

Objectives

The primary objective of the Hippology Contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of equine science and management, and in particular the practical application of this knowledge and skill. This activity will provide the 4-H horse project members the opportunity to utilize knowledge and skills developed from other project activities such as Quiz Bowl, horse judging, speaking and demonstrations, and general horse program. The objectives of the 4-H Hippology contest are as follows:

- Provide additional educational opportunities for horse project members
- Develop skills such as decision making, communication, team building, self-confidence, and leadership
- Provide an opportunity to inter-relate horse project knowledge
- Provide an opportunity for horse project members to use their horse project knowledge
- To advance knowledge, abilities, skills, and attitudes
- To measure and recognize horse project achievement

Officials

- Test Moderator** - The moderator shall assume the direction of the test phase (written test and slides), administer tests, keep time, and be responsible for monitoring the room for participant talking or copying of answers. *In the case of a virtual contest, the test phase will be administered through an online computer program, and time will be kept by the program.*
- Team Problem Judges** - At least one judge per team problem is recommended. Judges must listen to team problem responses from teams, and then assign a score based on accuracy, content, and participation. The judges must be knowledgeable horse persons and will be selected by Extension personnel.
- Stations Timekeeper** - The timekeeper must keep time during the Stations phase and announce when to rotate stations. The timekeeper may also be responsible for monitoring the participants for behavior such as talking or copying answers. *In the case of a virtual contest, the stations phase will be administered through an online computer program, and time will be kept by the program.*
- Score Keepers** - At least two individuals shall be used to keep score for each contest. Scorekeepers are responsible for grading tests (written and slides) and stations answers. Score keepers are also responsible for entering scores from all four phases. *In the case of a virtual contest, scores from the test, stations, and judging phases will be automatically generated by the online computer program.*



Teams

1. Counties are invited to send teams of three to four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the lowest score within each section will be removed so that only the three highest scores will count towards the team total. All team members' scores will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' score will count in determining individual and team awards.
2. Individuals are not eligible to compete in the Georgia 4-H State Hippology Contest.
3. Counties cannot mix age divisions to comprise a team. All members on the Junior team must meet the Junior age requirements and all members on the Senior team must meet the Senior age requirements. Teams may compete in both the 4-H State Horse Judging Contest and the 4-H State Hippology Contest.
4. Cloverleaf and Junior members must be in the 4th grade and not have completed the 8th grade. Seniors must be 9th through 12th grade. Eligibility is determined by the grade level during the current school year.
5. The first-place Senior team members (including team alternates) are eligible to advance to the designated national contest. Participants may only compete in one contest per year at the Western National 4-H Horse Classic Roundup in Denver, CO. After competing in this contest, they are ineligible to compete in the same specific contest again at the Roundup. Contestants must not have competed previously in this contest in the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville or the Western National 4-H Horse Classic in Denver, CO.

Reference Material

- Equine Science, by Jean T. Griffiths, all chapters.
- Horse Smarts published by the American Youth Horse Council.
- The Horse Industry Handbook published by The American Youth Horse Council.
- The Horse Nutrition Handbook by Dr. Melyni Worth.
- The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy, by Robert A. Kainer and Thomas O. McCracken
- Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms, by New Horizons Education Center
- Information required in the Level 1 GA 4-H Novice Horseman Manual, Level 2 Intermediate Horseman Manual and Level 3 Master Horseman Project Manual

Grains, forages and feed preparations used in this contest will be representatives of feeds utilized in horse rations.

Contest officials may use other references if the information is considered to be current general horsemen's knowledge.

The Contest

1. Examination Phase (approximately 200 points) - This phase of the contest will consist of multiple-choice questions. *This phase of the contest will be virtual, the test phase will be administered through an online computer program, and time will be kept by the program.* This will include (but not limited to):
 - a. a written test (multiple choice).
 - b. questions with pictures to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, and so forth.



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2. Station Phase (approximately 200 points) - This phase will consist of a series of five (5) to ten (10) 10-picture sets (each grouping of 10 pictures representing one “station”). *This phase of the contest will be virtual,, the station phase will be administered through an online computer program, and time will be kept by the program. Each 10-picture station will be presented on a computer, with the contestants answering questions about the 10 pictures. Answers will be recorded automatically through the computer program.* Examples of stations which may be used include (but are not limited to:
- Identification of:
 - various types of saddles (actual or pictured) and parts of saddles. tack, bits, bridles, horseshoes and parts of shoes.
 - tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment. grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms or methods of preparation.
 - internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused.
 - blemishes and unsoundness.
 - ages of equine based on teeth.
 - equine medications, immunizations, and deworming products.
 - Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, and so forth, to assess horse health.
 - Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, show size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, and so forth, may be required.
3. Team Problem (approximately 200 points) - All teams will be presented with the same problem(s). Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem. Immediately after, they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Each member of each team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation. Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures, and the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation.
- Examples of team problems might include:
 - balancing a horse's ration.
 - farm management recommendations for specific (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, and so forth) horse operations.
 - considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
 - recommendations for selecting, locating and purchasing horses for specific uses.
 - behavior problems -- causes, management of and corrections.
 - training and conditioning programs -- equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition and problem avoidance.
 - breeding and/or leasing contracts -- specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, and so forth.
 - teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9- to 11-year-old beginner 4-H'ers -- where, how long, how much information, hands-on experiences, reinforcement and testing evaluation.



- ix. explanation of use of and assembly of specific equipment.
- x. demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment.

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but they will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standing.

- 4. Judging Phase (approximately 200 points) - Contestants will be required to place at least two (2) conformation classes and at least two (2) performance classes. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the Georgia 4-H State Horse Judging contest, with placings to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest.

Tie-Breaking

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. written scores
2. slide scores
3. station scores
2. judging scores

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie-breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order may be used.



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