

## The 2023 New York Percheron Association Youth and Novice Clinic

We were blessed with a beautiful day on Saturday May 20, 2023, to hold the clinic. Every youth and novice clinic must start somewhere and for the New York Percheron Association we always start with safety on the ground first. The presenters, Bill Clark and Scot White, started this clinic exactly this way and the local 4-H group was all ears! They were attending this clinic to specifically learn about safety around draft horses, after all. Then Bill and Scot progressed to safety in harnessing the horse by talking about different aspects of the harness parts, what they do and why fitting the harness is important for safety while driving.

After that demonstration we had our delicious lunch prepared and presented by the wonderful Association ladies, Terri Clark and Vickie Canniff. Then the kids' and adults' favorite part started right after lunch. It was driving, of course! All students gathered at the outdoor arena of the Cortland fairgrounds. Although a few youngsters had to be convinced they really could drive a team of big horses, everyone had a chance to drive their choice of a single cart, a team cart, or a team wagon. Once the participants tried driving, of course they wanted a turn to drive every horse there. The looks of concentration turned to abundant smiles.

Many thanks to all the New York Percheron club members who made this day a fun day! Thanks also go to the PHAoA Education and Charitable Fund for their monetary support for our clinic. It took many people to make this day a success by bringing horses, wagons, instructors, food, and friendly spirits on a sunny day.