

Block & Bridle

2022 Horse Judging Contest Rules & Resources

February 12, 2022

8:00pm – Alphin Stuart Livestock Arena – Blacksburg, VA

OBJECTIVE

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.

Guidelines and Essentials – Please Read Carefully – There are changes from previous years

COVID PROTOCOL: COVID Protocol for VA Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, at the time of the contest, will be followed and enforced. Current guidelines require that ALL participants, regardless of vaccination status, (contestants, coaches, volunteers, parents, and contest administrators) wear a mask when indoors at a VA Tech facility – this includes LARNA and any on-campus buildings that may be used.

***COVID Protocol is subject to change and will be communicated to all registered participants prior to the contest

Entries will be submitted electronically using this link:

Entries must be submitted via the electronic link above, no later than Thursday, February 3rd.

A copy of the electronic entry summary sheet must be saved as a PDF and emailed to carterke@vt.edu no later than Friday, February 4th.

Late entries will **NOT be accepted.**

Entry Fee Payments are NOT to be mailed, but submitted the DAY OF THE EVENT during registration and check-in.

There will be four divisions offered:

- Junior Regular Contest – Jr Contestants, no reasons – Entry Fee \$6.00/contestant
- Junior Advanced Contest – Jr Contestants, 1 set of reasons – Entry Fee \$11.00, includes lunch
- Senior Regular Contest – Sr Contestants, no reasons – Entry Fee \$6.00/contestant
- Senior Advanced Contest – Sr Contestants, 3 sets of reasons – Entry Fee \$11.00, includes lunch

Eligibility rules respective to each youth organization are enforced:

- **FFA** – Eligibility of teams will be determined by the rules stated in the National FFA Career Development Event Manual as well as “Official Board Policy”.
- Senior – members must be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at the time of the contest.
- Junior – members must be in 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th grade at the time of the contest.
**9th grade contestants may only compete in one division.
- **4-H** – Senior – members must turn 14 years of age before January 1, 2022 and not have had their 19th birthday before December 31, 2021.
- Junior – members will not have had their 14th birthday before January 1, 2022.

- ***All senior contestants must be eligible for their respective organization's National Hippology CDE or Contest, having not previously participated in that event.

There are NOT separate 4-H and FFA Contests, therefore youth may NOT dual enter. Each participant must decide whether they will compete representing FFA or 4-H. All contestants must be an enrolled and eligible member of the FFA Chapter or 4-H Unit that they represent in the contest.

Team Designation is not required at the time of entry – Team assignments will be made by the coach during registration/check-in the day of the event.

During the entry process you will need the following information for each contestant: Name, Date of Birth, Current Grade Level (required for FFA contestants), and any accommodations required.

Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals, but will be eligible for individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining team awards.

Team members must all represent the same Unit or FFA Chapter and be enrolled members of that organization.

Coaches, parents, guests, and 4-H members not giving reasons will be on their own for lunch.

General Information

Contest held at Alphin Stuart Arena, VA Tech, Blacksburg

Contest Registration: 8:00 – 8:45 am.

Welcome and break into groups: 8:50

Contest Begins: 9:00

Lunch for Advanced Contestants: 12:00 Noon

Reasons for Advanced Contestants: 12:30 – 3:30 (Litton Reaves)

Class Critiques and Awards: 4:00 pm

Contest Chairpersons:

Jenna Marston, Jordan Buck, Natilyn Mann, and Symphanie Wagner

Beth Sheely, Virginia Tech, B & B Advisor

Emma Helm, Virginia Tech, B & B Advisor

Questions regarding entries or contest details, please contact:

Katherine Carter, Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist, carterke@vt.edu

Jessica Dotson, Extension Support Associate, ejessica@vt.edu

THE CONTEST

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 rear 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. Legality of tack, equipment, and rider dress will be confirmed prior to the class.

Classes: Contestants will judge 6 to 10 classes. Classes will be announced at the contest and selected from, but not limited to, the following list:

Halter: 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: 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 at any time 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. With proper planning, there is little need for a full wardrobe change when time is more appropriately spent preparing reasons.
3. Contestants must not confer during the contest, including oral reasons preparation. Contestants must supply their own note pads and pencils. Contestants may not take any printed materials into the contest other than notes they prepare during the contest and patterns provided to all contestants. Placing cards will not be returned. 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.

AWARDS – Junior and Senior divisions

- Halter, Performance, & Oral Reasons

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

- Overall Winners

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

The Block and Bridle Club will NOT be securing room blocks for the contest. Accommodations and reservations are the responsibility of each team, coach, and/or chaperones. The following motels are local to Blacksburg/Christiansburg:

Blacksburg

Comfort Inn	540/951-1500
Holiday Inn	540/552-7001
Hawthorn Inn (formerly Amerisuites)	540/552-5636
Closest to Arena	

Christiansburg

Quality Inn

540/382-2055

Days Inn

540/382-0261

Econo Lodge

540/382-6161

Super 8

540/382-7421

REMINDERS:

Entry Deadline is Thursday, February 1st for Electronic Entry Submission and Friday, February 2nd for emailing the Entry Summary Form.

You must submit the online Qualtrics form AND mail a hard copy of the completed Summary form. This will help us confirm entries. Payment or proof of payment request as listed previously must be presented at check-in. Please do NOT mail payment with your entry forms.

Please do NOT mail payment with summary form – Payment will be collected the day of the contest and is based on number of entered contestants, not those who participate. One payment can be made for for both Hippology and Horse Judging entry fees. Acceptable forms of payment are:

- Personal, business, or school check made payable to: Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club
- VT Hokiemark or VA 4-H Foundation Check made payable to: Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club
- Copy of your VT Hokiemark PO Paperwork
- Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request
- Credit Card Payment THE DAY OF THE EVENT