North Dakota 4-H Horse Judges Certification

Purpose
The goal of the North Dakota Judge’s Certification program is to build uniformity throughout the state in 4-H horse judging practices.

Program Overview
The 4-H Horse Judge’s Certification program is designed to test knowledge of class rules and judging procedures. Individuals who wish to judge 4-H horse shows in the state of North Dakota should be certified. An official Certified Horse Judges list will be maintained by the Center for 4-H and distributed to all counties. Counties will be strongly encouraged to hire judges from the list for all 4-H horse shows. The certification testing procedure includes passing both a written test and judging mock classes.

Testing Procedure
Anyone 18 years of age and older who is interested in judging 4-H horse shows may take the test. If you don’t have previous judging experience, we highly encourage working with other certified judges prior to judging shows on your own.

Participants will be required to pass two sections of testing in order to be considered certified and have their contact information added to the judge’s list.

Written Exam – The written exam will contain 50 multiple-choice and/or true/false questions covering rules and procedures found in the North Dakota 4-H Horse Show Rules and Judging Guide (GBH092). Participants must receive a score of 80% to pass.

Judging – Participants will be asked to judge three mock classes which may be presented live or on video. Classes to be judged could be any described in the North Dakota 4-H Horse Show Rules and Judging Guide (GBH092). Participants must receive an overall score of 75% on this portion to pass.

Candidates who pass both portions of the exam will be considered certified and their names added to the official Certified Horse Judges list. Certification is good for three-years; after this time, individuals must recertify to remain on the list.

Candidates who fail to pass one or both of the exam portions will not be considered certified; however, candidates who fail to pass will be able to sign up to retake the exams at a later date.

It is important to note, that prior judging experience does not guarantee success on the exams. There are several rules unique to ND 4-H, as well as the 4-H Danish system of awards, which is different than the way many open and breed shows are judged.

Exemptions
Any person who holds a judging card with a nationally recognized breed association or is currently certified by another state system can petition to be exempt from taking the judging portion of testing process. These individuals will still be required to pass the written portion of the test.

Cost
The cost for testing is $20.00.

For questions, contact:
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