North Dakota 4-H Horse Program
State 4-H Horse Judging
Contest Rules
University of Minnesota Crookston
2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN

April 7th, 2018 – registration @ 7:15 am | Start @ 8:00 am

STATE SPECIALISTS
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GENERAL INFORMATION
The North Dakota 4-H Horse Judging Contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H Horse projects to enhance their equine evaluation and selection skills. Additionally, a judging contest improves their communication and decision-making skills giving them invaluable life skills towards career development. The purpose of the 4-H horse judging contest is to teach youth how to evaluate horses and how to make and defend their decisions. Participants will judge classes that include both halter and performance classes. Participants will then prepare sets of oral reasons and meet one-on-one with an official to describe the reasons for their class placement. Competition in horse judging fosters self-confidence, organization, critical thinking, teamwork skills and oral communication skills. Just as important, this contest advances their knowledge of the equine industry, giving youth the tools to help select horses for longevity and athleticism. This contest provides an educational program for all project members, including those who may not own a project animal.

The winning 4-H senior team will have a choice to represent North Dakota at the National 4-H Horse Judging Contest at the Western National Round Up in Denver, Colorado.

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:
A. Stimulate learning in equine science and agricultural industry;
B. Youth develop positive interests and attitudes about equine evaluation, animal science and related careers;
C. Youth gain a base of knowledge of equine projects;
D. Youth will utilize skills and abilities to solve everyday situations;
E. Youth gain valuable producer experience
F. Reward 4-H members for knowledge gained in a subject matter area;
G. Provide a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail;
H. Participants will process information, analyze complex scenarios and make informed decisions based on breed association rules and apply those rules to difficult decisions;
I. Develop teamwork, self-confidence, public speaking and decision-making skills;
J. An increased number of participants seek out higher education opportunities and careers related to animal and equine science.

Registration Opens: 1/24/2018
To register, use your ND County 4-H number and “ND” as your username and password. Example – If my county number were 7777, I would put ND7777 for the Username and ND7777 for the password.

Late registration: 3/31/2018
Registration deadline: 4/5/2018
**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED** *(registration cost: $10 per individual)*


1. **By March 31st, 2018** to avoid a late registration charge. Changes and substitutions may be made at registration on the day of the contest. **Deadline to enter is April 5th, 2018. Lunch is extra (please email Holly directly for any youth with dietary needs: Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu).** Participants/Coaches/chaperones may also order a lunch (pizza/water/granola bar) for $5 per person. You will see this as an option on JudgingCard.com.

2. **To register,** use your ND County 4-H number and “ND” as your username and password. Example – If my county number were 7777, I would put ND7777 for the Username and ND7777 for the password.

**LODGING**

Comfort Suites will be our host hotel for the contest weekend. A block of rooms has been established under “4-H Horse Judging” for $99/night

- 4417 23rd Ave. S. Fargo, ND
- Phone: 701-277-5576
- CALL BEFORE March 20th – cut off date!

**CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

1. Contestants must be enrolled in North Dakota 4-H (4honline) as a full time member in the county they represent. Short-term 4-H members are not eligible to compete at the state level.

2. Counties may enter any number of participates in either age division. The high **three individual** scores will determine the team score.

3. All participants are eligible for individual awards.

4. **Counties may combine to form a team provided neither county has more than 2 participants.** Combination teams must pre-register together for the appropriate age group. A team of three (3) may not pick up a fourth member from another county.
   
   a. **Both counties and coaches from the different teams must approve combining of individuals for a team.**

5. Contestants in the **senior** division must be 14-18 years on December 31, 2017. The **junior** division is for members 8 years of age to 13 on December 31, 2017.

6. While the contest is in progress, there shall be NO conferring between contestants or anyone else other than the Contest Superintendents, Group Leaders or their representative. **50 points** will be deducted from the total score for each talking infraction reported.

7. Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request an accommodation(s), please contact Holly Halvorson at 701-231-7251 or Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu by April 5th to make arrangements.

8. **4-H members are not eligible for this contest if:**
   
   a. He/she has taken first place at the ND State 4-H Horse Judging Contest in the **SENIOR division**
   b. He/she has judged at the National 4-H Horse Judging Contest in Louisville or Denver.
   c. He/she has participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive events of a similar nature in the same subject matter area. Neither can he/she be a member of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation of an event.

NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu
CONTEST DIVISIONS
Each age division is considered a separate contest and youth may enter one of the following divisions.

◆ Junior 4-H division: Youth ages 8 to 13 years old and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as a full time 4-H member (not a short-term member) as of December 31, 2017.

◆ Senior 4-H division: Youth age 14 to 18 on December 31, 2017 and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as a full time 4-H member (not a short-term member).

◆ Open division: Participants age 8 to 18 not eligible for 4-H divisions. 4-H/FFA dual members choosing to only judge in the State FFA Horse Judging Contest this year may enter this division. Individuals from another state are welcome to enter this division.

✓ The Senior FIRST place team overall has the option to represent North Dakota at the Western National Roundup Contest in Denver, Colorado. The team is awarded $1,000 from the North Dakota 4-H Foundation to help with travel expenses. Contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday, and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held. However, the State 4-H Leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.

◆ County agents and coaches are responsible for determining the age and member eligibility of participants in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest from their respective clubs.

DRESS CODE
Participants shall follow the 4-H Dress Code: 4-H members must be dressed neatly and wear a solid white, yellow, gray, or green shirt with 4-H emblem on the front. County names or other affiliation should not be worn at the state contest in order to avoid bias. The clover may be imprinted, screened, or attached with an adhesive (if clovers are pinned to the shirt, use multiple pins and place pins discreetly underneath the chevron). Failure to comply will result in the deduction of 50 points from the individual or team score. 4-H members are asked to stay in official dress until completion of awards.
CONTEST GUIDELINES
National 4-H Western National Roundup rules will apply. Local managers may modify rules and procedures as needed to conduct the event in the allowed time.

3. A coaches meeting will be held on Friday night before the contest. At this time, the program will be explained and contest instructions will be given. Coaches/Agents should be prepared to check names, addresses, and ages of their contestants. Substitutions/changes may be made at this time or at registration the day of the contest.
4. There is a $10 registration fee to cover the cost of the scantrons and awards. LUNCH for participants/coaches/others is $5 (pizza/water/granola bars).
5. No electronic devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) will be allowed during the contest.
6. Two minutes will be provided for each profile view (sides, front, and hind) and close inspection.
7. The horses/riders/handlers will be designated by numbers 1-2-3-4.
8. Contestants should make their observations, take notes and fill out their scantron during the time allowed, as reasons classes will not be announced prior to the start of the contest.
9. All tack and attire will be considered legal providing it is used properly.
   1. For example, a rider riding with two hands on a shanked bit is NOT using the tack properly and will result in disqualification.
10. Halter classes, all horses will be considered and judged as “sound.”
11. Scantrons will be used for the entire contest. An example for practice has been provided on our website: https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs_events/state_4_h_contests/horse_judging/
12. Contestants must bring their own #2 pencils, clipboards or judging books.
13. There will be no prohibition against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the contest, including but not limited to rulebooks, judging manuals, and score sheets.
14. Oral reasons will be given at the NDSU Equine Center campus. Two minutes are allowed for oral reasons. Contestants should not have paper, cards or notes to assist while giving reasons.
15. Contest Superintendents reserve the right to replace one or more classes with original, professionally produced video classes in the event weather or other emergencies make it impossible to have the minimum number of live classes required for the contest.
16. All decisions of the official judges are final.
GENERAL RULES:
1. **Juniors** – will judge **2 to 4 halter classes** and **2 to 4 performance classes** and give **1 to 2 halter oral reasons and 1 to 3 performance class reasons**.

2. **Seniors** – will judge **2 to 4 halter classes** and **2 to 4 performance classes** and give **1 to 2 halter oral reasons and 1 to 3 performance class reasons**.

3. **Judging Phase** – 50 points per class
   - Contest classes will depend on the availability of horses, riders, and schedule of the day.
     - A. At least **two** but not more than four halter classes will be judged. Efforts will be made to provide a variety of breeds in halter classes.
     - B. At least **two** but not more than four performance classes will be judged. The performance classes will include at least one of the following: Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Reining, and/or Ranch Riding.
     - C. Officials reserve the right to excuse any horse from a class if they demit to be lame. In the event, the excused horse should be placed last on the contestant’s card. The remainder of the class will continue to be judged once the lame horse has exited the arena.
     - D. A minimum of **2 minutes** will be allowed for contestants to judge each profile view of a halter horse. Performance classes will give allow for the appropriate time in each gait for contestants to see each horse at least once.

4. **Reasons Phase** – 50 points per set
   - Contestants should not have paper, cards or notes to assist while giving reasons. Reading notes to a reasons taker will result in a score no higher than **25 points**. Reasons are evaluated on content, accuracy, emphasis, completeness, terminology and presentation. **Classes for reasons will be determined by officials.**
   - Contestants should assume that any class during the contest is a possible reasons class.
     - A. Oral reasons will be required on at least one halter class.
     - B. Oral reasons will be required on at least one performance class.
     - C. Officials will determine classes for oral reasons.

TIE-BREAKING
Priority order for breaking ties:
1. If tied for a division award in Halter or Performance, the contestant or team having the highest reason score in that division will be listed first.
2. If tied for an award in reasons, the contestant or team having the lowest placing score on the reasons classes will be listed first.
3. If tied for individual or team overall award, the contestant or team having the highest overall reason score shall be listed first.
4. If still tied for either (1) or (3) above, the contestant or team having the highest score in placing reasons classes shall be listed first.
5. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest overall placing score will be listed first.
6. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest single class reasons score will be listed first.
7. If contestants are still tied from above, the youngest contestant or team shall be listed first.
DESCRIPTION OF CUTS
Cuts, as specified in the NHJTCA Handbook:

1. Horses are extremely similar; no obvious reason why one should be placed over the other; or, both horses have numerous faults and none supersedes the others; placing is strictly a matter of personal preference; placing varies among official judges – will result in a small cut (0-2).

2. Horses are very close, but one horse has one or two qualitative or quantitative advantages; the majority of official judges would not switch the pair, but half of the contestants could logically switch the pair – will result in a small to medium cut (1-2).

3. Horses are of unequal quality, but there is a logical placing in favor of one horse; either one horse has several faults or several advantages; all official judges would agree on the placing; no more than one third of contestants would be expected to switch the pair – will result in a medium cut (3-4).

4. Horses are not of similar quality; one horse has several decided advantages based on many points; all experts would quickly see the placing; no guesswork or personal preference required to make placing; no more than 10% of contestants would be expected to switch the pair – will result in a larger cut (4-5).

5. Large number of extreme differences between the horses; placing is obvious to everyone on first, quick observation; careful study not required for the placing; pair consists of an inferior horse vs. a consistent winner; only very inexperienced, uninformed contestants would switch the pair – will result in a large cut (4-6).

6. Horse not even comparable; differences reflective of a champion quality horse or performance vs. a horse or performance that is not of show quality – will result in a large cut (5-6).

7. Largest cut; differences reflective of a world-class halter horse vs. an extremely poor quality or lame horse; or a world-class performance vs. a disqualified performance – Largest cut (7).

The total of the three cuts for a class of four animals shall not exceed 15 or a negative score may result. The middle cut may never exceed five (5) points when the cuts add to 15 or exceed eight (8) points when the cuts add to 14 or a negative score may result. An understanding of how placings are tabulated should benefit the youth judge, coach, parent, 4-H leader, teacher, volunteer, and Extension agent.

AWARDS

1. Senior and junior 4-H division participants are eligible for the following awards:
   a. Individual ribbon awards for the top ten (10) individuals and top three (3) teams overall.
   b. Awards for the five (5) high individuals in each judging phase and reasons
   c. Ribbons will be awarded to approximately the top 30-50% of the participants depending on the amount of participants entered in the contest.

2. Open division participants are eligible for the following awards:
   a. FFA will provide awards to FFA participants.

3. Senior 4-H division first place team (top three scores plus first alternate) will be eligible to represent North Dakota 4-H at the National 4-H Horse Judging Contest in Denver, Colorado. The North Dakota 4-H Foundation will provide $1000 towards the expenses of this trip. In order to represent North Dakota 4-H and judge in a national contest, participants must judge in this state contest.
RESULTS
Results will be posted on https://www.judgingcard.com/ and on a PDF on the NDSU North Dakota State 4-H Horse Judging Contest page: https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs_events/state_4_h_contests/horse_judging/

SUPPLIES

1. Individuals competing in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest.
   a. Scranton forms will be utilized for the contest.
2. Individuals should have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest.
3. Score sheets and/or rulebooks may be used.

OFFICIALS:
In order to provide a rewarding experience for our youth, volunteers are key to the successful operation and efficiency of each contest. If you would like to serve as an official during the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, please send an email to LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu.

1. Superintendent(s): Oversees all aspects of the contest, assists contestants and other officials. Arrange for qualified Judge(s). Publicize contest. Ensure rules are updated. Arrange for and select animals for classes. Secure other officials, supplies, and paperwork to efficiently run the contest. Establish contest on Judgingcard.com and develop contest within the system. Introduces the contest and ensures the PA system is working. Works to ensure results, reasons, and classes are being conducted in a professional and timely manner. Assists in presenting awards and posting awards.
2. Moderator(s): The moderator should be knowledgeable in horse judging procedures, guidelines, and regulations. The moderator assumes complete direction of the contest (may also be the superintendent), calls rotation of the animals and rotation of the participants during the judging phase. Gathers the official placings and cuts for tabulation.
3. Judge(s): A judge can be anyone with a strong background in horse judging. Classes will be placed in accordance with the rules of the respective breed association rules. The judge(s) will make informed decisions on the official placing for each class. Along with the moderator, they will come to an agreement on official cuts based on the difficulty or ease of placing each class. The judge(s) may or may not be used as reasons takers. The judge should give reasons for the class placings and official placings/cuts before the awards ceremony after the contest is complete.
4. Time Keeper: The timekeeper will monitor elapsed time for each timed rotation of profile views of horse allowing 2 minutes for each view/close inspection to be judged, giving adequate time for each rotation to settle in prior to starting the time clock after each rotation.
5. Reasons taker(s): An industry professional knowledgeable in horses. Reasons taker listens to each participant to evaluate the content, accuracy, emphasis, completeness, terminology and presentation for each class. A reasons taker should make their best effort to score consistently throughout the contest. If more than one reasons taker is used for a class, reasons takers will listen to the first three sets together and collectively score them, to make every attempt to maintain uniformity. Reasons takers should be on the same page when participants read off their notes (highest score allowed being 25 points).
6. Horse handlers: Assist with handling/riding horses. Help lead, groom, tack or hold horses if needed.
7. Group leaders: Volunteers, coaches, chaperones, agents that assist with leading each group of contestants during the rotation of classes. They are responsible for collecting cards when the class is complete from each participant. They are the only individual that participants are allowed to talk to during the judging portion of the contest. Group leaders help to ensure participants are not talking...
amongst themselves and report illegal behavior (cell phones, talking, cheating, etc.) to the superintendent or moderator.

8. **Tabulators:** Collecting reasons cards and scantrons. Helping to input reasons scores into the JudgingCard.com system. Double-checking the top ten individuals for each category.

9. **Reasons room advisors:** Help to ensure participants are not talking to each other and the volume of voices are held at an appropriate level for contestants to work and respect each other. Ensuring participants are not conversing with each other.

10. **Hallway advisors:** Beneficial in helping each participant find their way to their respective reasons rooms. Ensure participants are not conversing with each other.

11. **Extra volunteers:** Help with assembling and passing out lunch. May help with registration desk. May run scorecards and reasons cards to the tabulation room.
OTHER RESOURCES

ONLINE practice:
American Paint Horse Association – HorseIQ
1. APHA members $6.99 per month
2. Non-APHA members $9.99 per month

Designed for anyone who wants to learn more about horse show classes are judged and how to improve their own performances based on judging standards, Horse IQ is perfect for exhibitors of all ages, trainers, parents, judges, competitive horse judging teams and more.

Joining Horse IQ is easy and gives you on-demand access to hundreds of video clips and judging criteria at the click of a button. Subscription fees start at $6.99 per month for APHA members or $9.99 per month for non-members. Join now at aphahorseiq.com.


DVD practice:
University of Florida – Contact Dr. Saundra TenBroeck: sht@ufl.edu
2012 AQHA World Championship Horse Judging Contest DVD- $30

Kansas State University DVDs (https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/judging-dvds.html)
1. Judging Hunter Hack - $27.95
2. Judging Trail DVD - $27.95
3. Oral Reasons - $23.00

HorseShowPatterns.com (https://horseshowpatterns.com/)
1. Conformation – Part I - $32.50
2. HorseShowPattern Judging Part I - $27.50
3. HorseShowPattern Judging Part II - $27.50
4. Western riding & Trail – Part II
5. Showmanship, Western Horsemanship & Hunt Seat Equitation – Part I

AQHA Showing to Win series (http://www.aqhastore.com/Gear-DVDs/)
1. Showmanship - $24.95
2. Trail - $24.95
3. Western Pleasure - $24.95
4. Western Horsemanship - $24.95

National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association (NHJTCA)
Contact Aaron Callahan @ Black Hawk College callahana@bhc.edu
1. 2012 World Show -$50  (same as the University of Florida DVD, we produced this)
2. 2010 World show - $50 *NEW*
3. 2008 World Show- $50
4. 2007 World Show (halter only) - $20
5. 2006 AJPHA Contest- $40
6. 2006 World Show - $40
7. 2005 World Show (Halter Only) $20
8. 2004 World Show $40
9. 2002 World Show $40
Oklahoma State University Oral Reasons
Developing Oral Reasons - $60 (?) – Steven.Cooper@okstate.edu

John Wolf's Horse Judging Series DVD's
http://www.perfectpracticevds.com/dvds.htm

Several DVD's to choose from for all classes, including reasons and how to coach DVD's!

1. DVD 1 - Halter Judging for coaches and beginner judges  $49.95
2. DVD 2 - Halter Judging for coaches and intermediate judges  $49.95
3. DVD 3 - Halter Judging for coaches and advanced judges  $49.95
   a. DVD's 1, 2, 3 include: Coaches' Corner, Contestant Tips, a class of Quarter Horse Mares, a class of Quarter Horse or Stock Type Geldings, plus ten questions/answers and a set of oral reasons on each class.
4. DVD 4 - Decisions (2 disc set)  $49.95
   a. DVD 4 is a 2 disc set entitled Decisions. Disc 1 is designed for horse judging team members to use as an interactive tool to compare parts of two horses at a time, answer questions and make 250 decisions. Disc 2 contains a class of Quarter Horse Mares and a class of Quarter Horse Geldings to practice what they learned in Disc 1. Official placings and cuts are included.
5. DVD 5 - Oral Reasons by Aaron J. Callahan  $79.95
   a. This DVD has been developed to benefit both coaches and youth judges. It covers how to set up a horse judging book, how to take notes, how to start a beginner and work through to the advanced youth. Presentation skills in the reasons room as well as sample sets of reasons at different learning levels are shown.
6. DVD 6 - Practice Halter Classes  $19.95
   a. DVD 6 contains a class of Quarter Horse Mares and a class of Quarter Horse Geldings. Official placings, cuts, and class critiques are also included. This is a great DVD if you are needing to increase your practice library of halter classes.
7. DVD 7 - "Choices" Western Pleasure with Julie Voge  $49.95
   a. DVD 7 concentrates on sorting differences in the western pleasure class. Emphasis is given to evaluating brokeneness, frame, quality of movement and manners within a pair of horses utilizing video clips. 55 different pairs are presented to the user along with a question and audio answer for each pair.
8. DVD 8 - Preparing for A Judging Contest  $39.95
   a. This DVD is designed by Jon Wolf for all youth coaches and their judging teams and is an excellent tool to prepare for an upcoming horse judging contest. It will be particularly useful for the 4-H coach or Vocational Agriculture teacher and judging team with limited horse knowledge. Big issues are addressed and several examples are given for the following judging contest classes: Stock Type Halter, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation.
9. Perfect Practice Horse Judging Resource CD $9.95
   a. Here is the perfect help for those coaches needing that little extra help preparing for your next contest. This CD contains printable files, most one to two pages long, that are designed to give you last minute pointers and suggestions for coaching your team and/or keeping them motivated. Files include information for coaches, contestants, oral reasons, web resources and the basics for commonly seen horse judging contest classes. Print off the specific files you want, they are ready to photocopy and hand out to your students.
10. DVD 9 - Hunter Under Saddle  $49.95
   a. "Staying In The Hunt" focuses on identifying differences in quality of movement, frame, brokeneness, and manners of 60 video clip pairs of Hunter Under Saddle horses. Each pair has a question and...
audio answer. Also included is a Hunter Under Saddle glossary and multiple trot and canter tests using classes of four horses.

11. DVD 10- Practice Performance Classes with Dave Whitaker $49.95
   a. DVD 10 contains the following classes: Hunter Under Saddle, Novice Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship I and Western Horsemanship II. Official placings, cuts, and class critiques are also included. This is a great DVD if you are needing to increase your practice library of performance classes.

12. DVD 11- Practice Showmanship and Horsemanship runs $29.95
   a. DVD 11 contains 20 showmanship and 20 western horsemanship runs for you to practice judging and scoring. Pick any 4 runs to make a class to utilize with your judging teams.

13. DVD 12- Oral Reasons #2 with the Black Hawk East Horse Judging Team. $29.95
   a. This nationally successful judging team provides oral reasons on Perfect Practice DVD's 1-4 as well as 6. This is 10 sets of halter reasons on DVD! Also included are 6 bonus sets of oral reasons on various performance classes.

Julie Wolf Voge
Judging101@yahoo.com
Julie is John Wolf’s daughter and has lots of other DVD’s available for practice

Video Horse World – DVD’s with runs from AQHA Congress – www.videohorse.com

FREE materials

Call and inform them you are a North Dakota 4-H club looking for free, helpful material to prep a judging team. Request a rulebook (give them the amount of club members) and anything else they would care to provide.

American Paint Horse Association (APHA) – Ask for rulebook and coat color charts – 817.834-APHA (2742)

American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) – Call and get a free rulebook – 806.376.4811

Pinto Horse Association of America (PtHA) – Ask for rulebook and coat color charts – 405.491.0111

Arabian Horse Association (AHA) – Ask for rulebook, judging manual or other supplies they can offer - 303.696.4500

American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) – Ask for a rulebook and color chart – 802.985.4944

YouTube

A Judges Perspective – a great series to not only listen for reasons phrases and descriptions, but evaluate a rider and horse according to a carded judge (Example: Ranch Riding: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jHditbPrwE)