NYS 4-H Horse Program "Riding Level" Evaluation Form

* PLEASE NOTE:

- This form to be used for all 4-H youth that have riding experience and are being evaluated for "CCE/4-H sponsored" programs and events.
- This riding level evaluation form is not required for club activities.
- A youth that has previously been evaluated to ride safely in Junior or Senior levels does not need to be re-evaluated to change of age from Jr. to Sr., unless there is a need for re-evaluation.
- Evaluation forms should be kept on file in county CCE/4-H offices.
- A youth that wishes to "move up" a level must be re-evaluated.
- Any Cloverbud youth must have been evaluated by the "Cloverbud On the Ground Skills Evaluation" form, been involved in "riding experiences", and demonstrated their ability to ride safely <u>before</u> they are to be involved in "county sponsored" programs and events. All Cloverbud policies apply (see NYS 4-H Cloverbud Leader Handbook).

Name		County	
Address			
Age on date of	f evaluation	Grade level	
Last Riding L	evel Ridden	Year	
4-H age (age o	on Jan. 1 st of the currer	nt 4-H year)	
Club Name			
Club Leader(s	6)		
Phone	Cell	E-mail	
this child havi		fies that the child <u>and</u> parent are interested; ; and that the parent is giving their approv be performed.	
State the Ridin	ng Level, for this child	, for which you are seeking evaluation:	
(<u>first</u> read all (descriptions below)		
Parent/Guard	ian Signature	Date	
Phone	Cell	E-mail	

Potential Riding Levels:

Lead Line:

Youth can be cloverbud or older non-cloverbud youth. 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. Youth will <u>not be asked to back their horse</u>. Youth at this level can <u>not</u> qualify for State Fair.

Walk/trot or Walk/jog:

Youth can be cloverbud or older non-cloverbud youth. 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. The youth will <u>not</u> be asked to back their horse. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting. Separate events/classes must be held for Cloverbud youth. Youth at this level can <u>not</u> qualify for State Fair.

Walk/trot/canter or Walk/jog/lope (no leads to count - diagonals do count):

This level is designed for youth that are <u>not a cloverbud</u>, 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. Youth are expected to ride on the correct diagonal at this level. The youth <u>may</u> be asked to back their horse. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting. Youth at this level can <u>not</u> qualify for State Fair.

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

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 <u>may</u> be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level may be asked to do independent patterns or more complicated riding skills demonstrations, depending upon the classes they will enter. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting.

PLEASE NOTE:

Some Potential Class Levels (these are separate from Riding Levels)

(These are some suggested potential "class levels" and may vary from county to county):

- <u>Cloverbud</u> can only do leadline, and walk/trot or walk/jog (Refer to "Cloverbud Procedure-Recommendations for children ages 5-8 working with equines")
- <u>Beginner</u>
- Maiden
- <u>Novice</u>
- Junior youth at this level <u>can</u> qualify for State Fair
- Senior youth at this level can qualify for State Fair

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

0 = not at all

- 1 = little skill
- 2 = fair amount of skill
- 3 = good skills
- 4 = excellent skills

Does the child: (circle the appropriate number) • show the desire to ride and possibly exhibit a horse? • demonstrate the ability to understand and follow instructions? • have an adequate attention span for riding and possibly exhibiting a horse? • appear to have the muscle strength to maintain a proper riding position and hold their head in position when wearing a riding helmet? • demonstrate that they have adequate balance to stay in position when riding the horse for the level of riding being considered? • work safely around the horse? • work quietly around the horse, without being loud? • work softly around the horse, without quick and abrupt body movement? • know how to move around and behind the rear of the horse? • know that they must always wear a riding helmet when riding a horse? • know that they must always wear equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel when riding a horse?

Does the child:

(circle the appropriate number)

• know that they should mainly work around the left side of the horse?	0	1	2	3	4
• know the left side from the right side of the horse?	0	1	2	3	4
• have the ability to lead a horse safely with adult assistance for Cloverbuds; without adult assistance for all other levels?	0	1	2	3	4
• show respect for the horse and the fact that horses can hurt you?	0	1	2	3	4
• show confidence when working around the horse?	0	1	2	3	4
• show a relaxed attitude about being around the horse?	0	1	2	3	4

Also please evaluate the child on the following:

<u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: <u>Only</u> evaluate the child at the <u>gaits necessary for the level</u> for which the child is seeking evaluation. <u>Never</u> ask a child to perform at a gait that you do not feel the child is capable of, regardless of what level the child is seeking evaluation.

(circle the appropriate response)

• is the tack safe for riding?	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

(circle the appropriate number)

	(chicle the appropriate number)					
Walk						
• can the youth safely handle the horse at			_	_	_	
the walk?	0	1	2	3	4	
• door the youth stay in belongs with the						
• does the youth stay in balance with the						
horse at the walk?	0	1	2	3	4	
• door the youth aroute a rafe and amout	h					
• does the youth execute a safe and smoot						
transition to the walk?	0	1	2	3	4	
Trot/Ica						
<u>Trot/Jog</u>						
• can the youth safely handle the horse						
at the trot or jog?	0	1	2	3	4	
at the first of jog.	U	T	-	5	-	
• does the youth stay in balance with the						
horse at the trot or jog?	0	1	2	3	4	
horse at the fist of Jog.	v	-	-	U	•	
• if applicable, does the youth know their						
diagonals?	0	1	2	3	4	
	Ŭ	-	_	•	-	
 is the youth successful at riding on 						
the correct diagonal?	0	1	2	3	4	
	0	-	_	•	-	
 does the youth execute a safe and 						
smooth walk to trot or jog transition?	0	1	2	3	4	
U 8						
<u>Canter/Lope</u>						
• does the youth safely handle the horse						
at the canter or lope?	0	1	2	3	4	
at the canter or lope:	U	I	2	3	4	
• does the youth stay in balance with the						
• •	0	1	2	3	4	
horse at the canter or lope?	U	I	2	3	4	
• does the youth know their leads?	0	1	2	3	4	
				-		
• is the youth successful at getting						
the horse on the correct lead both						
ways of the ring?	0	1	2	3	4	
ways of the fing.	U	L	4	5	-	
• does the youth execute a safe and						
smooth transition to the canter or						
lope from the gait asked for?						
(do not ask for difficult transitions,						
keep this simple)	0	1	2	3	4	
her mis simple,	v	*	-	0	-	

Halt and Back

•can the youth stop the horse safely and quickly?	0	1	2	3	4	
• can the youth back the horse safely? (Leadline and walk/trot or jog <u>do not</u> back their	-	_	2	3	4	

* It is also important to consider the horse the child will be riding. Take special care to help ensure that the horse/rider combination is appropriate and that the combination is 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 and its suitability to the child and child's body type 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.

Other comments about this child's riding evaluation_____

This youth has been evaluated and approved to ride at (circle the appropriate Riding Level below):

Lead Line

Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog

Walk/Trot/Canter - (no leads to count – diagonals do count)

Walk/Trot/Canter - (leads and diagonals to count)

Some suggestions for this child to work on:

_____ this child should <u>not</u> be <u>considered</u> to be a candidate to have a riding experience at this time.

PLEASE NOTE: It is recommended that there be a riding level evaluation committee consisting of 3 individuals with suitable horse and riding experience to perform the evaluation. It is suggested that this committee consist of a 4-H leader, a parent of a 4-H youth and an instructor when possible; other possible combinations to be determined by the county Cornell Cooperative Extension Association or educator.

PLEASE NOTE: Youth should be evaluated on the horse/rider combination that they will be participating with whenever possible.

Evaluator(s) Name(s) or Initials*_____

Date of Evaluation Remember to file in the CCE/4-H office

Recommendations reviewed and accepted by: CCE Educator's Signature

Date

*A child may not be evaluated by their own parent or guardian

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