

Steuben County Cloverbud Horse Show Rules

Steuben County 4-H Cloverbud members who are 5 -7 years old as of January 1, 2026 can participate in the Steuben County 4-H Horse Qualifying Shows Cloverbud Classes providing they meet the requirements below. No other precedence will be set for any other 4-H event concerning Cloverbud members showing animals.

Leadline: The 4-H member 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 under 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. Youth will not be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Walk/Jog-Walk/Trot: The child is mounted and must have a spotter present who is 18 years of age or older and has horse related experience in the ring (corners) the entire class. Youth must be capable of holding the reins in their hands and asking the horse to walk, jog/trot, and stop. Youth will not be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

Trail Class – Cloverbuds – Not appropriate for lead line levels; cloverbuds riding at the walk/trot or walk/jog level may participate in simple trail classes, with simple obstacles, and not more than a total of 4 obstacles – REMEMBER that walk/trot or walk/jog riders do not back their horses; walk/trot or walk/jog riders in trail class must have a side walker 18 years or over to assist only when necessary for the safety of the child and/or the horse.

Ground Rail – Youth should only ride “ground rail” activities/classes after the child has mastered equitation skills and rides in control and in a balanced position on the “flat”. The child must understand and be able to ride in a “two point” position. Ground rail activities/classes are not cross rail activities/classes.

The 4-H member must wear an approved ASTM F 1163 SEI helmet and proper equestrian footwear having a distinguishable heel at all times when mounted or handling a horse in a riding arena whether on the ground or mounted. Special care should be taken to help ensure that the horse or pony is of appropriate size, disposition and level of training for the ability level of the child. Competent supervision, in a controlled environment, should be easily accessible to the 4-H member at all times when they are mounted. **All Cloverbud riders, regardless of seat, can use snaffle bits and two hands on the reins in Leadline or Walk/Jog-Walk/Trot classes.**

ALL Cloverbud classes will be for exhibition only and the 4-H members will not be ranked or placed.

- **All 4-H exhibitors must be members of Steuben County 4-H by May 1 of the current 4-H year to be eligible to participate in any Steuben County 4-H Horse Show. Cloverbud members are exempt from the horse educational event participation requirement.** All exhibitors must be supervised by their parent(s) or a designated adult. Direct adult supervision must be maintained throughout the show, including arrival, warm-up and departure activities. **All exhibitors must have the parent's signature on the Horse Show Entry Blank.**
- **All horses that a 4-H Cloverbud member wishes to show must be registered as a project equine with the Steuben County 4-H office by 4:30 p.m. on May 29th, 2026 by completing the State 4-H Horse Certificate to be eligible to compete at the Steuben County 4-H Horse Shows.** A copy of the current Coggins test papers and a Rabies Vaccination Certificate must be included with the 4-H Horse Certificate. These will not be returned. Coggins tests dated 2025 or 2026 are valid. Only rabies vaccinations dated 2026 are valid. Cloverbud members are encouraged to complete a cloverbud record and may receive special recognition for doing so.

- 4-H Cloverbud members need **two evaluations** (“On the Ground Skills” and “Riding Level Skills”)
 - The 4-H member **must** score **at least a 2 in all** of the categories **and** a score of **3 or 4 in at least half** of the categories on the evaluation form before the 4-H member is considered to be a candidate to ride a horse.
 - After the 4-H Leadline member has adequately demonstrated the “on the ground skills” necessary to work safely with equines and show respect for the equine they will also be evaluated using the “NYS 4-H Horse Program Riding Level Evaluation Form”.
 - The “On the Ground Skills Evaluation” and the “Riding Level Evaluation” can/should be done prior to the first qualifying show. **Your parent/legal guardian needs to be present for the evaluations and you need to bring the evaluation forms with the first page filled out including your parent/guardian signature with you (available on the web).**

EVALUATIONS CAN BE DONE BY YOUR LEADER/INSTRUCTOR

(MUST have 2 (3 preferred) initials/signatures that are NOT a parent/guardian).