

4-H Hippology Contest Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hippology is an activity that can make learning fun for 4-H members, by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a friendly but competitive setting.

The Hippology Contest has four (4) different phases: Examination, Station, Judging, and Team Problem

1. A team consists of no more than four (4) contestants. On teams consisting of four members, all will compete; however, the lowest score in each phase will be dropped. For those teams consisting of three members, all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
2. Teams will be compete in their 4-H age divisions
3. Junior and Intermediate teams may be comprised of mixed 4-H ages. Mixed teams will compete in the division of their oldest member (3 juniors and 1 intermediate will be considered an intermediate team). Senior teams must only consist of senior aged youth for 4-H teams.

CONTEST PHASES

1. Examination Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase of the contest will include:
 - a. Written Exam
 - b. Projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
 - c. Anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.
2. Station Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Stations may include pictures from popular press sources, however the content within the stations will be taken from the approved sources listed below. Members will be allowed 2.5 minutes at each station. Stations may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles
 2. Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes and parts of shoes
Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment
Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms of methods of preparation
 3. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused
 4. Blemishes and unsoundness
 5. Age of equines based on teeth
 6. Nutrition and health
 7. Genetics
 8. Reproduction
 - a. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc., to assess horse health.

- b. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.
3. Judging Phase -- 200 points -- contestants will be required to place four (4) classes consisting of two (2) halter or conformation classes and two (2) performance classes. Contestants are responsible for their own writing instruments and notepads for the purpose of taking notes for reasons classes. There will be no prohibition against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the judging portion, including but not limited to rule books, judging manuals, and score sheets. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the judging contest, with the placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, pictorial, video and/or classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.
4. Team Problems -- approximately 200 points -- all teams will be presented with the same problem(s). 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. Teams will have 10 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to present. No pre-printed material will be allowed during the 10 minute preparation period. Each member of the team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation, and contestants must introduce themselves and their state team upon entrance into the team problem room. Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures, and 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. If notes are used during the team problem the highest score that may be received is 25 points of the possible 50 points for that problem. If teams go over the 10 minute time limit there will be a penalty of three points per minute over time. Participants competing as individuals do NOT complete the team problem portion.

Examples of the possible team problems might include:

- a. Balancing a horse's ration.
- b. Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.).
- c. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- d. Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific uses.
- e. Behavior problems - causes, management of and corrections.
- f. Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.
- g. Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- h. Teaching lessons in horse management.
- i. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
- j. 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 standings.

TIE-BREAKING

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 may be used.

AWARDS

1. Recognition will be presented to at least the top individuals in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and Overall.
2. Each member of the top team overall will receive awards.

SUPPLIES

1. Individuals competing in the hippology contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest.
2. Individuals should have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Juniors and Intermediates should specifically study out of the Utah 4-H Horse Program Study Material, however select information may come out of the listed resources for the senior contest.

All the information covered in the senior contest division may be found in one or more of the following publications.

- IDET Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms - New Horizons Equine Education Center. Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537
Phone: (800) 777-7257
- Lewis Feeding and Care of the Horse - Lon Lewis Williams and Wilkins. Second Edition. 351 West Camden Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2436
Phone: (800) 638-0672
- HIH Horse Industry Handbooks and updates - American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262
Email: info@ayhc.com
Phone: 817.320.2005
Web: <http://www.ayhc.com/shop>

- HS Horse Smarts - American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd,
McDonald, NM 88262 (available spring 2017)
Email: info@ayhc.com
Phone: 817.320.2005
Web: <http://www.ayhc.com/shop>

- AQHA AQHA Rulebook:
2020 68th edition
<http://aqha.com/handbook>

- Parker Equine Science – Rick Parker. Fourth edition. ISBN-13:
9781111138776; Published January 2012

Grains, forages and feed preparations used in this contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.