

Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Youth Invitational Horse Judging Contest

February 15, 2020 – Alphin Stuart Livestock Arena

Objectives: The contest is designed to provide FFA and 4-H members with an opportunity to develop and practice horse evaluation and selection skills, and to defend their decisions in oral reasons. The event will provide Virginia Tech students with experience in event management. Judging can lead to a professional career in the equine industry.

Sponsored by: The Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club and the Virginia Tech Equestrian Team

Contest Manager: Shelby Kohn, Chelsea Bickley, or Rachel Buehren at blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com

Entry Details: Send entries to: Shelby Kohn, Chelsea Bickley, or Rachel Buehren, c/o Beth Boteler 3270 Litton Reaves (0306) Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA 24061

DEADLINE: January 24, 2020

ENTRIES WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN January 24. If you have extenuating circumstances please email blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com by the deadline. No exceptions will be made for communication after the January deadline.

Cost: \$10/contestant – lunch included

Location: The contest will be held at Virginia Tech's Alphin-Stuart Arena, 500 Plantation Rd. Blacksburg, VA 24060

From I-81: Take Exit 118B toward Blacksburg, which is Rt. 460 West. Exit on Prices Fork Rd West. At first stoplight, turn left onto Plantation Road. Go approximately ½ mile to the green roofed arena on left.

Reasons this year will all be given in Litton Reaves. This means coaches and parents need to be able to take children from LARNA at the conclusion of judging to Litton Reaves to give reasons.

Bring warm clothing. No dogs allowed. No smoking within 100 ft of the arena.

Eligibility: All contestants must be eligible for national competition on their state or school team. 4-H members must be eligible to compete in their respective state 4-H horse judging contest. Teams must be county or school teams.

- **4-H** – Teams may consist of no more than 4 members.
 - **Senior teams** – members must turn 14 years of age before January 1, 2020 and not have had their 19th birthday before December 31, 2019.
 - **Junior Teams** – members will not have had their 14th birthday before January 1, 2020.
- **FFA** – Teams may consist of no more than 4 members. Eligibility of teams will be determined by rules stated in the National FFA Career Development Event Manual as well as “Official Board Policy”.
 - **Senior teams** – members must be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at the time of the contest.
 - **Junior Teams** – members must be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at the time of the contest.

****Note: An individual may be on both 4-H and FFA teams.****

General Contest Information:

4-H and FFA Senior Teams:

- Each senior will give three sets of oral reasons.
- Lunch will be provided for seniors giving reasons.

4-H and FFA Junior Teams:

- Juniors will give one set of oral reasons, lunch will be provided.

Coaches:

- Coaches are responsible for their own lunch

Entries: Receiving entries by January 24th, is a great help in planning for lunches, reasons, and many organizational aspects of the contest. Checks should be mailed prior to contest day. If policies prevent the inclusion of payment, the coach should notify a contest manager at blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com to make arrangements for payment upon arrival.

Scoring: Scoring is based on the Hormel Computing System, with 50 points being a perfect score on a class placing or on a set of oral reasons. All classes will consist of four horses. Halter classes will be lined up head to tail and numbered 1-2-3-4 beginning with the front horse. Riders of performance horses will wear the horse's number (1,2,3,4). Fifteen minutes will be allowed for each class placing. The three high scores will be added together for the team score. All team members will be eligible for individual awards.

Soundness: All halter horses are to be judged as sound of limb, eye, mouth, wind, and reproductive status. All performance horses will be judged as they go unless otherwise stated by contest officials. All tack and rider attire is legal for contest purposes.

Classes: Contestants will judge 8 to 12 classes. Classes will be announced at the contest and selected from, but not limited to, the following list:

Halter may include but is not limited to: Hunter in Hand, Stock Horse, Pony of America, Tennessee Walking Horse or Gaited Type, Arabian/Half Arabian, Thoroughbred, American Saddlebred, Pony Halter, Morgan, Sport Horse, Draft Horse, Mules

Performance may include but is not limited to: Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, English Pleasure, Hunter Hack, Plantation Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Reining, Western Riding, Racking Horse, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Ranch Riding, Saddle Seat Equitation

Judging classes will be generally scored and conducted according to the rules of the USEF and AQHA. Breed classes will be judged according to the respective breed standards.

Contest Etiquette:

1. Contestants are not permitted to carry cell phones, fitbits, Apple watches, or any other smart device at **any** time during the contest. Stewards and officials reserve the right to take contest materials and disqualify you at anytime if you have a smart device on your person during the contest.
2. Contestant dress code. Cold weather is the norm for Blacksburg in February and warm layers are recommended for everyone. No hats are allowed during the judging competition. During the reasons competition, contestants are expected to dress neatly and professionally but expensive clothing and horse show outfits are not necessary. Boots or closed toe shoes are appropriate for the halter judging section of the contest.
3. **Contestants must not confer during the contest**, including oral reasons preparation. Contestants must supply their own notepads and pencils. Contestants may take printed materials into the reasons room in accordance with state rules. **Coaches and parents are not allowed to talk to contestants once the contest has started for any reason.** Placing

cards will not be returned after they have been collected. There will be some heat, but again, warm clothing is recommended.

4. The reasons competition is designed to reward excellence in accuracy and oral delivery of the pertinent information. Contestants are strongly urged to not use their notes during the delivery of reasons. Reason scores will incur a 25-point penalty if read by the contestant, without regard to content. *NOTE: Judges will be empathetic to contestants, especially those who are in the initial learning stages. They will be encouraging and understanding. This event is intended to be a practice contest for learning.*

Honor Code: Contestants are on their honor regarding assistance during the contest. Contestants and coaches must adhere to the honor code or risk removal from the contest. Members reserve the right to take cards and NOT return them for suspected cheating, talking, or disrespect.

Awards:

- Halter, Performance, & Oral Reasons

Jr. and Sr. Individuals (1st – 10th) Jr. and Sr. Teams (1st – 5th)

Ribbons for 4-H and FFA

- Overall Winners

Jr. and Sr. Individuals (1st – 10th) Jr. and Sr. Teams (1st – 5th)

Ribbons for 4-H and FFA

- High Scores

Overall Individual (Jr. & Sr.)

Overall Team (Jr. & Sr.)

Reasons Individual (Jr. & Sr.)

Ribbons for 4-H and FFA

Coaches who have not made prior arrangements, parents, and guests will be on their own for lunch. The arena will be closed to all contestants, parents, and coaches during and after lunch.

Official placings and awards for both Hippology and Horse Judging Contests will be announced after the completion of reasons. This will begin no sooner than 1.5 hours after the last contestant has given reasons.

2020 Block & Bridle Horse Judging Contest
Tentative Schedule
February 15, 2020

**** In the event of inclement weather, teams will be notified as soon as possible via email to the coach about the status of the events. Please check for email messages prior to departure if the weather is of concern. ****

7:15-8:00 am Registration -Virginia Tech Alphin-Stuart Arena

8:00 All officials and contest staff to meet. All guest horses to be on grounds

8:00 Welcome and assembly of groups for judging. Initial classes may be performance.

8:15 Contest Orientation and Classes begin.

11:00 Lunch. All coaches, parents, and guests **must** leave the arena. Contestants will need rides to Litton Reaves after they pick up lunch.

11:45-3:30 Oral Reasons. Juniors and seniors for both FFA and 4H will need transportation to Lutton Reaves.

30 Minutes after last reasons class has been given: Officials

No less than 1.5hours after last reasons class given: awards, adjournment

Motels

Blacksburg

Comfort Inn (540)951-1500

Holiday Inn (540)552-7001

Hawthorn Inn (540)552-5636

Christiansburg

Quality Inn (540)382-2055

Days Inn (540)382-0261

Econo Lodge (540)382-6161

Super 8 (540)382-7421

Registration is due by January 24th. Any registration completed after January 24th will not be accepted, and teams will not be allowed to compete. Changes should be made prior to February 1st via email to blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com

****Online registration available at the following links****

Senior 4-H: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bC7iE9pxHK4ezch

Senior FFA: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lnJrUWzkOiu4hT

Junior 4-H: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_20oDI9bhRB03HFP

Junior FFA: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuznWWN1BAMn3y5

***Please make checks payable to: VT Block and Bridle – Horse Judging**