



HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

Contact Person: Ms. Pat Comerford, Extension Horse Specialist, (814) 863-3657

Purpose:

This event is designed:

1. To support the county 4-H horse program.
2. To broaden the 4-H interaction experiences of youth and adults from across the Commonwealth.
3. To challenge 4-H'ers' skills and knowledge in horse judging.
4. To recognize 4-H'ers' demonstrated abilities in horse judging.
5. To better acquaint 4-H'ers with the faculty, services, and facilities of The Pennsylvania State University.

Objectives:

1. To stimulate 4-H'ers to learn and improve their knowledge of horses, horse management, horse training, and horsemanship.
2. To stimulate 4-H'ers to evaluate and make decisions.
3. To develop self-confidence in the 4-H member.
4. To select a team to represent Pennsylvania at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

Eligibility:

There are two divisions of competition in this contest: junior and senior. Both divisions are conducted simultaneously in competition, but both are scored and placed separately within their own divisions. The junior division is conducted primarily as a training ground for eventual senior division participation or to allow counties with no seniors to participate in the competition.

Both Divisions:

1. Contestants must be currently enrolled in a 4-H horse project.
2. Contestants must not have participated in the Eastern or Western National 4-H Horse Judging Contest.
3. Contestants must not have participated in official post secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive events in horse judging.
4. When four contestants are entered as a team, the three highest overall scores will make up the team's total.

Junior Division:

1. Contestants must have passed their 13th birthday and must not have passed their 16th birthday on January 1 of the current year.

2. Each county may enter a maximum of 8 contestants as follows:

- a) **Two (2) teams consisting of four (4) people, and up to 2 individuals, OR**
- b) **Two (2) team consisting of three (3) people, and up to 2 individuals, OR**
- c) **Two (2) individuals, OR**
- d) **One (1) individual**

Senior Division:

1. Contestants must be 13 years old and must not have reached their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year. See NOTE under Opportunities, regarding age of contestants eligible for national contests.

2. Each county may enter a maximum of 8 contestants as follows:

- a) **Two (2) teams consisting of four (4) people, and up to 2 individuals, OR**
- b) **Two (2) team consisting of three (3) people, and up to 2 individuals, OR**
- c) **Two (2) individuals, OR**
- d) **One (1) individual**

Contest Organization and Content:

1. Six classes will be judged: four halter classes and two performance classes. The two performance classes will be chosen from Equitation, Pleasure, Western Riding, Reining, Hunter Under Saddle, and Hunter Hack. All halter classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind, and mouth. All performance horses will be judged as seen (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). All tack and attire is considered legal.

Classes may include any breed depending upon availability of horses. Contestants should be familiar with judging standards for many breeds. The following list includes breeds more commonly available:

American Saddle Bred	Morgan
Appaloosa	Paint
Arabian	Paso Fino
Draft Horses or Ponies	Quarter Horse
Haflinger	Thoroughbred
Hunter Type Horses or Ponies	Tennessee Walking Horse
Miniature Horse	Warmblood

2. Senior contestants will give oral reasons on two (2) classes which may be Halter and/or Performance Classes. Junior contestants will give oral reasons on one halter class. Oral reasons will be given after all classes have been placed. Contestants may use notes when judging and preparing oral reasons but are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons to judge(s).
3. The animals will be designated 1-2-3-4 with numbers worn by the respective handler/rider.
4. Horses will not be handled by the contestants, but time will be provided in the halter classes for close inspection and to observe the horses at a walk and trot.
5. Contestants will be divided into four (4) groups for judging the classes, with one (1) contestant from a team per group. All contestants will remain with assigned group throughout the contest.
6. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for judging each of the placing classes, non-reason.

7. Seventeen (17) minutes will be allowed for judging each reason class. Contestants can take notes during this time to prepare for their oral reasons to be given in the afternoon.
8. Fifty (50) points will be given for correct placing in each class. The "cut system" will be used to determine scores. Official judges will place each class and determine the cuts for each class.
9. Oral reasons will be based on fifty (50) points for each class. Oral reasons should not be over two (2) minutes.
10. Individuals or teams tied will be ranked using reasons scores to break ties.
11. Contestants should wear attire appropriate for judging a horse show or competing in a state contest. **Shorts, sandals, open toed shoes etc. are not appropriate attire.** Contestants shall not wear any attire that will in any way reveal their identity. Hats are prohibited. **Contestants with inappropriate attire or footwear may not be allowed to enter the arena at the judges' discretion. In addition, contestants may be penalized on reasons score for inappropriate attire at the judges' discretion.**
12. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no communication or conferring between the contestants or anyone else except as designated by the contest coordinator or their representative. **Possession of cell phones during the contest is discouraged. IF contestants have cell phones in their possession, they MUST be turned off and may NOT be used (for audio, video or text messages) while the contest is in progress.**
13. While the contest is in progress, no coach, participant, or spectator may approach or talk with the contest announcer or official judges, except in the event of an emergency. Questions from coaches or spectators related to contest operation, rules, etc. should be directed to the contest coordinator(s). Contestants should direct questions to their respective group leaders.

Restriction:

No training of horse judging teams is permitted at the university within one month prior to the state contest.

Awards:

1. Merit ribbons will be awarded to all participants (33% blue, 33% red, and 33% white).
2. Team ribbons will be awarded to a maximum of ten (10 teams) per division.
3. The high scoring individual and members of the high scoring team in each division will be awarded plaques.

Opportunities:

The winning team in the senior division will be eligible to represent Pennsylvania at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup at the North American International Livestock Exposition at Louisville, Kentucky and at the Quarter Horse Congress Youth Horse Event at Columbus, Ohio (provided that all members meet the contest rules).

Counties representing team members eligible to attend out-of-state contests will work with appropriate specialists involved to make travel arrangements.

NOTE: Contestants must be at least 14 years of age but not yet have achieved their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year to participate in national competition. You may want to consider this in selection of team members. A 1st place team with any members not meeting this eligibility requirement will not be allowed to compete in this opportunity.

Resource Materials:

1. PA State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book. Available from county Cooperative Extension office or on the web at:
www.das.psu.edu
click on horses- then 4-H horse program- then rules
2. Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup
Contest Rules and Resources
<http://www.4hroundup.com/>
3. National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association
Judging contest procedures and rules, scoring, reasons, judging resources and references
<http://www.nhjca.org/>
4. Texas A&M University
Horse judging manual and other resources
<http://tcebookstore.org/index.cfm>
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Distribution & Supply
PO Box 1209
Bryan, TX 77806-1209
Phone: (979) 845-6573
5. Ohio State University
Horse judging manual and other resources
<http://horse.osu.edu/4h.html>
Phone: 614-292-4848
Fax: 800-292-4919
6. North Carolina State University
Horse judging manual and other resources
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/4h_Horse/4hmain.htm
Phone: 919-515-5784
Fax: 919-515-8518
7. Creative Educational Video
Several videos on judging halter and a variety of performance classes

PO Box 65265
Lubbock, TX 79464
Phone: (800) 922-9965
FAX: (800) 243-6398
Web Site: www.cev-inc.com
8. Kansas State University

Kansas Youth Horse Judging Manual
Interactive Horse Judging CDs
AQHA World Championship Judging Contest DVD
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_eyas/horse_links.htm
9. University of Kentucky –
Interactive Horse Judging Practice
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/agmania/horse/>
10. Colorado State University

Guide for Successful Competitive Horse Judging
Horse Judging DVDs
<http://equineextension.colostate.edu/ythhorsejudging/index.html>

11. American Quarter Horse Association
AQHA World Championship Judging Series Videos
American Quarter Horse Association
PO Box 200
Amarillo, TX 79168
Phone: (806) 376-4811
FAX: (806) 349-6404
www.aqha.com
12. Arabian Horse Association
Horse Judging DVD, resources
Phone: 303-696-4500
FAX: 303-696-4599
E-mail: youth@arabianhorses.org
www.ArabianHorses.org or www.ArabianHorses.org/youth
13. US Equestrian Federation rules, including class rules for many breeds
<http://www.usef.org/>
14. Most national breed associations have CDs, videos or other materials available.