

Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Hippology Contest

Hosted by: The Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club

Virtual Event: Wednesday, February 24 - Sunday, February 28

Contest Objectives: The Hippology contest is designed to provide FFA and 4-H members with an opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of equine science and management, and in particular, the practical application of this knowledge and skill. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

Contest Format: Virtual - Youth contestants will complete this contest electronically using a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or iPad. Mobile devices, such as cell phones, may be used, but we cannot guarantee the ability of those devices to show the full scope of the classes or contest materials.

***Each class or section will be timed separately, and time begins when the contestant opens each class/section. Once a contestant has opened a class/section, they must finish in the allotted time and will not be allowed to log out and log back into that same section. To accommodate students and school schedules, youth contestants will be able to log out, and log back in at any time during the “contest open” period. PLEASE REMEMBER - ONCE A CLASS/SECTION IS STARTED, IT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE LEAVING THE PLATFORM. You will not be able to go back to a class or previously completed section after moving on to the next one.

All responses, class placings, and question answers will be submitted using the link(s) provided to each registered coach prior to the contest. There will be a separate link for each division, and coaches/contestants are responsible for using the correct contest link applicable to that contestant. Completion of the wrong contest material will result in disqualification.

Honor Code and Contest Ethics: Coaches and contestants are expected to compete fairly and with the highest standards of competition ethics. Contestants will lose access to the contest platform if they open additional browsers or tabs during the contest. Coaches are on their honor not to assist contestants with placing classes or answering questions during the contest period.

Contest Dates: Platforms will open on Wednesday, February 24th at 8:00 am and automatically close on Sunday, February 28th at 6:00 pm.

Contest Divisions: New for 2021 - There will NOT be separate 4-H and FFA Contests.

Youth are NOT allowed to dual enter - Contestants must compete either as a 4-H member or an FFA member, but not both. Out-of-State Teams and individuals are allowed to enter and are eligible for awards.

The contest will be broken into TWO divisions based on contestant age/birthdate:

- Junior
- Senior

Age/Division Eligibility:

- **Junior Contestants:** youth who have not had their 14th birthday before January 1, 2021 and includes youth who will turn 9 years old by September 30, 2021.
- **Senior Contestants:** youth who turned 14 years of age prior to January 1, 2021 and have not had their 19th birthday prior to January 1, 2021.

Eligibility: All contestants must be eligible for national competition on their state or school team. Contestants must be eligible to compete in their respective organizational state Hippology contest or CDE, and have not previously competed in their respective National Hippology Contest or CDE.

Eligibility Verification: All contestants must be enrolled eligible members of the organization and Unit/chapter they represent. Eligibility and enrollment will be determined using 4HOnline for all 4-H youth and the State 4-H Enrollment Records for FFA youth.

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, February 10th

Entry Payment Deadline: Friday, February 12th

Entry Process: Entries must be submitted using the online form located at this link: <https://forms.gle/EyZQA4ZRvsAzmdZr9>

- Entry deadline is Wednesday, February 10th at 5:00 pm. No late entries will be accepted (Please do not wait until the last minute to enter - early entry allows us to prepare early, as well)
- Entry Fee is \$5.25/contestant/contest
- Entry Fee Payment or Proof of Payment Processing must be postmarked by Friday, February 12th
- Entry Fee payment via Credit Card using Square™ is the preferred method using this link: <http://block-and-bridle-club-at-virginia-tech.square.site/>

- **Other acceptable methods of payment are:**
 - **Personal, business, or school check made payable to: VT Block & Bridle**
 - **VT Hokiemark or VA 4-H Foundation Check made payable to: VT Block & Bridle**
 - **Copy of your VT Hokiemark PO Paperwork**
 - **Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request**
 - **Questions regarding account information or payment should be directed to Jessica Dotson at ejessica@vt.edu**
- **Questions regarding entries should be directed to blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com**

Contest Components:

The contest will consist of the following components:

- Written Exam of questions with multiple choice answers
- Slide Phase - Slides/pictures consisting of multiple-choice questions and identification
- Station Phase - Slides/pictures where contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Examples of information that may be contained in the stations phase includes:
 - 1) Identification of:
 - Various types of saddles or parts of saddle, tack, bits, bridles, horseshoes, and parts of shoes.
 - Tools and equipment or proper assembly of specific parts of equipment
 - Grains and forages used in equine rations, including forms and methods of preparation
 - Internal and external parasites and/or damage caused by certain parasites
 - Blemishes and unsoundness
 - Ages of equines based on teeth evaluation
 - 2) Use of pulse rate, respiration, temperature, level of hydration, anemia, or other conditions to assess horse health.
 - 3) Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length, etc.
- Judging - Contestants will be required to place one or two confirmation classes
- Team Problems (not to be completed by contestants who are not a member of a team)
 - Each team will receive the same problem for their respective age division. Team problems may include an oral presentation, written solution, or questions to answer associated with the problem. Each team member will be expected to contribute to the problem solving and subsequent solution or presentation. Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the logic used in solving the problem and presentation of the solution. Examples of potential team problems might include, but are not limited to:
 - Balancing a ration
 - Farm management recommendation for specific horse operations (breeding, training, boarding, nursery, etc.)

- Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility
- Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific purpose
- Behavior problems - causes of, management of, and corrections
- Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance
- Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- Teaching lessons in on a selected management topic to a group of 9 - 11 year-old beginners - where, how long, how much information, etc.
- Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment
- Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment

It will be up to the team coach/teacher to determine how to best provide for the team to collectively complete the team problem, complying with current COVID restrictions and guidelines

Awards and Recognition: Contestants will be eligible for Individual and Team Awards. A team consists of 3-4 members. For team awards the scores from the three highest team members will be used to calculate the team score, along with the score for the Team Problem.

The Top 10 Individuals and Top Five Teams of the Junior and Senior Divisions will be recognized in the following contest categories:

- Examination and Slide Phase combined scores
- Stations phase and judging classes combined scores
- Overall combined score
- Top 5 Teams in the Team Problem category will also be recognized

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, will be used.

***Please note that separate entry links exist for Horse Judging and Hippology Contests. If mailing entry fees, please do NOT combine Horse Judging and Hippology payments in one check.

Contest Chairs:

Hippology -

Jenna Marston, jlmaston01@vt.edu

Audrey Rudy, (audreymr@vt.edu)

Shelby Kohn, shelby99@vt.edu

Contest Email: blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com

REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

Senior Contest Resources

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

1. NEWHOR ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF EQUINE TERMS, by New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Alpine Publications, Inc., 38262 Linman Road, Crawford, CO 81415 www.alpinepub.com Phone: 970-921-5005 Fax: 970-921-5081
2. AYHC HIH HORSE INDUSTRY HANDBOOK, by the American Youth Horse Council AYHC, 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262 www.ayhc.com Phone: 817-320-2005
3. LEWIS 2nd FEEDING AND CARE OF THE HORSE (2nd edition), by Lon D. Lewis Wiley-Blackwell, 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030 www.wiley.com Phone: 201-748-6000
4. GRIFFITHS EQUINE SCIENCE, by Jean T. Griffiths Equine Network /Source Interlink Media <https://www.equinenetworkstore.com/products/equine-science-basic-knowledge-for-horse-people-of-all-ages-paperback-by-jean-t-griffiths>
5. KAINER THE COLORING ATLAS OF HORSE ANATOMY, by Robert A. Kainer & Thomas O. McCracken Alpine Publications, Inc., 38262 Linman Road, Crawford, CO 81415 www.alpinepub.com Phone: 970-921-5005 Fax: 970-921-5081
6. AYHC HS HORSE SMARTS: AN EQUINE REFERENCE & YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE, by the American Youth Horse Council AYHC, 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262 www.ayhc.com Phone: 817-320-2005
7. DOVER AND STATE LINE TACK CATALOGS
8. 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 – Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages by Jean T. Griffiths. www.Horsebooksetc.com Phone: 800-952-5813
2. Horse Science – by Ray Antoniewicz Price: <http://www.4-hmall.org/detail.aspx?ID=16681>
3. Horses & Horsemanship – by Ray Antoniewicz Price: <http://www.4-hmall.org/detail.aspx?ID=16680>
4. DOVER AND SMITH BROTHERS CATALOGUES

Other: Grains, forages, and feed preparations used for both divisions of this contest will be representatives of feedstuffs utilized in horse rations.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 10th	5:00 pm	Online Entries Due for All Contests Horse Judging, Hippology, Livestock Judging, and Junior Stockmens
Friday, February 12th	5:00 pm	Postmark/email/credit card payment Deadline for all contest entry fees or Proof of Payment Processing Paperwork
Wednesday, February 24th	8:00 am	Horse Judging and Hippology Links Open
Sunday, February 28th	6:00 pm	Horse Judging and Hippology Links Close No submissions accepted after 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 3rd		Contest official class placings and cuts Emailed to all coaches
Wednesday, March 3 rd	8:00 am	Livestock and Jr. Stockmen's Links Open
Sunday, March 7 th	6:00 pm	Livestock and Jr. Stockmen's Links Close No submissions accepted after 6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 9 th		Livestock Judging official class placings and cuts Emailed to all coaches
Thursday, March 11th	7:00 pm	B & B Awards Ceremony, Live via Zoom Horse and Livestock Contests Announced

Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Youth Invitational Virtual Horse Judging Contest

Hosted by: The Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club

Virtual Event: Wednesday, February 24 - Sunday, February 28

Contest 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.

Contest Format: Virtual - Youth contestants will complete this contest electronically using a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or iPad. Mobile devices, such as cell phones, may be used, but we cannot guarantee the ability of those devices to show the full scope of the classes or contest materials.

***Each class or section will be timed separately, and time begins when the contestant opens each class/section. Once a contestant has opened a class/section, they must finish in the allotted time and will not be allowed to log out and log back into that same section. To accommodate students and school schedules, youth contestants will be able to log out, and log back in at any time during the “contest open” period. PLEASE REMEMBER - ONCE A CLASS/SECTION IS STARTED, IT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE LEAVING THE PLATFORM. You will not be able to go back to a class or previously completed section after moving on to the next one.

All responses, class placings, and reasons submissions will be submitted using the link(s) provided to each registered coach prior to the contest. There will be a separate link for each division, and coaches/contestants are responsible for using the correct contest link applicable to that contestant. Completion of the wrong contest material will result in disqualification.

Honor Code and Contest Ethics: Coaches and contestants are expected to compete fairly and with the highest standards of competition ethics. Contestants will lose access to the contest platform if they open additional browsers or tabs during the contest. Coaches are on their honor not to assist contestants with placing classes, preparing or critiquing reasons during the contest period.

Contest Dates: Platforms will open on Wednesday, February 24th at 8:00 am and automatically close on Sunday, February 28th at 6:00 pm.

Contest Divisions: New for 2021 - There will NOT be separate 4-H and FFA Contests.

Youth are NOT allowed to dual enter - Contestants must compete either as a 4-H member or an FFA member, but not both. Out-of-State Teams and individuals are allowed to enter and are eligible for awards.

The contest will be broken into FOUR divisions, based on contestant age/birthdate:

- Junior Non-Reasons
- Junior Reasons - contestants will give 1 set of oral reasons
- Senior Non-Reasons
- Senior Reasons - contestants will give 3 sets of oral reasons

Age/Division Eligibility:

- **Junior Contestants:** youth who have not had their 14th birthday before January 1, 2021 and includes youth who will turn 9 years old by September 30, 2021.
- **Senior Contestants:** youth who turned 14 years of age prior to January 1, 2021 and have not had their 19th birthday prior to January 1, 2021.

Eligibility: All contestants must be eligible for national competition on their state or school team. Contestants must be eligible to compete in their respective organizational state horse judging contest or CDE, and have not previously competed in their respective National Horse Judging Contest or CDE.

Eligibility Verification: All contestants must be enrolled eligible members of the organization and Unit/chapter they represent. Eligibility and enrollment will be determined using 4HOnline for all 4-H youth and the State 4-H Enrollment Records for FFA youth.

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, February 10th

Entry Payment Deadline: Friday, February 12th

Entry Process: Entries must be submitted using the online form located at this link: <https://forms.gle/9zTUuAQY7y34SuwEA>

- Entry deadline is Wednesday, February 10th at 5:00 pm. No late entries will be accepted (Please do not wait until the last minute to enter - early entry allows us to prepare early, as well)
- Entry Fee is \$5.25/contestant/contest
- Entry Fee Payment or Proof of Payment Processing must be postmarked by Friday, February 12th
- Entry Fee payment via Credit Card using Square™ is the preferred method at this link: <http://block-and-bridle-club-at-virginia-tech.square.site/>

- **Other acceptable methods of payment are:**
 - **Personal, business, or school check made payable to: VT Block & Bridle**
 - **VT Hokiemark or VA 4-H Foundation Check made payable to: VT Block & Bridle**
 - **Copy of your VT Hokiemark PO Paperwork**
 - **Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request**
 - **For account information or payment questions, please contact Jessica Dotson at ejessica@vt.edu**
- **Questions regarding entries should be directed to blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com**

Class Selection and Assumptions:

Contestants will judge 8 to 12 classes, with 15 minutes/class for judging. Classes may include, but are not limited to the following lists:

- **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.

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.

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.

Awards and Recognition: Contestants will be eligible for Individual and Team Awards. A team consists of 3-4 members. For team awards the scores from the three highest team members will be used to calculate the team score.

The Top 10 Individuals and Top Five Teams in both the Reasons and Non-Reasons categories of the Junior and Senior Divisions will be recognized in the following contest categories:

- Halter, Performance, and Overall Combined Scores
- Top 10 Individuals and Top Five Teams in Oral Reasons will also be recognized in the Junior Reasons and Senior Reasons Contests

Contest Etiquette:

1. This contest is a VIRTUAL event. Contestants will record their responses using the provided link(s) and will need access to reliable internet connection, a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or iPad. We cannot guarantee the ability of cellular devices to show the full scope of the classes or contest materials.

Contestants and coaches are on their honor to complete this contest with integrity and the highest ethical standards. The classes should not be discussed while youth are actively competing or with youth contestants who have yet to complete the contest. **Contestants must not confer during the contest, including oral reasons preparation. Coaches and parents are not allowed to talk to contestants once the contest has started, except to answer questions or provide assistance with technology issues.**

2. Contestant dress code should be appropriate for an in-person contest. No hats are allowed during the judging competition. During the oral reasons competition, contestants are expected to dress neatly and professionally but expensive clothing and horse show outfits are not necessary. *You are still expected to present in appropriate turnout and be standing for reasons.*

3. Contestants must supply their own notepads and pencils. Contestants may take printed materials into the reasons room in accordance with state rules.

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.*

Contest Chairs:

Horse Judging

Audrey Rudy, audreymr@vt.edu

Bella Findley, findley848@vt.edu

Shelby Kohn, shelby99@vt.edu

Contest Email: blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 10th	5:00 pm	Online Entries Due for All Contests Horse Judging, Hippology, Livestock Judging, and Junior Stockmens
Friday, February 12th	5:00 pm	Postmark/email/credit card payment Deadline for all contest entry fees or Proof of Payment Processing Paperwork
Wednesday, February 24th	8:00 am	Horse Judging and Hippology Links Open
Sunday, February 28th	6:00 pm	Horse Judging and Hippology Links Close No submissions accepted after 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 3rd		HJ Contest official class placings and cuts Emailed to all coaches
Wednesday, March 3 rd	8:00 am	Livestock and Jr. Stockmen's Links Open
Sunday, March 7 th	6:00 pm	Livestock and Jr. Stockmen's Links Close No submissions accepted after 6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 9 th		Livestock Judging official class placings and cuts Emailed to all coaches
Thursday, March 11th	7:00 pm	B & B Awards Ceremony, Live via Zoom Horse and Livestock Contests Announced

Emailed 1/26/2021 on horse listserve
Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club and this year's contest chairpersons, I am attaching the information for the 4-H and FFA Livestock and Horse Educational Contests. We appreciate your patience as we have worked to pull everything together and determine the structure of these events.

As shared in earlier email updates, these events – Hippology, Horse Judging, Junior Stockmen's, and Livestock Judging – will all be held VIRTUALLY for 2021.

*****The State FFA and State 4-H Meats Evaluation Contest is currently on hold, in hopes of having an in-person event later this spring or early summer*****

Because the format of these contests has changed, please make sure you read this email in its entirety and read the detailed information on each contest (attached) completely.

Some important notes that apply to ALL contests:

- All contests are VIRTUAL – Youth will need access to a laptop, iPad or tablet, or desktop computer AND a reliable internet source. Cell phones and other mobile devices may be used, but we cannot confirm the ability of those devices to show the full scope of classes and contest materials.
 - ***Please work with interested youth to make a reliable internet source available for those who may not have access at home***
- There is no limit to the number of individuals or teams that a Unit or Chapter may enter. Entry fees are \$5.25/contestant/contest
- Out of state teams are eligible to enter.
- There are NOT separate 4-H and FFA Contests in any of the B&B Horse or Livestock Contests this year – **THIS IS A CHANGE FOR THE HORSE JUDGING AND HIPPOLOGY CONTESTS**
- Contestants may NOT dual enter as 4-H AND FFA. Each participant must choose which organization they will represent – **THIS IS A CHANGE FOR THE HORSE JUDGING AND HIPPOLOGY CONTESTS**
- There will be a junior division and senior division within each contest – **THESE DIVISIONS WILL BE BROKEN BY CONTESTANT AGE/BIRTHDATE AS DETAILED IN THE ATTACHMENTS – This is a change for both livestock and horse events**
 - The State 4-H and State Meats Contests (when held) will use the traditional eligibility requirements for each of the respective organizations
- Contestants must be enrolled, eligible members of the organization they represent – Eligibility will be verified for each participant.
- **New categories have been added to the Horse Judging and Livestock Judging Contests**
 - There are now Reasons and Non-Reasons Categories for BOTH Juniors and Seniors
- Entries will be completely online – links for each contest are included in the appropriate contest information attached to this email – ENTRY DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH AT 5:00 PM
- Entry fees must be paid via Credit Card or other payment options postmarked no later than Friday, February 12th – Entry fee is \$5.25/contestant/contest
 - Preferred method of payment is Credit Card using Square and the B & B Contest Storefront at this link <http://block-and-bridle-club-at-virginia-tech.square.site/>
 - Other Payment Options are available and listed in each contest letter

- Hippology and Horse Judging Links will open at 8:00 am on Wednesday, February 24th and close at 6:00 pm on Sunday, February 28th
- Jr. Stockmen's and Livestock Judging Links will open at 8:00 am on Wednesday, March 3rd and close at 6:00 pm on Sunday, March 7th
- Applicable contest links will be sent only to those coaches who have registered teams for the respective contests. Links will be sent 24 hours before the contest opens.
- **A joint Virtual Awards Ceremony will be held via Zoom on Thursday, March 11th at 7:00 pm – All Horse and Livestock Contest Winners will be Recognized at that Time**

Again, please take time to thoroughly and carefully read the attachments. Due to the change in contest format, there are numerous changes to previous years rules and contest set-up.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the contest chairpersons. Email addresses are included in the attachments.

****This same information will be forwarded to the Youth Livestock and Youth Horse Listservs**** We apologize to those of you who receive duplicate emails.

We look forward to a great turnout and to offering an excellent virtual event for this year's contestants.

Katherine

*Katherine E. Carter
Assistant Youth Livestock Programming Specialist
Litton-Reaves Hall, Room 362
175 West Campus Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24061
carterke@vt.edu
P: 540-231-2257
F: 540-231-3010*