

# Horse Evaluation

Nebraska Career Development Event  
Handbook and Rules for 2024-2028

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## 1. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of the Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is to develop the ability to evaluate equine animals. Students will work to evaluate various classes of animals and provide sound reasoning for their decisions while also answering equine industry questions. Teams will work together to solve problems and answer questions related to the horse industry.
- b. The Horse Evaluation CDE contest primarily relates to Animal Science courses. A unit about horses and horse evaluation could be completed within an Animal Science class. If a school offers Equine Science, then the Horse Evaluation contest directly relates to any and all aspects of this course.

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## 2. OBJECTIVES

### a. Individual Objectives:

1. Students will develop decision making skills by evaluating classes and placing them based on industry and breed standards for each class.
2. Students will evaluate classes of four halter horses of similar age and gender, placing them from first through fourth according to conformation (muscling, soundness, balance) and appropriate breed standards.
3. Students will evaluate performance classes consisting of four horses and place them from first through fourth according to class standards from the American Quarter Horse Association and the National Reining Horse Association.
4. Students will develop oral communication skills by presenting oral reasons that explain and defend their placings of halter and performance classes.
5. Students will develop critical thinking and observation skills by answering questions about the classes they have judged and observed.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the equine industry and equine management by answering questions and completing an objective assessment.

### b. Team Objectives:

1. Collaborate as a team to complete a multiple choice and short answer test nutrition, management, anatomy, marketing/current trends, health and animal welfare (care and well being), reproduction, and identification of breeds, colors, markings and/or tack and equipment.

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## 3. ELIGIBILITY

- a. There is no district qualification; the state event has open registration.
- b. The contest is open to agriculture education students in grades 7 – 12 based on the previous/current school year.
- c. There is no limit to the number of participants a school may bring.
- d. If more than four individuals in one division register, the teams must be specified at the time of registration.
- e. A team must consist of three-four members for a team score, the top three scores are used in the team placing.
- f. All individual students may compete for individual awards.
- g. Junior Division - Each team consists of three or four individuals that are currently 7th,

8th, 9th, (freshmen) or 10th graders (sophomores). High school juniors and seniors are not eligible for this division.

- h. Senior Division - Each team consists of three or four individuals that are currently 9th (freshmen), 10th (sophomores), 11th (juniors), or 12th (seniors).
- i. Substitutions may be made the day of the contest.
- j. National Opportunities:
  - i. The top senior team will be forwarded to the Nebraska FFA Association for representation at the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event.
  - ii. The first and second place senior teams will have the opportunity to compete at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show Judging Contest if they choose:  
<https://www.aqha.com/aqhya-world-championship-show-contests>. The top senior team will be forwarded to the Nebraska FFA Association for representation at the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event.
  - iii. The first and second place senior teams will have the opportunity to compete at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show Judging Contest if they choose:  
<https://www.aqha.com/aqhya-world-championship-show-contests>.

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## 4. REQUIRED ATTIRE

- a. Students should wear either FFA Official Dress or professional equine attire. Western professional equine attire may include, but is not limited to: jeans, slacks, long-sleeve button up shirts, blazers, boots. English professional equine attire may include, but is not limited to: breeches, collar shirt, jacket, boots.
- b. Students should refrain from wearing hoodies, sandals, shorts, or other non-professional clothing or clothing that is not safe and/or appropriate around horses.
- c. Up to five points may be deducted during oral reasons for lack of appropriate attire.

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## 5. REQUIRED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

- a. Contestants should bring writing utensils, clipboards, and paper or notebooks to take notes on for oral reasons.
- b. No other materials are required.
- c. No resource materials or prepared notes may be used during the contest.

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## 6. EVENT SCHEDULE

- a. Event registration is due to the event coordinator approximately one week before the event via email.
- b. Team check in begins at 8:30 am the day of the contest.
- c. The contest begins at 9:00 am and will conclude by mid afternoon with awards shortly after.
- d. Halter classes will be the first classes evaluated.
  - i. Contestants will be allowed 15 minutes per halter class.
- e. Contestants will be allowed sufficient time to evaluate performance classes; length of time allowed per class is based upon maneuvers performed.
- f. Teams will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes to complete the team activity.
- g. Individuals will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes to complete the individual test.

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## 7. ANNUAL THEME

- a. There is no annual theme or topic for this CDE.

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## 8. EVENT FORMAT

- a. The contest is composed of four parts – class evaluation, oral reasons, individual test, and a written team exam/problems.
- b. Individually, students will evaluate 3-4 halter classes and 3-4 performance classes. Performance classes may include, but are not limited to, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle/English Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, English Equitation, Reining, and Showmanship. Classes using patterns will be provided a written pattern prior to the contest beginning.
- c. Possible halter classes could include, but are not limited to, Aged Mares, Aged Geldings, Two Year Old Mares and/or Geldings.
- d. Senior division participants will complete 3 sets of oral reasons which will be a combination of halter and performance classes.
- e. Junior division participants will complete 2 sets of oral reasons which may be halter and/or performance classes.
- f. Individuals will complete an individual written test related to equine science and management. Topics may include: nutrition, management, anatomy, marketing/current trends, health and animal welfare (care and well being), reproduction, and identification of breeds, colors, markings and/or tack and equipment.
- g. Teams will work together to complete a multiple choice test and/or problem(s) over

equine knowledge and current equine industry issues. All students will take the team test, regardless of whether or not they have a full team. If there is only one student from a school, and they do not have a team, they will complete this portion individually. If there are only two students from a school, they will work as a pair to complete the test/problem.

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## 9. SCORING

<b>Senior Division</b>		
Placing Classes	6 to 8 classes x 50 points each	300 to 400
Oral Reasons	3 sets x 50 points each	150
Exam		100
<b>Individual Score</b>		
Placings + Oral Reasons + Exam		550-650
<b>Team Scoring</b>		
Top 3 Individual Scores (500-600 x 3)		1650-1950
Team Practicum (10 questions @ 10pts ea)		100
Total		1750-2050

<b>Junior Division</b>		
Placing Classes	6 to 8 classes x 50 points each	300 to 400
Oral Reasons	2 sets x 50 points each	100
Exam		100
<b>Individual Score</b>		
Placings + Oral Reasons		500-600
<b>Team Scoring</b>		
Top 3 Individual Scores (500-600 x 3)		1600-1900
Team Practicum (10 questions @ 10 pts ea)		100
Total		1700-2000

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## 10. TIEBREAKER

- a. Individual tiebreaker in divisions (halter, performance):
  - i. 1st tiebreaker: Reasons score on division classes
  - ii. 2nd tiebreaker: Placing score on reasons classes
  - iii. 3rd tiebreaker: Overall reasons score
- b. Individual tie-breaker - Overall

- i. 1st tiebreaker: Reasons score
  - ii. 2nd tiebreaker: Placing score on reasons classes
- c. Team tiebreaker in divisions (halter, performance)
  - i. 1st tiebreaker: Reasons score on division classes
  - ii. 2nd tiebreaker: Placing score on reasons classes
  - iii. 3rd tiebreaker: Overall reasons score
- d. Team tiebreaker - Overall
  - i. 1st tiebreaker: Reasons score
  - ii. 2nd tiebreaker: Placing score on reasons classes
  - iii. Team test/problem

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## 11. RESOURCE MATERIALS

- a. Judging Resources:
  - i. Horse Judging Website:  
<http://www.horsejudging.com/>
  - ii. Texas A & M University:  
<https://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/equine/online-judging/>
  - iii. American Quarter Horse Association:  
[https://www.aqha.com/resource-detail-view/-/asset\\_publisher/D6hvXWsL9zzH/content/horse-judging](https://www.aqha.com/resource-detail-view/-/asset_publisher/D6hvXWsL9zzH/content/horse-judging) Reference AQHA Horse Judging Manual (can request a copy at the link)
  - iv. University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Horse Judging:  
<https://animalscience.unl.edu/horse-judging-information>
  - v. American Youth Horse Council:  
<http://www.ayhc.com/horse-judging-resources>
  - vi. National Reining Horse Association: <https://nrha.com/handbook>  
 Reference the handbook and judging guide within the handbook
  - vii. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/asc/asc118/asc118.pdf>
  - viii. <https://breeds.okstate.edu/horses/index.html?Forwarded=afs.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>
  - ix. [https://teskeys.com/collections/tack?page=2&product\\_type=Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment,Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment+-+English+Riding+Gear,Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment+-+English+Saddles,Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment+-+English+Tack,Tack+-+Whips,+Crops+%26+Quirts](https://teskeys.com/collections/tack?page=2&product_type=Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment,Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment+-+English+Riding+Gear,Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment+-+English+Saddles,Tack+-+English+Tack+%26+Equipment+-+English+Tack,Tack+-+Whips,+Crops+%26+Quirts)

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## 12. PAST EXAMS

- a. Test/Problem Resources:

- i. Horse Industry Handbook - Link to purchase:  
<https://www.ayhc.com/product-page/horse-industry-handbook-1>
  - ii. Any basic Equine Science textbook
  - iii. National FFA Horse Evaluation CDE prep materials found at:  
<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/um45u5gf592x2ddkpg48xqfu28j7fq>  
[rj](#)
- b. Oral reasons scoring guidelines

45-50 points	Completely accurate, correct organization, excellent delivery
40-44 points	Mostly accurate, correct organization, adequate delivery
30-39 points	Inaccurate in places, improper organization in spots, need more specific detail, average delivery
20-29 points	Completely inaccurate, prioritization unclear, marginal detail, poor delivery
< 20 points	Minimal effort, did not appear to care or be involved in the event

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### **13. POST-CDE DEBRIEFING OPPORTUNITY**

- a. Following the contest, the official judge will provide the placings and cuts and provide the answers to the class questions for each of the classes and discuss each class.
- b. A detailed score sheet, including individual class scores, reasons scores, etc. will be provided at the conclusion of the contest.

## Appendix 1 - Identification Lists

<u>Tack</u>		
A. Barrel/Roping reins	N. Flank cinch	AA. Polo wraps
B. Bell boots	O. Gag bit	BB. Romel Reins
C. Breast collar	P. Girth	CC. Saddle - English
D. Bridle	Q. Hackamore	DD. Saddle - Western
E. Browband headstall	R. Halter	EE. Saddle pad - English
F. Cinch	S. Hobbles	FF. Saddle pad - Western
G. Crop	T. Kimberwick	GG. Skid boots
H. Curb bit	U. Leadrope	HH. Splint boots
I. Curb chain	V. Loose ring snaffle	II. Split reins
J. Curb strap	W. Noseband	JJ. Stirrup - English
K. D ring snaffle	X. Offside latigo	KK. Stirrup - Western
L. Dressage pad	Y. One ear headstall	LL. Tie down
M. English headstall	Z. Pelham	
<u>Breeds</u>		
A. Akhal-Teke	N. Haflinger	AA. Peruvian Paso
B. Andalusian	O. Hanoverian	BB. Pony of the Americas
C. Appaloosa	P. Icelandic	CC. Przewalski
D. Arabian	Q. Lipizzan	DD. Quarter Horse
E. Bashkir Curly	R. Miniature	EE. Saddlebred
F. Belgian	S. Missouri Fox Trotting	FF. Shetland Pony
G. Chincoteague Pony	T. Morgan	GG. Shire
H. Cleveland Bay	U. Mustang	HH. Suffolk
I. Clydesdale	V. Norwegian Fjord	II. Tennessee Walking Horse
J. Connemara Pony	W. Oldenburg	JJ. Thoroughbred
K. Dutch Warmblood	X. Paint	KK. Trakehner
L. Friesian	Y. Paso Fino	LL. Welsh Pony
M. Hackney	Z. Percheron	

<b>Face Markings</b>		
A. Bald face	D. Snip	G. Star, stripe, and snip
B. Blaze	E. Star	H. Stripe
C. Facial	F. Star and stripe	
<b>Leg Markings</b>		
A. Coronet	C. Pastern	E. Stocking
B. Half stocking	D. Sock	
<b>Colors</b>		
A. Bay	E. Dun	I. Roan
B. Black	F. Gray	J. Sorrel
C. Buckskin	G. Overo	K. Tobiano
D. Chestnut	H. Palomino	
<b>Leg Deviations</b>		
A. Bench-kneed	F. Camped out	K. Sickle-hocked
B. Bow-kneed	G. Cow-hocked	L. Toed-in
C. Bow-legged	H. Ideal	M. Toed-out
D. Buck-kneed	I. Knock-kneed	
E. Calf-kneed	J. Leg too straight	