

National 4-H Horse Classic – Western Division

4-H Hippology Contest Rules

Superintendents:

Dr. Brett Scott

6200 Thousand Oaks Rd
College Station, TX 77845
Phone: 979-690-1816
BrettScott1989@gmail.com

Dr. Josie Coverdale

Assistant Professor
Texas A&M University
249 Kleberg – 2471 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
Phone: 979-845-7731
jcover@tamu.ed

Tara Swanson

Equine Lecturer
NDSU
NDSU Dept. 7630
Fargo, ND 58108
Phone: 701-231-8865
tara.swanson@ndsu.edu

Mark Russell

Assistant Professor
University of Arkansas
2301 S. University Ave
Little Rock, AR 722203
Phone: 501-590-5748
mrrussell@uaex.edu

Hippology is an activity that can make learning fun for 4-H members, by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a friendly but competitive setting.

The Hippology Contest has four (4) different phases:

- 1) Examination Phase
- 2) Station Phase
- 3) Judging Phase
- 4) Team Problem

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

I. Eligibility

- A. A State/territory/District of Columbia is allowed only one entry in only one division of a contest in a national 4-H competitive event each year. An entry is an individual, in the events where individuals compete against individuals only, or a team in events where total team scores are computed and recognition given to the team. Individuals may be recognized in those events that are primarily team events.
 1. States are invited to enter one (1) team of not more than four members. On teams consisting of four members, all will compete; however, the lowest score in each phase will be dropped. For those teams consisting of three members, all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
 2. Teams may be selected by any means appropriate to the state they represent and must be certified as eligible by the State 4-H Leader.
 3. Any 4-H member who has previously participated in the National 4-H Hippology contest at Louisville, or Denver, as a team member or alternate is not eligible for this event.
 4. Contestants (including team alternates) may participate in only one contest per year

at the National 4-H Horse Classic - Western Division.

- B. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
- C. An individual may enter a National 4-H competitive event in a specific program area only once. Participating members of a team entry (even if they are designated alternate by low score) are ineligible to enter the same event again as a part of another team.
- D. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event are:
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held.*

*The January dates for the Western Horse Classic event are considered part of the previous year for the purpose of allowing all youth to compete in the national horse events in their last year of eligibility.

(Approved by 4-H NPL and Director, Youth Development, F4-HN/CSREES June 1, 2004)

- 3. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
- 4. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo:

“This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition.” Violation of this will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.

- D. All participants must first qualify through the represented state and meet all the state eligibility rules.

THE CONTEST

1. Examination Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase of the contest will include:
 - a. Written Exam
 - b. Projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
 - c. Anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.

2. Station Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Members will be allowed two (2) minutes at each station. Examples of stations which may be used include:
 - a. Identification of:
 1. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles.
 2. Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes 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 of methods of preparation.
 3. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused.
 4. Blemishes and unsoundnesses.
 5. Age of equines based on teeth.
 - b. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc., to assess horse health.
 - c. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.

3. Judging Phase -- 200 points -- contestants will be required to place at least four (4) classes consisting of two (2) halter or conformation classes and two (2) performance classes. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the judging contest, with the placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, pictorial, video and/or classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.

4. Team Problems -- 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 which 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 the possible team problems might include:

- a. Balancing a horse's ration.
- b. Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.).
- c. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- d. Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific uses.
- e. Behavior problems - causes, management of and corrections.
- f. Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.
- g. Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- h. Teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9-11 year old beginner 4-Her's: where, how long, how much information, hands-on experience, reinforcement, testing evaluation, will be considered.
- i. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
- j. 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 will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standings.

TIE-BREAKING

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

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. 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.

AWARDS

1. Awards will be presented to the top ten (10) individuals in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and Overall.
2. Each member of the top ten (10) teams in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and in Overall will receive awards.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

- Evans The Horse – Evans, Borton, Hintz, and Van Vleck. Second Edition. W. H. Freeman and Company, 660 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94104. (415) 391-5870

- Lewis, Lon Feeding and Care of the Horse Williams and Wilkins, Second Edition. 351 West Camden Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2436. (800) 638-0672

- AYHC Horse Industry Handbooks and Youth Leaders Manual -- 6660 #D-451 Delmonico Colorado Springs, CO 80919 Cindy Schonholtz Toll Free: 1-800-TRY-AYHC
www.horsebooketc.com

- Equus EQUUS Illustrated Handbook of Equine Anatomy, EQUUS Illustrated Handbook Vol. 2
www.horsebooketc.com

- Parker, Rick Equine Science, Third Edition

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

ENTRY INFORMATION, HOTEL INFORMATION, GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration dates and instructions for completing your Online Registration/entry forms are found on the Western National Roundup website at www.westernnationalroundup.org -- note that as a result of your online registration, you will be presented with an Official Authorization Form which must be printed and then signed by the respective State 4-H Director/Leader and mailed with full payment to the address specified on the form.

The headquarters hotel for this event will again be the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207; (303) 399-7500. Please check the Western National Roundup web site for information on special rates and any room reservation procedures that may be in place this year.

Coaches meetings are typically held on Thursday evening; check the web site for full schedule, which will be updated regularly.

Contact information is also on the website and always up to date.