



Virginia Cooperative Extension
 Hunter Liles
 Youth Animal Science Extension Programming Associate
 388 Litton-Reaves
 175 West Campus Drive
 Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
 540-231-6345
 email: huntl97@vt.edu

2025 VA State 4-H Communications Contest

Contest Date: Sunday, April 6th, 2025
Contest Location: Rockbridge County High School, Lexington, VA

Contest Superintendents

Hunter Liles 540-231-6345
 Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate
 Katherine Carter 540-231-2257
 Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist

A complete entry for this contest must include the following:

- Submitted online entry of all contestant information completed
- Entry Summary Form emailed to huntl97@vt.edu
- Payment or proof of payment processing brought the day of the contest
- \$10.00 entry fee per individual competing – Payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech

Entries Must Be Submitted Online at <https://tinyurl.com/25Communications> by **Tuesday, March 25th at 5:00 pm**

Payment or Proof of Payment Processing should be delivered during check-in/registration the morning of the contest.

- *Personal or Business/School Checks Made Payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech**
- *VT Hokiemark Check Made Payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech**
- *Copy of your VT HokieMart PO Paperwork**
- *Copy of your Virginia 4-H Foundation PO Request**

TENTATIVE Communications CONTEST SCHEDULE: Sunday, April 6th 2025

Registration: 11:00 AM
 Contest Begins: 11:30 AM
 Awards to follow each contest

CONTEST RULES:

1. **Youth are NOT eligible if they have competed in a specific National 4-H Communications Contest.**
2. Each contestant must be an enrolled, eligible member of Virginia 4-H and enrolled via the 4HOnline enrollment system. This will be verified.
3. Each Unit will be eligible to enter all interested junior and senior 4-H members from their unit.
4. Contestants must qualify by competing at a Unit or Higher (district) level during the same program year as the Equismartz Contest. Youth are allowed to participate or compete at ANY Unit or District Contest within the State of Virginia. If a youth is unable to attend one of these contests, please contact Hunter Liles (huntl97@vt.edu) for alternative options to qualify.
5. Individuals may combine across Units, without dual-enrollment, for the purposes of Team Presentation. Teams should have qualified and practiced together prior to entry at Equismartz.
6. **Contestants will be divided into the Junior and Senior Divisions based on BIRTH DATE:**
 - Junior contestants will be those who are 13 years old or younger by January 1, 2025 and will reach their 9th birthday by September 30, 2025.
 - Senior contestants will be those who are at least 14 years old by or on January 1, 2025 and have not had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2025. **This rule aligns with National 4-H requirements.**
7. Only youth who are pre-entered during the online entry process and verified eligible (age and organization enrollment) are allowed to compete.
8. The Superintendents of the contest will oversee the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. They shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- The Senior Champion Individual or Team in each communications contest will be eligible to represent Virginia at the Southern Regional and Eastern National 4-H Round Up Contests. Upon participation, youth will be ineligible to participate in that contest again.

CONDUCT OF CONTEST

1. Ties will be broken on the following:
 - a. Judges' Accumulated Delivery Score
 - b. Judges' Accumulated Presentation Format Score
 - c. Judges' Accumulated Credit and Content Score
2. Improper Attire will be a violation, and appropriate points deducted. This will be at the discretion of the judges, and business attire appropriate to the speech is generally acceptable.
3. Working Orders will be drawn and posted at random. These may be changed to accommodate members competing in other contests.
4. Subjects must pertain to Equines or the Equine Industry.
5. For Presentations:
 - a. The following will be provided: Projection Device for Powerpoints, table, screen, and powercord.
 - b. It is at the Competitor's risk if the provided equipment fails to connect.
 - c. A clicker to forward slides will not be provided.
6. See posted scorecards for consideration and points
 - a. Time penalties of 3 points/judge will be assessed for each minute or fraction of a minute over or under time limits.
7. Contestants may use notes. Excessive Use of notes may be penalized at the discretion of the judges.
8. Contestants should cite their major references following the presentation. This will not be counted in the time limits.

Team Presentation

- May be a demonstration or illustrated talk. Both forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although delivery modes may differ. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferred. Visual aids may include but are not limited to powerpoint, props, handouts, slides. No live animals may be used.
- A Team will consist of two members. Teamwork should be demonstrated.
- Time Limits
 - Juniors – 4 – 8 Minutes
 - Seniors – 10 – 15 Minutes

Individual Presentation

- May be a demonstration or illustrated talk. Both forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although delivery modes may differ. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferred. Visual aids may include but are not limited to powerpoint, props, handouts, slides. No live animals may be used.
- This is an individual contest.
- Time Limits
 - Juniors – 4 – 8 Minutes
 - Seniors – 9 – 12 Minutes

Public Speaking

- No visual aids may be used.
- This is an individual Contest
- Time Limits
 - Juniors – 3 – 6 Minutes
 - Seniors – 7 – 10 Minutes