

2017 Allegan County 4-H Five-Day Horse Clinic Class Descriptions

when registering please be sure that your horse and you fit the criteria for the class

Cloverbud A: This is a half an hour class for 5 and 6 year old participants as of January 1, 2017. Riders will work on correct riding position and controlling their horse/pony at the walk and trot while having fun! **Horses must remain on a leadline with an adult at all times in this class.**

Cloverbud B: This is a one hour class for 7 and 8 year old participants as of January 1, 2017. Riders will work on correct riding position and controlling their horse/pony at the walk and trot while having fun! **All Cloverbuds must have available a side walker of at least 14 years of age.**

English 1: Participants in this class will work on skills like leading, tying, mounting and dismounting, hand and body position, balancing and steering, walking and trotting with control and backing. Participants may canter if the instructor feels they are ready.

Western 1: Participants in this class will work on skills like leading, tying, mounting and dismounting, hand and body position, balancing and steering, walking and trotting with control and backing. Participants may lope if the instructor feels they are ready.

Gymkhana 1: This class will introduce riders to the basic techniques and patterns of the speed events known as Gymkhana (barrel racing, pole bending, etc.). All skills will be practiced using the Gymkhana events. Participants may lope if the instructor feels they are ready.

English 2: The goal of this riding class is to improve hand and body position, balance, precise steering, and communication with horse/pony. Participants will work on their walk, trot, and canter with control and learning smooth transitions between all gaits. Participants begin learning 20 meter circles and figure eights and may work to understand diagonals, leads and two-point position.

Western 2: The goal of this riding class is to improve hand and body position, balance, precise steering, and communication with their horse/pony. Participants will work on their walk, trot, and canter with control and learning smooth transitions between all gaits. Participants begin circle work and understanding/feeling leads.

Gymkhana 2: This class will introduce more Gymkhana patterns. Participants will work on hand and body positions, their horse's position and develop safety and control at moderate speed. Proper technique of patterns will be emphasized before increasing speed. It is strongly recommended that horses be at least 6 years of age for this class.

Trail 2: Trail is a class that requires riders to perform specific maneuvers to negotiate various obstacles on a course with as much ease as possible. Participants will be introduced to trail maneuvers such as backing, side passing, turns on the haunches and forehand, and ground tying. Participants will also be introduced to trail obstacles, such as ground poles, bridges, gates and more.

Dressage 2/3: This class is an introduction to the discipline of Dressage. This class will follow USDF rules. Riders will work on Introductory Level dressage tests as well as Training Level movements. The class is geared to those who would like to possibly compete in Dressage at the Allegan Fair.

Introductory Jumping 2/3: This class is an introduction to the techniques and exercises needed to begin jumping. It is strongly recommended that horses/ponies be at least 6 years old for this class. Depending on the skill levels of horses and riders, poles, crossrails and mini courses may be ridden. **Participant must successfully complete a jumping evaluation prior to registration.**

English 3: Participants in this class will further work on abilities listed above by doing more work off the rail. Participants begin to bend and flex their horse/pony, establish better control, rhythm, and balance with their horse. Participants will also practice various equitation patterns including 20 meter circles, figure eights, serpentines, etc.

Western 3: Participants in this class will further work on abilities listed above by doing more work off the rail. Participants begin to bend and flex their horse/pony, establish better control, rhythm, and balance with their horse. Horsemanship patterns used will be determined by the instructor and students but may include circles, figure eights, serpentines, etc.

Gymkhana 3: Participants will work on hand and body positions, their horse's position and develop safety and control with more speed. Proper technique of patterns will be emphasized before increasing speed. It is strongly recommended that horses be at least 6 years of age for this class. Runs will be timed during Tuesday's class.

Trail 3: Participants will continue working on basic trail maneuvers, such as backing, side passing, turns on the haunches and forehand, and ground tying. Participants will continue working on trail obstacles such as, ground poles, bridges, gates, and more. Complex trail maneuvers may be introduced.

English 4/5: Participants in this class will further work on abilities listed above by working mostly off the rail. Riders will work to develop an independent seat and hands and utilize bending and flexing in equitation patterns. Participants will focus on fine tuning details in order to show in upper level English Equitation classes.

Western Dressage 3/4/5: This class will work on all the higher level riding techniques by exploring the increasingly popular sport of Western Dressage. This class builds on the theory and knowledge needed to complete the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) tests.

Western Performance 4/5: This class strives to improve a horse and rider's control, athleticism and balance. Participants will practice various riding exercises and patterns (determined by the instructor and students) including horsemanship, Western Riding, reining or other patterns. Participants will work on better hand and body position and developing a fully independent seat and hands. Participants will work on their walk, trot, and lope with control and smooth transitions between all gaits.

Dressage 4/5: This class builds on the theory and knowledge of Training Level tests in the USDF. This class is geared for those who have or are planning on competing in Dressage classes at the Allegan Fair and would like to move up to exploring Dressage competition.

Jumping 4/5: This class builds on the skills learned in the intro jumping class. It digs deeper into the theory and training necessary to jump higher heights and more complex courses. It is strongly recommended that horses/ponies be at least 6 years old for this class. The class is geared to those who would like to possibly compete in Jumping at the Allegan Fair. **Participant must successfully complete a jumping evaluation prior to registration.**

Gymkhana 4/5: Participants will work on better hand and body position and developing a fully independent seat and hands. Participants will work on Gymkhana pattern technique, their horse's position and control and will increase speed as the instructor sees fit. It is strongly recommended that horses be at least 6 years of age for this class. Runs will be timed during Tuesday's class.

Trail Level 4/5: Participants will work on bettering their trail maneuvers, such as backing, side passing, turns on the haunches and forehand, and ground tying. Participants may also be introduced to more advanced trail obstacles, such as loping over ground poles, tarps, water hazards, small jumps, and more.

Vaulting: This class is open to participants level 1 and higher. No horse is required. One may register for Vaulting in addition to one's regular session classes. Vaulting is best described as gymnastics on and off of a horse in motion. Participants will practice vaulting and maneuvers on a stationary barrel apparatus and take turns doing the same maneuvers onto and off of a horse being lounged.

Driving: This class is for level 3, 4 or 5 participants. Participants in this class must provide their own **safe** driving animal and cart. One may register for Driving in addition to one's regular session classes. This class will focus on improving driving safety and techniques. Participants may encounter patterns, obstacles and other more advanced driving challenges. It is strongly recommended that horses be at least 6 years of age for this class. **All Driving participants must have available a header of at least fourteen years of age.**

Beginning Roping/Ranch Riding-NEW!!! This is an evening class open to levels 3, 4, & 5 participants. The first night of this class will not involve a horse. This class will focus on teaching beginning reining and ranch riding skills. Participants will practice roping and sorting on and off horseback. Participants may also practice precise patterns of circles, spins, and stops.

No live cows will be used in this class! **Activities in this class are up to the instructor and may vary in order to maintain safety**

Showmanship: *NEW!!!* This class is a non-riding class that will focus on preparing for a showmanship class. *MINIES WELCOME!!!!* Participants will cover topics including but not limited to: hair, clothes, pants length, grooming of animal, clean attire, tack, perfecting the pattern, where to stand, and more do's and don'ts. Parts of patterns including pivots, backing, stopping, etc. will be practiced. This is a 45 minute class. Horsemaster levels 1 and 2 will run from 12:00-12:45 and Horsemaster levels 3, 4, & 5 will run from 12:45-1:30. Cost of this class is \$30.

Bareback: *NEW!!!* This class is open to Horsemaster levels 3, 4, & 5. Participants will go over how to properly show in a bareback class. Topics covered will be Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Equitation, and Saddle Seat Equitation if the participants so desire. **Participants should only register if they have experience riding their 5 Day horse bareback.**