

Horse Judging Contest

1. The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest is divided into the following categories based on age of the 4-H member as of January 1 of the year the contest is held:

-Junior Division (9-13 Years): Individual and Team

-Senior Division (14-18 Years): Individual and Team

2. Teams consist of three or four members. In competition where four members judge, the scores of the three members with the highest total scores are used to compute the team's overall final score.

3. Method of choosing county team members and the number of teams and individuals who may represent a county at the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest is decided by the county and/or District 4-H Horse Management Team.

4. All individuals and teams competing in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest are not required to have qualified at a District event. All teams competing in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest must be county, club or mixed teams from their respective district. It is strongly suggested that teams and individuals who wish to compete at the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest have attended a clinic prior to the contest.

5. Team members are eligible for individual awards as well as team awards at the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. You do not need to enter both as an individual and team to be eligible for these awards.

6. Contestants may not have previously competed in any post-secondary horse judging contest beyond the high school level.

7. Junior State 4-H Horse Judging Champions or members of champion teams ARE eligible to compete in the junior age category again.

8. The top 10 individuals in the Senior Horse Judging Contest will be eligible for regional and national competition. Once a 4-Her has represented Kentucky at the national competition, they will not be eligible for that same event at state, regional and national level.

9. Due to the scheduling of the Judging contest separate from the Hippology contest, contestants are now eligible to compete in Horse Judging and Hippology during the same year.

10. Contestants will judge at least 6 but no more than 10 classes at the State Judging Contest.

11. The classes to be judged at the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be chosen from the following:

Halter Classes (geldings/mares/fillies)

Quarter Horse

Morgan Horse

Appaloosa Horse

Arabian Horse

Paint Horse

Thoroughbred Horse

American Saddlebred Horse

English Pleasure Pony

Tennessee Walking Horse

Performance Classes (geldings/mares/fillies)

Western Pleasure

Western Riding

Reining

Pleasure Driving

Hunter Hack

Hunter Seat Equitation

Show Pleasure Walking Horse

Saddle Seat Equitation

Working Hunter

Western Horsemanship

Western Showmanship

English Pleasure (3 & 5-gaited)

Plantation Walking Horse

Open Walking Horse

English Showmanship

12. All halter classes are composed of four horses of the same breed, sex and approximate age.

13. Horses are numbered one through four from the contestants' left to right as they view the class. Back numbers corresponding to horse numbers must be worn by all handlers or riders. In the case of individual work performance classes (working hunter, reining, etc.) the order of work may be used to number the horses.

14. Only contestants and those individuals assigned to assist with the contest are permitted in the arena during the judging. Judging is done on an individual basis. Any conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone other than the contestant's group leader is grounds for dismissal of the contestant(s) from the contest. This stands in effect from the time the contest is officially started until the final contestant has given his or her oral reasons to the official reasons taker.

15. Neatness of dress is encouraged. Senior contestants may not wear any pins, badges or articles of clothing revealing their identity or the identity of the club, county or district from which they are a representative. Hats may not be worn while judging the horse, but may be worn when giving oral reasons (senior contestants only).

16. Fifteen minutes is permitted for the judging of each class (including reasons classes). Contestants view each halter class by the following system:

3 minutes - side view

2 minutes - rear view

2 minutes - front view

2 minutes - close inspection

5 minutes - way of going

1 minute - side view

17. Contestants may assume all halter class horses to be sound. However, contestants are to consider soundness of all performance class horses.
18. Video performance classes may be used in order for the youth to be challenged on a diverse variety of breeds and disciplines.
19. Senior contestants are to give at least 2 and no more than 4 sets of oral reasons: at least one halter class and one performance class. Contestants will be notified of all reasons classes prior to the start of the class or directly after the class, so contestants are encouraged to take notes on all classes. Although contestants may carry note-taking materials into the arena, **notes may not be used during the giving of oral reasons.**
20. Two minutes will be permitted for the giving of each set of oral reasons.
21. Junior contestants may be asked questions in lieu of reasons.
22. Points are accumulated on the basis of 50 points per class for placing and 50 points per set of oral reasons. Ties between individual or team scores are broken by the following system: (1) highest total reasons score, (2) highest total of perfect scores, or (3) highest total of placing scores.
23. Contestants are responsible for the proper marking of all class placing cards. Cards handed in without a class placing and/or a preassigned number will receive a score of zero. Cards handed in with more than one placing will receive the lowest score of all the placings.
24. Awards are given through ten places in both individual categories and through five places in both team categories.
25. The decision of the judge(s) is final.