

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

*** PLEASE NOTE:**

- This form is 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, 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 riding 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 before 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 _____

_____ Phone _____

Age on date of evaluation _____ Grade level _____

Last Level Ridden _____ Year _____

4-H age (age on Jan. 1st of the current 4-H year) _____

Club Name _____

Club Leader/s _____

*** Parent/Guardian’s Signature - 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 “Riding Level” evaluation to be performed.**

State the level for this child, for which you are seeking evaluation:

(first read all descriptions below)

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Potential Levels: (These are suggested, potential levels – this may vary from county to county)

Lead Line:

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 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 non-Cloverbud. 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 not 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 not 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 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 may be asked to back their horse. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting. Youth at this level cannot 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 may be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level may need 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):

- **Walk-Trot-** youth at this level only walk and trot. Can not qualify for State Fair
- **Beginner-** youth at this level walk, trot, canter and no leads count.
- **Junior-** youth at this level can qualify for State Fair
- **Senior-** youth at this level can qualify for State Fair