

## State 4-H Horse Judging Contest:

### **Objectives:**

- Exhibit your ability to evaluate desirable conformation (structural correctness, balance and muscling), breed characteristics, and performance ideals in different breeds of horses.
- Use your horse evaluation skills, based on knowledge and fact; make a decision and explain your decision.
- Use proper equine terminology that can be used in a logical, systematic way to defend your placings.
- Display confidence in your ability and use of the English language by giving oral reasons to a judge.
- Demonstrate clear speaking skills, decisively, and convincingly through the use of oral reasons.

### **Divisions:**

There are 3 divisions:

- **Novice:** Those 4-H members who are at least 7 years old but not over 9 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- **Junior:** Those 4-H members who are at least 7 years old but not over 14 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- **Senior:** Those 4-H members who are at least 14 years old but not over 18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

Contestants may not have participated in an official, college level hippology, horse bowl, or horse-judging contest. Any 4-Her's who have registered or participated in the Eastern National 4-H Horse Judging contest in Kentucky are not eligible for this event.

### **Applications/Registration:**

Will be available through a State 4-H Horse mailing and at your county office. Please watch for deadlines and follow all directions as they are presented.

### **Teams:**

Counties are strongly urged to assemble teams with their members, although individuals may compete without being part of a team. Novices and seniors compete as individuals. Juniors may compete as a team consisting of 3 or 4 members, although 4 members are preferable. When a four-person team is entered, the three highest overall scores will comprise the team's total score. Teams may be assembled by any procedure a county deems appropriate.

### **Contest Officials:**

- Chairperson – the State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee will designate The Chairperson. This individual cannot be affiliated with any pre-existing Horse Judging team in Connecticut. Their job is to provide a completely impartial contest for all entered.

- Judge – the invited Contest Judge or similar contest official may judge the classes. Reasons may be judged by several contest judges, who cannot be associated with any team competing in this contest.
- Proctors – Several contest personnel will proctor the judging phase and collect the scorecards.
- Scorers – Several contest personnel will score the judging phase and assist in tabulation of reasons scores.

### **Competition:**

Novice and Juniors – competition is based on placings of approximately 4 classes, 2 halter and 2 performance. Reasons are optional for Novice and Junior competitors will have 1 reasons class.

Seniors will judge up to 10 classes, halter and performance, with reasons on 3 to 4 classes, preferably halter and performance. However, classes to be used as reason classes will be determined at the contest.

If the contest has less than 20 participants, it will be a video horse judging contest. With more than 20 participants, live judging will occur.

**While competition is underway, there will be no conferring between the contestants or between contestants and anyone else, such as coaches or parents, except as directed by the contest superintendent or contest assistants. First time an infraction of this rule is noted, the contestant will have his class card pulled for the class the member is judging. A second infraction will result in being excused from the entire contest.**

### **Class Judging:**

Horses will be designated as “1”, “2”, “3”, or “4” and that number will be displayed by the handler or rider.

All halter horses will be judged as “sound” unless otherwise noted by the judge or contest officials.

Performance classes will be judged as seen with unsoundness to be judged accordingly. All tack and attire will be considered as “legal” unless otherwise stated.

The placings turned in by the contest official are final.

### **Time:**

Approximately fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed to the contestants to judge non reason classes and approximately seventeen (17) minutes will be allowed to judge reason classes. Contestants are allowed to take notes. Scoring cards will be provided.

### **Reasons:**

Seniors – Oral reasons will be required on at least two or possibly more classes. Juniors will be required to give one set of reasons. Novice – Oral reasons are optional, on up to two classes. We encourage our young members to enhance their skills and knowledge by participating.

**Time:**

Two (2) minutes are allowed to give oral reasons to the judge. Contestants may take notes while judging, but Senior contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons. Juniors and Novices may use and reference their notes while delivering their reasons. The Contestants' placing card will be made available to them upon entering the reasons room, if they request it.

**Placings:**

Junior	Reasons	Top 6 Teams
Senior	Reasons	Top 6 Individuals
Novice	Reasons	Participation Awards
Junior	Conformation	Top 6 Teams
Senior	Conformation	Top 6 Individuals
Novice	Conformation	Top 10 individuals
Junior	Performance	Top 6 Teams
Senior	Performance	Top 6 Individuals
Novice	Performance	Top 10 individuals
Junior	Overall	Top 10 individuals
Senior	Overall	Top 10 individuals
Novice	Overall	Top 10 individuals
Junior	Overall	Top 6 Teams

**Eastern National 4-H Round Up Eligibility Requirements:**

Contestants must be 4-Hers in good standing in their county and at least 14 years of age but not have reached his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which this event is held. Be advised that senior contestants must average a score of 38 across all classes judged and reasons to be considered as eligible for participation in Eastern Nationals 4-H Roundup. Contestants who want to attend will be selected in descending order from those that have qualified based on these rules. There must be a team of at least 3, up to 5 including an alternate, to participate. Fundraising will be required for teams that are selected to participate in this event. Teams must provide a coach and a chaperone who are registered volunteers in good standing who have been approved for custodial care+. Team members, coaches, chaperones and parents must attend an orientation.