



# IOWA 4-H STATE HORSE JUDGING RULES & REGULATIONS

Sunday, March 24

Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls, IA

Registration at 8:00 a.m. Contest begins at 9:00 a.m.

**NOTE:** The judging contest is a learning experience, which takes a minimum of three hours without giving reasons, and up to six hours with reasons.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To train future leaders for Iowa's growing horse industry.
2. To provide youth a chance to develop decision-making skills by observing and evaluating horses.
3. To develop communication skills through oral reasons.
4. To give recognition to those youth who excel in this activity.
5. To provide youth an opportunity for personal growth and development in an activity beyond the county.
6. To give youth an opportunity to develop and/or improve their ability to picture the ideal and recognize undesirable traits associated with judging horses.
7. To provide an educational opportunity for youth to demonstrate their ability to effectively defend the placing of a class.

## IOWA CONTEST RULES

1. **All Equine Extravaganza entries are to be made online by March 1, 11:59 PM.**  
See the [Iowa 4-H Equine Extravaganza](#) website for online link.
2. Lunch will be part of the registration fee process.
3. Eligibility: We will follow the Western National Roundup age divisions:
  - Juniors – under 14 years of age (as of Jan. 1 of the current year)
  - Seniors – 14 years of age or older (as of Jan. 1 of the current year)
  - Western National Roundup (Denver) - A contestant who has participated at the Western National Roundup is not eligible to participate as a team member, but may participate any number of times as an individual at the state contest in future years.
  - Ohio Quarter Horse Congress – For this contest eligibility, participants from the second place senior team (or subsequent placing senior team) must be 9 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
4. TEAMS: Each county may enter junior and senior teams. A team may have three or four members; when four are entered, the three highest overall scores will make up the team totals. (Youth entering the contest as a team member are automatically entered as individuals as well).
5. In hardship cases, juniors may be part of the senior team, but seniors may not participate on junior teams. If multiple junior members make up a senior team, then that's the only senior team that county may enter. For example, a county may enter a senior team consisting of two junior members and one senior member, but could not then enter another senior team of three senior members. Junior members cannot participate on both the junior and senior teams in the same event in the same year.
6. **For 4-H teams only:** Counties may, with prior approval, combine 4-H members to form teams. This option is designed to allow additional 4-H members to participate, not to form an "all-star" team. This would be used in case a county may have two 4-H'ers who are interested, and have

recruited two other interested 4-H'ers from an adjoining county. Team members may be combined from non-adjoining counties on a case by case basis with prior approval of State 4-H Staff and ISU Animal Science Equine Specialist.

7. INDIVIDUALS: Each county may enter individuals in the junior or senior division.
8. **JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS** (Not on a team): Junior contestants have the option of answering five questions on one halter and one performance class or giving oral reasons. Juniors will be allowed to use their notes while answering questions, but the horses will not be in the arena.
9. **SENIOR INDIVIDUALS, SENIOR TEAMS AND JUNIOR TEAMS**: At least 2 sets of oral reasons will be required for specific classes. Two minutes will be allowed contestants to give oral reasons to the judge. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving reasons. At the discretion of the officials, reasons scores will be severely discounted if notes are used.
10. Contestants shall wear no clothing, accessories or other marks of identification which may reveal his/her identity or the club represented.
11. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants or between contestants and anyone else except as directed by a Horse Judging official. If an individual talks to others during the contest, their cards will be pulled immediately. Absolutely NO cellular phones will be allowed.
12. Contestants are responsible for their own writing instruments and notepads for the purpose of taking notes for reasons classes. There will be no prohibition against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the contest, including but not limited to rule books, judging manuals, and score sheets.
13. Halter and performance classes will be judged by each individual.
14. Any recognized breed may be represented in the conformation classes. All conformation classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind and mouth.
15. The performance classes may be chosen from the following: Western pleasure, English pleasure, Western riding, Reining, Pleasure driving, Horsemanship, Hunt seat equitation, Saddleseat equitation and Trail. Oral reasons will be required on at least one performance class. Performance classes will be judged as seen (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). All tack and attire is considered legal.
16. The animals will be designated 1-2-3-4 by the handler/rider.
17. Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed to the contestants to judge non-reason classes and seventeen (17) minutes will be given to the contestants during reasons classes to make their observations, take notes, and fill out their placing cards.

Class No. \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team No. \_\_\_\_\_ Contestant's No. \_\_\_\_\_

Directions – Below are all the possible placing for a ring of 4 individuals.

Draw a circle around the placing you consider correct for the ring you are judging.

A = 1-2-3-4

G = 2-1-3-4

M = 3-1-2-4

S = 4-1-2-3

B = 1-2-4-3

H = 2-1-4-3

N = 3-1-4-2

T = 4-1-3-2

C = 1-3-2-4

I = 2-3-1-4

O = 3-2-1-4

U = 4-2-1-3

D = 1-3-4-2

J = 2-3-4-1

P = 3-2-4-1

V = 4-2-3-1

E = 1-4-2-3

K = 2-4-1-3

Q = 3-4-1-2

W = 4-3-1-2

F = 1-4-3-2

L = 2-4-3-1

R = 3-4-2-1

X = 4-3-2-1

Classes will be judged in accordance with rules of the American Horse Show Association or the respective breed association rules, if applicable.

### **DETERMINATION OF RATINGS**

1. Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark on placing and fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark on reasons or questions.
2. Scoring and tie-breakers for overall placings (non-reasons scores):
  1. Highest total score overall wins, if there is a tie then,
  2. Highest total reasons score breaks the tie, if there is still a tie then,
  3. Lower placings in reasons class(es) wins (the rationale is that the contestant with the lower placings in the reasons class(es) had to "talk" harder to get the same reasons scores and tie above, so they likely did a better job of reasons justification)
3. Scoring and tie-breakers for a reasons score:
  1. Highest total Score in the reasons class(es) wins, if there is a tie then,
  2. Lower placings in reasons class(es) (see rationale above) wins, if there is still a tie then,
  3. Highest total overall score wins

### **AWARDS**

1. Senior and junior teams and individuals are scored with reasons. Junior individuals not giving reasons are scored with questions.
2. Awards will be presented to top ten senior and junior individuals in placings, reasons and overall.
3. Awards will be presented to the top five senior and junior teams in placings, reasons and overall.
4. Grand and reserve teams in the senior division may be eligible to represent Iowa at national contests. Limited funding from the 4-H Foundation may be provided.

### **ENTRY INFORMATION**

1. **Online entry DEADLINE is March 1, 11:59 PM.**
2. **Entries must be made online. Access the online registration at:**  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/equineextravaganza>
3. **An entry fee of \$18/Individual or \$72/Team is required. This includes a boxed lunch. See the online entry process for payment options.**
4. **All payments MUST be received by March 15.**

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