

VIRGINIA STATE 4-H HIPPOLOGY CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

The objectives for this activity are to stimulate learning and reward youth for the knowledge they have gained concerning horses. Emphasis should be on reading, study, learning and fun.

I. ELIGIBILITY & GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Each contestant must be a bonafide 4-H Club Horse Project Member in Virginia.
2. Eligibility for contestants must be met for the Virginia 4-H Recognition and Awards Handbook and is the responsibility at all levels of the respective Extension Agent. Hippology is considered as a judging event and members must meet the eligibility requirements for judging.
3. Each county or unit will be eligible to enter all junior and senior 4-H members that are qualified by participation at the unit level. A team must be comprised of at least three members to be considered for team awards. One or two individuals from a county may compete if a team of 3 or 4 cannot be assembled. The qualifying event may include a county hippology contest, clinic or other organized training session that provides a simulated contest experience that can properly prepare contestants to compete. EquiSmartz may not be contestant's first contest experience of this type. Any scholarships must be arranged for at the local level.
4. Individuals 19 years of age or older before January 1st of the contest year are ineligible. Junior contestants must turn 9 years of age on or before September 30 of the year in which the contest is held. Senior contestants are those 14 years of age or older before January 1st and junior contestants are under 14 years of age as of January 1st of the contest year. This age eligibility conforms to the National 4-H Horse Contest Rules and Regulations.
5. *(new for 2022) State Hippology Team - The top 10 individuals at EquiSmartz will create the State Hippology Team. The 9th and 10th place individuals will serve as alternates for the regional and national contest. Scores of the top 10 will be their full scores at EquiSmartz – no drop score.*

Decision Day: State team members must declare their intention to represent Virginia and commit to the team no later than one week after the date that EquiSmartz results are announced. Those that compete on the Eastern National Team may not be members on another state Eastern National contest team. A team of 4 must represent Eastern Nationals to be competitive as there is no drop score at Nationals. Upon participation at the National contest the youth will be ineligible to compete in future 4-H Hippology contests. *Final decisions of team composite rests with the state team coach(es).* Dates for both Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships and Eastern National 4-H Roundup are posted on the horse program website.

II. STATE CONTEST

The state contest will be scheduled during the spring of each year. Entry forms will be sent out in advance. No team of less than three members may compete as a team at any level but all contestants may compete for individual awards. Teams must be county teams or can be from neighboring counties as long as a particular county does not have enough members to make up one full team and all members have practiced and competed together at the county level.

III. PREPARATORY CONTESTS

Contests at local or district level may include separate contests for juniors and seniors. The state contest will be for both junior and senior contestants; however, a team cannot be a mix of juniors and seniors.

IV. AWARDS

1. Awards will be presented to the top ten individuals in the examination phase, in the station phase, in the judging phase, and overall.
2. Each member of the top ten teams in the examination phase, in the station phase, in the judging phase, in the team problem phase and overall will receive awards.

County and district awards are to be arranged for at that level. State awards will include appropriate ribbons and plaques or trophies and coach awards.

V. RULES

These rules have been approved by the State 4-H Equine Advisory Committee and appropriate 4-H and Animal Science administration. Any suggestions for revisions should be made to the respective advisory committee member.

All rules, contest conduct, results, questions, etc. are final and non-protetable at the conclusion of the contest and all inquiries will receive the answer as noted in this sentence. All participants accept these rules upon entry and involvement in the program.

High individuals will be selected from the remaining State Hippology Team members if a member is unable to compete in a National competition and this decision is left at the discretion of the state team coach.

Counties may devise their own rules and procedures but the rules in this outline will apply for state. Teams going to nationals will need to practice extensively to be competitive. Any member participating in the national contest will be ineligible to participate in the state program in this contest area in the future.

VI. THE CONTEST

- For a contest involving both junior and senior contestants, separate written tests, slides and stations for the two age groups should be developed. Judging classes in the contest may be the same. Junior teams may have a written team problem to turn in.
- Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest score in each division and overall will automatically be dropped for scoring purposes for team awards. All scores will be utilized for individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no scores dropped and all members scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
- All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:
 1. Examination scores
 2. Station scores
 3. Judging scoresTies 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.

- A. Examination Phase-approximately 200 points-This phase of the contest will include:
1. A written exam (usually 50 questions) may be multiple choice, matching, or true-false.
 2. Projected slides (usually 50 questions) to be identified as to breed, color, color patterns, activity, proper appointments, anatomy which may include external, skeletal internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed anatomy of the lower limbs.
- B. Station Phase-approximately 200 points (seniors – usually 10 stations with 10 questions, 2 minutes each) (juniors – usually 8 stations, 10 questions each) - This phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where at each, all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Examples of stations which may be used include:
1. Identification of:
 - a. various types of saddles (actual or pictured) and parts of saddles
 - b. Tack, bits, bridles, horseshoes and parts of shoes.
 - c. Tools and Equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.
 - d. Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms and methods of preparation
 - e. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle chart and/or damage caused
 - f. Blemishes and unsoundnesses
 - g. Ages of equines based on teeth
 2. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc. to assess horse health.
 3. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.
- C. Judging Phase-approximately 200 points (usually 4 classes) - Contestants will be required to place at least four classes consisting of conformation and performance classes. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as being used in the judging contest, with placings to be simultaneous to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, pictorial, video and/or movie classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.
- D. Team Problems-approximately 200 points- Junior teams will have a written team problem. All Senior teams will be presented with the same two team problems, an impromptu team problem and a prepared team problem. 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, accuracy, group delivery, and completeness of 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. Timing for each is usually the following:
- Prepared Problem: 10 minutes to prepare, followed by 7 minutes to deliver, followed by possible questions from the judge(s).
 - Impromptu: 3 minutes to prepare, with no more than 10 minutes to deliver, followed by possible questions from the judge(s).

Examples of possible team problems might include:

1. Balancing a horse's ration.
2. Farm management recommendation for specific, (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc) horse operations.
3. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose)
4. Recommendations for selecting, locating and purchasing horses for specific uses
5. Behavior problems-causes, management of and corrections.
6. Training & conditioning programs: equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.
7. Breeding and/or leasing contracts-specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.

8. Teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9-11 year old beginner 4-H'ers-where, how long, how much information, hands-on experiences, reinforcement, testing evaluation.
9. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment will be considered.
10. 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 standing.

E. REFERENCE MATERIALS

Senior Reference Material: All the information covered in this contest for Senior competition may be found in one or more of the following publications:

- 1) [ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF EQUINE TERMS](#), by New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Dogwise Publishing (www.dogwise.com) 403 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 800-776-2665
- 2) [HORSE ANATOMY: A Coloring Atlas](#), by Robert A. Kainer & Thomas O. McCracken Dogwise Publishing (www.dogwise.com) 403 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 800-776-2665
- 3) [FEEDING AND CARE OF THE HORSE \(2nd edition\)](#), by Lon D. Lewis Wiley (www.wiley.com), 9200 Keystone Crossing, Ste 800, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 877-762-2974
- 4) [HORSE INDUSTRY HANDBOOK \(9th edition\)](#), by the American Youth Horse Council AYHC (www.ayhc.com), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005
**Visit website for continued updates*
- 5) [EQUINE SCIENCE: For Horse Crazy Youth and Horse Owners](#), by Jean T. Griffiths AYHC (www.ayhc.com), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005
**For books purchased prior to 2020 an update sentence correction is on page 60: original sentence "The size of the horse's eyeball (known as the globe) is larger than that of any other mammal, including the elephant and the whale." changed to "The size of the horse's eyeball (known as globe) is larger than that of any other land mammal."*
- 6) [HORSE SMARTS: AN EQUINE REFERENCE & YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE](#), by AYHC AYHC (www.ayhc.com), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005
**Visit website for continued updates*
- 7) [DOVER SADDLERY](#) - Apparel, tack and horse care items, for the English rider. Request catalog or visit www.DoverSaddlery.com or call 888-234-6942
- 8) [SCHNEIDER SADDLERY](#) – Apparel, tack and horse care items for the Western and the English rider. Request catalog or visit www.sstack.com or call 800-365-1311
- 9) Other: Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representatives of feeds utilized in horse rations.

Junior Contest References will be limited to:

- 1) [EQUINE SCIENCE: For Horse Crazy Youth and Horse Owners](#), by Jean T. Griffiths AYHC (www.ayhc.com), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005
**For books purchased prior to 2020 an update sentence correction is on page 60: original sentence "The size of the horse's eyeball (known as the globe) is larger than that of any other mammal, including the elephant and the whale." changed to "The size of the horse's eyeball (known as globe) is larger than that of any other land mammal."*

- 2) [HORSE SMARTS: AN EQUINE REFERENCE & YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE](#), by AYHC
AYHC (www.ayhc.com), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005
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- 3) HORSE SCIENCE, by Ray Antoniewicz
<https://shop4-h.org/products/horse-program-curriculum-horse-science>
- 4) HORSES AND HORSEMANSHIP, by Ray Antoniewicz
<https://shop4-h.org/products/horse-program-curriculum-horses-horsemanship>
- 5) [DOVER SADDLERY](#) - Apparel, tack and horse care items, for the English rider. Request catalog or visit www.DoverSaddlery.com or call 888-234-6942
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- 7) Other: Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representatives of feeds utilized in horse rations.