



NYS 4-H Horse Program Driving Level Evaluation Form



- This form will be used for all 4-H youth that have driving experience and are being evaluated for “CCE/4-H Sponsored” programs and events.
- This driving level evaluation form is not required for club activities.
- A youth that has previously been evaluated to drive safely in the Junior or Senior levels does not need to be re-evaluated due to age change from Jr. to Sr., unless there is a need for re-evaluation.
- A youth that wishes to “move-up” a level must be re-evaluated
- Evaluation forms will be kept on file in the county CCE offices and must be signed by the CCE Educator/Staff member to be valid.
- A copy of the completed evaluation form with all signatures and/or a driving certificate/card denoting the level of successful evaluation, CCE Educator / Staff Member Signature and County should be supplied to the member to carry with them to 4-H Events.
- Cloverbuds **do not** drive.
- It is suggested that youth be evaluated with the horse/driver combination that they will be participating with but it is not mandated. The driver’s ability, not the horses is being evaluated.

Name: _____ County: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade Level: _____ 4-H age (age as of Jan 1st of current year) : _____

Last Assigned Driving Level: _____ Year: _____

Club Name: _____

Club Leader/s: _____

State the Driving Level, for this child, for which you are seeking evaluation:
(First read all descriptions of riding levels on the last page)

Parent/Guardian Signature signifies that the child and parent are interested in this child having a driving experience; and that the parent is giving their approval for this “Driving Level” evaluation to be performed.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Horse (optional) _____

This youth has been evaluated and approved to drive at the level indicated below

_____ Walk Only (does not include back)

_____ Walk/Trot (includes back)

_____ Junior Driver (13 and under as of Jan 1st)

_____ Senior Driver 14 and older as of Jan 1st)

_____ This youth should not be considered to be a candidate to have a driving experience at this time

Suggestions/Comments:

Evaluators Names or Initials: _____

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

Date of Evaluation: _____

Recommendations reviewed and accepted by:

_____ Date _____

CCE Educator's Signature

Please note: An educator may excuse any horse or driver from a "CCE/4-H" sponsored program if it poses a safety issue to themselves or others at any time.



New York State 4-H Horse Driving Evaluations

4-H Member: _____

Key: 3 = Exceeds Standard 2=Meets Standard 1=Does Not Meet Standard
Each component of the evaluation will be based on the scale above.

Driver	Points 1-3
1. Shows desire to drive and/or exhibit horse	
2. Maturity, confidence and attention	
3. Muscle strength and adequate balance to maintain proper driving position and hold head in position when wearing a helmet	
4. Relaxed around horse yet shows respect and awareness of risks	
5. Understands and follows instructions	
Horse Management	
1. Knows how to move and work safely around horse-front and rear	
2. Works quietly and patiently without being loud or with abrupt movements	
3. Knows right and left side of horse	
4. Works around horse from the left side	
5. Has confidence while working with horse	
Rider and Horse Turnout	
1. Horse is neatly brushed/clean and feet clean	
2. Driver's helmet fits properly and has gloves, whip, lap robe	
3. Driver wears appropriate equestrian footwear with distinguished heel	
4. Tack is safe for driving-in good useable condition	
5. Tack and vehicle fits horse properly	

Driving Skills	Pts. 1-3
Walk	
1. Youth can safely handle the horse at the walk.	
2. Youth stays in balance with the horse at the walk	
3. Youth can execute a safe and smooth transition to the walk	
Trot/Walk	
1. Youth can safely handle the horse at the trot	
2. Youth stays in balance with the horse at the trot	
3. Youth executes a safe and smooth walk to trot transition	
Extended Trot	
1. Youth can safely handle the horse at the extended trot	
2. Youth stays in balance with the horse at the extended trot	
3. Youth executes a safe and smooth transition to the extended trot-keep this simple	
Halt and Back	
1.Youth can stop the horse safely and quickly	
2.Youth can back the equine safely-Walk Only drivers do not back	
Other	
1. Youth has control of the whip and reins	
2. Youth can change direction across the diagonal	
3. Youth can do a figure 8 at a working trot (Junior/Senior)	
4. Youth can do a figure 8 at an extended trot (Junior/Senior)	

Driving Levels

NOTE: Cloverbud youths do not drive. Refer to “Cloverbud Procedure Recommendations for children ages 5-8 working with equines”.

Walk Only: (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.

Walk/trot: 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.

Junior (13 yrs and under as of January 1st of current year): 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, minimally a figure 8. 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.

Senior (14 yrs and older as of January 1st of current year): 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, minimally a figure 8. 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.