

A group of people and horses in a riding arena. In the foreground, a dark horse and a grey horse are standing. In the background, a group of people is gathered, and there are horse trailers and a barn. The scene is outdoors with a cloudy sky.

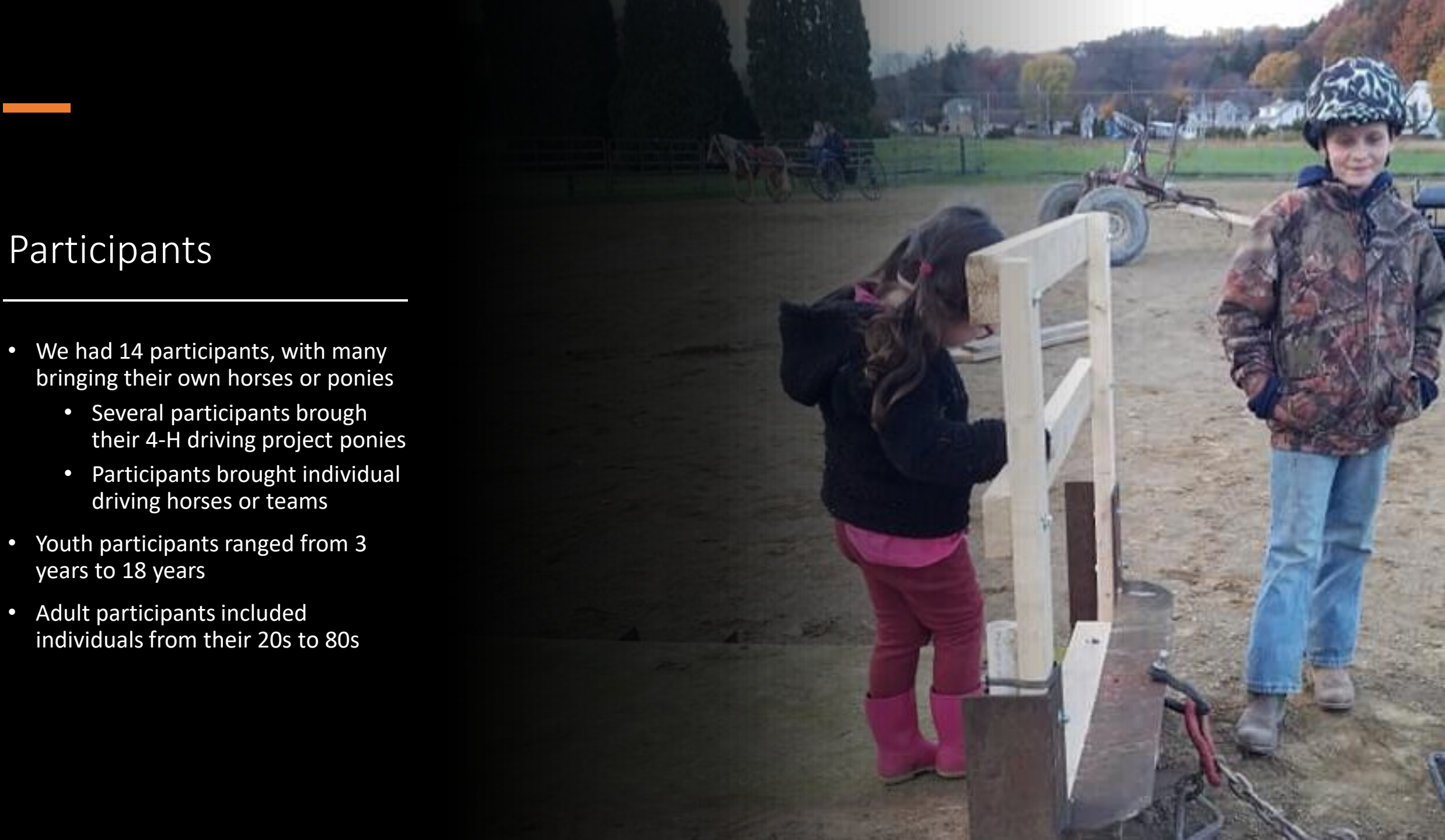
Chasing Rainbows Open Horse Show Series Driving Clinic

Date of Clinic: October 24, 2020

Clinic began at 8 a.m. and formally ended at dusk, but we continued on until everyone was happy with their progress and ready to go home.

Participants

- We had 14 participants, with many bringing their own horses or ponies
 - Several participants brought their 4-H driving project ponies
 - Participants brought individual driving horses or teams
- Youth participants ranged from 3 years to 18 years
- Adult participants included individuals from their 20s to 80s



Clinicians and programs

- The morning was spent in educational programming and question/answer sessions
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Melissa Allebach of Winderemere Farms, Spring Mills, PA, breeders of World Champion Percherons, provided an educational program on conformation and breeding of drafts and had a mock conformation judging opportunity for participants using Percherons that were used throughout the clinic
- Mr. Brandt Ainsworth of Franklinville, NY spent quite a bit of time discussing harnessing and harness types before moving on to basic horsemanship on the ground and under harness
- Mr. Steve Perrine, of Frenchville, PA discussed the desired characteristics of a working horse (or pony) including conformation and trainability and demonstrated various maneuvers under harness using a team of Percherons
- Dr. Susan Perrine, of Frenchville, PA outlined the differences in equine nutritional needs at various stages of life and work and discussed how to best meet individual participant horses' needs for management of various conditions, including overweight, "hard keepers", growth, pregnancy/lactation, and hard work
- The afternoon and evening was spent fitting harnesses and carts of participants' horses/ponies, and in driving lessons
- Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Perrine, and Dr. Perrine assisted participants with harness fitting, cart suitability and adjustment, and gave individual driving lessons to participants using clinician and/or participant horses as deemed appropriate.



Clinic Photos



Conformation clinic



Conformation discussion and measuring the draft horse



Harness fitting



Body condition scoring and nutrition discussion



Participant horse harness fitting



Patience and trainability discussion

Photo credit: Anna Catherman



Youth harness and cart fitting



Hitching a participant's team of Percheron x Welsh ponies



Introduction to ground driving a team

Photo credit: Susan Perrine



Ground driving lesson



Youth driving lesson



Youth participant and parent driving lesson



Driving the working team lesson



Youth draft cart driving lesson



Adult participant 4-wheeled vehicle driving lesson



Obstacle course driving lesson



Participant team driving lesson



Mock driving class



Youth and parent driving lesson



Youth driving lesson



Adult driving lesson



Working team hitching demonstration



Logging/working team driving demonstration



All participants had the opportunity to drive three abreast