

Association of Farrier Trainers of Canada

Association des Marechaux-Ferrants Formateurs du Canada

AFTC / AMFFC

Canadian Farrier Apprenticeship



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Introduction

A. How to Use This Reference Guide

There will be a lot of work and learning material to cover over your next three years of apprenticeship. Your ATF (Approved Trained Farrier) will play a key role in your farrier education by providing hands-on training in the art and science of farriery. In order for the apprenticeship program to keep track of your on-the-job training experience, you are expected to provide a portfolio of work done to show the experience and skills you have gained. Working through the tasks outlined in this guide will help you develop your portfolio.

Role of the Approved Trained Farrier (ATF)

- The ATF will be required to teach and demonstrate the art and science of farriery.
- Provide a fixed or mobile shop in the form of basic forging tools such as anvil and forge for the student to develop their forging skills.
- Help the student to develop practical skills to the AFTC program standards.
- Provide the student with the opportunity to work on a variety of different equine breeds and situations that cannot be provided in a college setting.

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Required Textbooks

Gregory's Textbook of Farriery – Chris Gregory – CJF,FWCF (year 1)

The Principles of Horseshoeing (P3) – Dr. Doug Butler and Jacob Butler

(year2) The Whole Horse – David Gill (year 3)

Prerequisites for the Program

Application for the apprenticeship including the complete practical entry test can be submitted digitally, Performed at an approved school or performed in person at any AFTC exam.

- A recognized foundation Farrier program **or** period of self-preparation under a practicing farrier. This period will be considered part of Year One of the program.
- Confirmation of commitment by a recognized Farrier
- Presentation from the candidate to support their application and to demonstrate they have a good comprehension of the following:
 - Horsemanship
 - Horse anatomy
 - Physiology (Normal function)
 - Safety
 - Provincial labour regulations, rights and responsibilities.

After the candidate has given a presentation, questions will be asked if needed to fill in anything missed. Different levels of knowledge will be present and it is important for the teaching farrier to understand the knowledge of their new apprentice.

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Credentials

Approved Journeyman Farrier of Canada, AJFC credentials will be awarded to the candidates upon successful completion of the third level exams.

Approved Farrier of Canada (AFC) will be awarded after successful completion of second level exams.

Approved Apprentice Farrier of Canada (AAFC) will be awarded after successful completion of first level exams.

Practical Entry Test

No Time Limit, Pass or Fail, All tests monitored for horse welfare (by an experienced farrier).

Prior to entry of the program, the candidate will be given a practical test on the following:

- Removal of shoes, **Pass:** Intact feet, well cleaned.
Fail: Ripping foot off, pulling excessively on leg
- Trim for barefoot, **Pass:** Foot trimmed to Ducketts Dot (foot proportions), exfoliating sole and frog present within reason. Foot edges are smooth/rounded.
Fail: Foot trimmed to give in the sole, blood drawn. Foot left excessively long.
- Clinch one front and one hind
- Horse management
- Working position
- Safety
- Tools

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Level 1, (End of First Year, includes foundation training period)

At the end of the first year, tests will be taken by the apprentice to evaluate their skills, knowledge and understanding of the following:

Portfolio Review

Prior to registering for an exam the candidate will prepare a portfolio of their everyday work. A front and hind, of two different horses, trimmed for barefoot with toe length and angle measurements.

The candidate will present two examples of regular ongoing farriery of an average horse. The presentation will show the horse in general and the hooves in more detail.

Create a portfolio of images showing a fore and a hind hoof of two horses regularly trimmed by the candidate.

Must include, front, side - (medial and lateral), and solar images of the hooves. Showing hooves at the end of a trimming cycle before the feet are trimmed.

The same series of photos after the feet are trimmed..

Include a brief description of each image and a brief history of the horse and the work it does. Images must be clear, well lit, on a clean flat floor and taken from the same distance and angle for comparison.

Examples available at www.farriertrainersofcanada.ca

Written Exam - 80% to pass (exam based of Gregory textbook)

- Horsemanship
- General whole horse anatomy
- Anatomy of the leg
- Anatomical terms
- Physiology
- Safety
- Basic conformation and common faults
- General horse health
- Disease and lameness of the hoof

Horse management, working position and safety will all factor into scoring of practical exams

Practical Exam 1 - Tool Inspection

Inspection of a complete set of shoeing and forging tools. Tools are inspected to ensure they are safe to use.

Practical test 2 - Horse Assessment

Dynamic horse assessment -

5 stage assessment protocol

- Assess Environment, what could influence the trot up, is it safe to have a trot up?
- Assess Attitude of horse and handler, are there safety tools added, chain, rope halter etc.
- Assess basic conformation
- Observation at walk
- Observation at trot.

Candidate has an opportunity to gain more information about the horse. When asked the examiner will provide a prepared standardised scenario about the horse. Age, sex, type of work etc. Scenarios will be used based on the type of horse i.e. QH could be a reiner, barrel horse, trail horse. Warmblood could be a dressage horse, TB could be a jumper or eventer, Arab could be an endurance horse etc,etc.

Examiners can ask questions about the horse or about the trot up itself, i.e. why would a farrier want to trot the horse up?

What direction should the horse turn during a change of direction?

How is the horse landing?

Is the horse lame / not lame?

Static Horse assessment -

The static assessment will take place after the Dynamic assessment. There will be an opportunity to pick up and clean feet and assess the overall condition of the feet. This time will be used to create an appropriate trimming plan with the information gained by the dynamic assessment. Any questions about the trimming plan will be answered by the examiners at this time*.

* Candidates will not be given specific direction about how to trim the horse.

Practical test 3 - Trimming 70% to pass

Pull 2 shoes , 5 Min

Trim 2 feet for barefoot as per trimming plan, 15 min

Practical test 4 Finishing - 10 min 70% to pass

Clinch and finish 1 front 1 hind, shoes will be fit and nailed up by a farrier approved by examiners (*No score for shoe fit*)

Practical test 5 Forging - 50 min 70% to pass

- Front keg shoe shaped to a hind pattern
- Hind keg shoe shaped to a front pattern
- One shoe to have pad applied and finished as if on a foot, secured by any means and appropriately boxed
- One shoe to be punched and tapped for stud holes

Forging Fit Requirements

- From the widest part of the template forward the shoe will fit the perimeter, + or - 1mm.
- From the widest part of the template to the point of the heel the shoe will allow for expansion and support to a maximum of half the width of shoe stock at the heel of the template. The heel of the shoe should fit the pattern center of stock.

Practical Oral Exam 70% to pass

- Discussion with both an AFTC Vet examiner and Farrier examiner. The oral exam should cover: *Anatomy - Points of the horse - Pathology - Biomechanics - Shoeing - Radiographs.*

Expected knowledge about radiographs

On lateromedial views:

1. Alignment of P1, P2, P3
2. Is the dorsal wall parallel to dorsal P3?
3. Sole depth at tip of P3
4. Palmar/plantar angle - steep? acceptable? flat?
5. Toe length
6. COR

On dorsopalmar/plantar views:

1. Medial to lateral balance of coffin bone
2. Joint spaces (coffin joint, pastern joint, fetlock joint).
3. Medial to lateral hoof wall balance

Upon successful completion candidates will be recognised as an
Approved Apprentice Farrier of Canada, AAFC

