St. Joseph County Cloverbud Program: Animal Demonstration Program

The Cloverbud program in St. Joseph County is for youth 6-8 years old as of January 1, 2016. For 2016, the St. Joseph County Cloverbud program is piloting a new program where they will be able to not only exhibit the traditional projects that are in the fair book, but to show a rabbit and horse. Below you will find specific rules and expectations for each of these projects. At the completion of the 2016 fair, these two programs will be evaluated and then will be determined if they will be added to the program for following years. Both of these projects will be “exhibited in NON-COMPETITIVE age-appropriate activities that are designed for this age group.”

As per the Michigan 4-H Youth Development 4-H Cloverbud Program Policy, all guidelines will be implemented to secure safety to the youth. Cloverbuds do not necessarily need to own the animal they choose to exhibit. They may work with and/or borrow an animal that is owned by another older 4-H member. If the Cloverbud does own the animal he/she exhibits, that animal will not be housed at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. It must be brought to the fairgrounds in an appropriate cage/trailer and then returned home following the specific show. Also, per the program policy, “If 4-H Cloverbud members are to have direct contact with an animal, the contact must take place with direct, one-on-one assistance from a responsible parent, guardian or adult volunteer. The parent, guardian or adult volunteer must be with or near the child at all times while the child is in contact with the animal.”

RABBITS:

- A Cloverbud may exhibit one (1) rabbit at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- If a Cloverbud brings their own rabbit to be shown, that rabbit will NOT be housed on grounds, but shall be checked in at a designated time on the day of the rabbit show at the designated location.
- The Cloverbud rabbit show will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2016 immediately prior to the 4-H rabbit show. This will be an educational, NON-COMPETITIVE showmanship show with exhibitors receiving a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- A Cloverbud may NOT sell their rabbit at the 4-H Livestock auction.
- The Cloverbud may participate using their own rabbit or an older 4-H member’s market or breeding stock rabbit that has been approved by the Rabbit Superintendent, Jackie Brazo.
- All general guidelines regarding condition of animals will be followed as printed in the 2016 Fair book.
- The Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer while the child is in contact with the animal.
- The Cloverbud will have a one-on-one opportunity to meet with a Judge to discuss their project and answer age-appropriate questions about the project as determined by the Judge, Superintendent, or MSU Extension Youth Program Coordinator.
- Cloverbuds will follow the same dress code as 4-H Rabbit exhibitors.
**HORSES:**

- A Cloverbud may exhibit one (1) horse at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- A Cloverbud may show in only one (1) class: Showmanship, Equitation, or Gymkhana.
- Cloverbud horse classes are for educational, activity-centered experiences.
- All Cloverbud classes will be NON-COMPETITIVE classes and each Cloverbud will receive a Cloverbud participant ribbon.
- If a Cloverbud brings their own horse to be shown, that horse will NOT be housed on grounds, but shall be checked in at a designated time on the day of the horse show at the designated location.
- All project animals must be approved by either the Cloverbud specialty leader or their club leader. This approval must be turned in to the Cloverbud specialty leader, Pam Cook, by August 12, 2016.
- Cloverbud horse project exhibitors MUST wear ASTM-or SEI- approved helmets for all horse experiences as per the Michigan State University Youth Program 4-H Cloverbud program policy.
- All Cloverbud horse project participants must be directly assisted one-on-one by a parent, guardian or adult volunteer who is on the ground as opposed to being mounted on another horse holding the animal’s halter or lead to maximize safety.
- All project animals must have appropriate papers and follow the same check-in procedure as other 4-H project animals. (i.e. Coggins test)

**Showmanship:**

- There will be one (1) Cloverbud showmanship class held. This class will take place immediately after the champion showmanship class on Sunday, September 18, 2016.
- In lead line showmanship, the Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer stand close enough to assist the Cloverbud if an issue arises, and will have an attached lead line directly to the horse.
- Cloverbuds will complete the pattern of walk to the judge, set up for inspection, complete a 180 degree turn and trot back to line. It is our hope that by knowing the pattern in advance, the Cloverbud will feel confident and successful in the ring.
- Cloverbud horse participants will be required to wear an ASTM- or SEI- approved helmet and are required to follow the 4-H guidelines.

**Equitation:**

- There will be one (1) Cloverbud equitation class held. This class will take place immediately after the 4-H walk/trot equitation class on Monday, September 19, 2016.
- Lead line equitation may be ridden in english, western, or gymkhana attire.
- The class will walk both directions and must back up. The back can be done either on the right or left side.
- For the equitation class, the Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer stand close enough to assist the Cloverbud if an issue arises, and will have an attached lead line directly to the horse.
- Cloverbud horse participants will be required to wear an ASTM- or SEI- approved helmet and are required to follow the 4-H guidelines.

**Gymkhana:**

- There will be one (1) Cloverbud gymkhana class. This will take place as the first class prior to the 4-H gymkhana classes on Saturday, September 24, 2016.
- Lead line gymkhana will consist of the flag pattern.
- For the Gymkhana class, the Cloverbud will have a one-on-one parent, guardian, or an adult volunteer stand close enough to assist the Cloverbud if an issue arises, and will have an attached lead line directly to the horse.
- Exhibitors may walk or trot upon approval of their leader or the cloverbud specialty leader.
- Cloverbud horse participants will be required to wear an ASTM- or SEI- approved helmet and are required to follow the 4-H guidelines for gymkhana attire and equipment.