skills

It is recommended that a youth score at least a 3 in all of the categories and a score of 4 or 5 in at least half of the categories on the evaluation form before the child is considered to be a candidate to ride a horse.

Does the youth:

show the desire to learn to ride and/drive a horse?	1	2	3	4	5
demonstrate the ability to understand and follow instruction?	1	2	3	4	5
have an adequate attention span for riding/driving a horse and receiving lessons?	1	2	3	4	5
appear to have the muscle strength to maintain a proper riding position and hold their head in position when wearing a riding helmet?	1	2	3	4	5
demonstrate that they have adequate balance to stay in position when riding/driving the horse at the level being considered?	1	2	3	4	5
show respect for the horse and the fact that horses can hurt you?	1	2	3	4	5
show confidence when working around the horse?	1	2	3	4	5
show a relaxed attitude about being around the horse?	1	2	3	4	5
know that they must always wear a riding helmet when riding/driving a horse?	1	2	3	4	5
know that they must always wear equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel when riding/driving a horse?	1	2	3	4	5
work safely around the horse?	1	2	3	4	5
work quietly around the horse, without being loud?	1	2	3	4	5
work softly around the horse, without quick and abrupt body movement?	1	2	3	4	5
know that they should mainly work around the left side of the horse?	1	2	3	4	5
know the left side from the right side of the horse?	1	2	3	4	5
know how to move around and behind the rear of the horse?	1	2	3	4	5
have the ability to lead a horse safely with adult assistance for Cloverbuds, without adult assistance for all other levels?	1	2	3	4	5
know how to brush the horse?	1	2	3	4	5

For Cloverbuds Only

Should this Cloverbud be considered to have a riding experience at this time (circle one)?

Yes

No

Tack and Equipment

Is the tack safe for riding/driving?	Yes	No
Does the tack fit the horse properly?	Yes	No
Does the tack fit the child properly?	Yes	No
Does the child's helmet fit properly?	Yes	No
Is the child wearing equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel?	Yes	No
For driving, does the child have the required gloves, whip, and lap robe?	Yes	No

Riding/Driving

The horse/rider combination must be appropriate and the combination must be a safe match. The disposition of a suitable child's mount should be quiet, gentle, and of a calm nature. The level of training of the horse should be appropriate for the level of rider. The size and body type of the horse should also be considered when picking an appropriate mount for a child. Ideally the horse should be small enough that the child's legs are positioned under the child's body and at least half way down the side of the horse.

Notes:

- Only evaluate the child at the gaits necessary for the level for which the child is seeking evaluation. Never ask a child to perform at a gait that you do not feel the child is capable of, regardless of the evaluation level.
- At least 1 of the 3 evaluators must have driving experience for driving evaluations.

Use the following scale to evaluate the youth's skills:

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**
 not at all little skill fair amount of skill good skills excellent skills

It is recommended that a youth score at least a 3 in all of the categories and a score of 4 or 5 in at least half of the categories on the evaluation form before the child is considered to be a candidate to ride a horse.

Horse 1

Horse 2

Horse 3

Walk

Can the youth safely handle the horse at the walk?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth stay in balance with the horse at the walk?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth execute a safe and smooth transition to the walk?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Trot/Jog

Can the youth safely handle the horse at the trot or jog?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth stay in balance with the horse at the trot or jog?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
If applicable, does the youth know their diagonals?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Is the youth successful at riding on the correct diagonal?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth execute a safe and smooth walk to trot or jog transition?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Horse 1**Horse 2****Horse 3****Extended Trot***(driving only)*

Does the youth safely handle the equine at the extended trot?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth stay in balance with the equine at the extended trot?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth execute a safe and smooth transition to the extended trot? (don't ask for difficult transitions, keep this simple)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Canter/Lope

Does the youth safely handle the horse at the canter or lope?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth stay in balance with the horse at the canter or lope?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth know their leads?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Is the youth successful at getting the horse on the correct lead both ways of the ring?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth execute a safe and smooth transition to the canter or lope from the gait asked for? (don't ask for difficult transitions, keep this simple)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Halt, Back, etc.

Can the youth stop the horse safely and quickly?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Can the youth back the horse safely? <i>(Leadline and Walk/trot or jog riders and Walk only drivers do not back their horse)</i>	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth remember to hold the reins/lines when mounting/dismounting?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth know how to turn and stop smoothly?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Does the youth maneuver the horse safely in horse traffic?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Other comments about this youth's riding/driving evaluation:

Evaluation Conclusions

This youth has been evaluated and approved to ride at:

- Horse 1**
- Ground Skills Only
 - Mini
 - Cloverbud Lead Line
 - Lead Line (ages 8-18)
 - Cloverbud Walk/Trot
 - Walk/Trot (ages 8-18)
 - Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18)
 - Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18)
 - Driving Walk Only
 - Driving Walk/trot
 - Driving Walk/trot/ext. trot

- Horse 2**
- Ground Skills Only
 - Mini
 - Cloverbud Lead Line
 - Lead Line (ages 8-18)
 - Cloverbud Walk/Trot
 - Walk/Trot (ages 8-18)
 - Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18)
 - Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18)
 - Driving Walk Only
 - Driving Walk/trot
 - Driving Walk/trot/ ext. trot

- Horse 3**
- Ground Skills Only
 - Mini
 - Cloverbud Lead Line
 - Lead Line (ages 8-18)
 - Cloverbud Walk/Trot
 - Walk/Trot (ages 8-18)
 - Walk/Trot/Beg. Canter (8-18)
 - Walk/Trot/Canter (ages 8-18)
 - Driving Walk Only
 - Driving Walk/trot
 - Driving Walk/trot/ ext. trot

Or

At this time, this horse/rider combination is not a suitable match.

At this time, this horse/rider combination is not a suitable match.

At this time, this horse/rider combination is not a suitable match.

Feedback

Some suggestions for this youth to work on:

Signatures

Date of Evaluation _____

Remember to bring this to the CCE office!

Evaluator(s) Name(s) or Initials

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Recommendations reviewed and accepted by:

CCE Educator's Signature _____ Date _____