

4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest Rules

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CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. This is an individual contest.
2. Each county is invited to enter one contestant.
3. Participants may be selected by any procedure that the state deems appropriate.
4. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in the county they represent.
5. Contestant must be at least 14 years of age but not yet have achieved their 19th birthday on January 1 of the year they qualified to compete.
6. Contestants must not have participated in any post secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive public speaking contest. Neither can a contestant be a member of a post secondary team undergoing training in preparation for such an event.
7. Contestants must not have competed in horse public speaking contests in the past at either the U.S. Invitational, the National 4-H Horse Roundups, the National 4-H Horse Classic - Western Division or the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

CONTEST RULES

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
2. No visual aids may be used, including the use of handouts such as bibliographies and pamphlets. Contestants will be disqualified for using any visual aid, including handouts, prior to, during and after the speech.
3. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
4. A public address system will not be used, but a podium will be provided.
5. During the competition the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.
6. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. One point will be deducted from the total score for each minute or fraction of a minute under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes by each of three judges for a three points per minute total deduction. After the individual has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.
7. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the competition. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
8. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestant should repeat the question, then answer it.
9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing.
10. Ties will be broken by: first, the judges' accumulated delivery score, second, the judges accumulated organization score; and, third, on content and accuracy scores.
11. For educational purposes the management may videotape all speeches with individual consent.
12. Judges will consider the questions listed under each section. Points on the score card will be as follows:

A. INTRODUCTION (10 points)

1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
2. Was introduction short and to the point?

B. ORGANIZATION (25 points)

1. Were the main points easy to follow?
2. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
3. Were sentences short, easy to understand?
4. Was speech interesting?

C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 points)

1. Were facts and information accurate?
2. Was there enough information concerning the subject?
3. Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate?
4. Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?

D. STAGE PRESENCE (10 points)

1. Was speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
2. Was the speaker friendly?
3. Did speaker talk directly to the audience?
4. Did speaker look at the audience?
5. Was posture erect, but not stiff?
6. Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium?
7. Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

E. DELIVERY (15 points)

1. Did speaker have appropriate voice control?
2. Were all words pronounced correctly?
3. Did speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
5. Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken?
(Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery.)

F. GENERAL (5 points)

1. Did speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
2. Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

G. CONCLUSION (10 points)

1. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
3. Could the speaker handle questions easily?

AWARDS

1. Awards will be announced. Ribbons to the top five (5) individuals.

EQUIPMENT

1. Contest officials will supply a podium that may or may not be used.