

QUALITIES DESIRED IN A 4-H HORSE SHOW JUDGE

KNOWLEDGE OF HORSES AND RULES: Good judging is based on a basic understanding of what to select for the class being judged. This requires a mental image of the ideal for the class. In addition to having complete and up-to-date information, judges need keen powers of observation and comparison, and must be able to make accurate decisions within a reasonable length of time. A 4-H judge is obligated to use the rules in 4-H bulletin 511-C A 4-H Guide For Light Horse Shows in Iowa or the rules of the show (if they are different from this bulletin) in the judging of all classes. They are expected to have a thorough knowledge of these state 4-H rules.

4-H PHILOSOPHY: Judges who judge 4-H shows should have a thorough understanding of the objectives of the Iowa 4-H Horse and Pony Project. The major emphasis of the Project should be on the member, not on the horse. The knowledge the member has gained thorough the training and care given his/her animal during the year, as indicated by its appearance and response in the show ring, should be emphasized. The 4-H horse show should assist in evaluating the member's progress rather than be the major emphasis of the Project.

GENERAL CHARACTER: Those judging 4-H horse shows are a guiding influence on the lives of the boys and girls they work with, and as such, must always be careful to set a good example for them to follow. This is important both in and out of the show ring. To be an effective teacher, a judge must have the understanding and respect of the 4-H members they work with. A horse show judge has a special influence on those they work with the day of the show. This brings with it special responsibilities. Honesty and sincerity are extremely important. Act like you "care." Also, care must be exercised in such things as: use of liquor, excessive smoking, and improper language before, during and after the show. Judges must satisfy themselves, the exhibitors, and the spectators.

GIVING ORAL REASONS: Open show judges are seldom asked to give oral reasons, but in the 4-H shows the judge is often asked to comment briefly on the classes over a PA system. These reasons are helpful to the exhibitors, parents and leaders. They inform them of what they are doing right, and what can be improved. It is important that these reasons be accurate and brief. Judges oral reasons should emphasize the important points, and contain good terms. The delivery should be sincere, and the enunciation clear. Correct grammar should be used. The organization of the reason should be easy for the listener to follow.

WORKING WITH YOUTH: The 4-H horse show judge should be businesslike, but friendly. Working with youth requires a special skill. The needs of each member must be considered. These include: the need to belong, to be successful, to be recognized, to have responsibility, and to be liked. A judge may be able to work successfully with adults, but may lack the special traits and patience necessary to work with youth. Special consideration must be given to the younger, less experience members.

WORKING WITH SHOW OFFICIALS AND OTHER ADULTS: Judges should, at all times, cooperate with the ringmaster, stewards, clerks, show committees, and Extension agents.

GENERAL CONDUCT: Judging horse shows is exhausting, both physically and mentally, and judges are human, like everyone else. However, judges need to avoid putting themselves in certain situations that might prove uncomfortable to themselves, exhibitors, or show officials. Promptness is very important. Always be at the show before it is scheduled to start. Report in to the show officials after arriving at the show. Judges should be well rested and mentally ready for judging. Judges should be neat, clean and appropriately dressed for the show they are judging. Judging is a lonely job. Judges should refrain, as much as possible, from conversation with exhibitors. Also, being hosted by an exhibitor before or during a show can be perfectly innocent, but can cause hard feelings. Judges should not judge entries of relatives, members of their own 4-H horse club, people they have recently sold horses to, trained for, or given lessons to. Judges should be enthusiastic about their job. Exhibitors can soon tell whether a judge enjoys judging or not. The most successful 4-H judges have a sincere interest in helping youth.