



LOUISIANA FFA

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT
HORSE EVALUATION

Horse Evaluation Career Development Event

Purpose:

The ability to recognize desirable characteristics in horses and make wise selections when selecting horses for performance or for breeding is essential for successful employment in the horse industry. It requires knowledge of horse conformation, and a knowledge of soundness, breed characteristics as well as knowledge of gaits and standards for performance events. It is also necessary to select animals that have the ability to transmit their desirable type and characteristics to their offspring.

Objectives:

1. To provide agricultural students with interests in the horse industry with a practical experience which will help them obtain positions in the industry or provide experience in managing a modern breeding herd.
2. To develop students' skills in observation, analysis, and communications.
3. To provide experience in the evaluation of horses for performance.

Contest Format:

1. Placing Classes

- a. There may be from one to eight classes to be judged. These classes will be either Halter or Performance Classes for placing. *(Revised 95)*
 - i. A class will consist of four horses to be judged.
 - ii. All classes will be worth 50 points.
- b. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: *(Revised 2023)*
 - i. Quarter Horse
 - ii. Conformation Hunter
 - iii. Appaloosa
 - iv. Arabian
 - v. Paint
 - vi. Morgan
 - vii. Hunter in Hand
 - viii. Halter classes will be judged on conformation, soundness, breed characteristics, and way of going.
- c. Performance classes may include:
 - i. Performance classes will be judged by standards for the event. *(Adopted 2023)*
Performance classes will be evaluated based on the standards for the event.
Performance classes may include:

Hunt Seat Equitation

Western Pleasure

Ranch Riding

Western Riding

Reining

English Pleasure (Saddle Seat)

Hunter Under Saddle

Trail

Hunter Hack

Ranch Trail

Showmanship at Halter

Ranch Rail Pleasure/ Working Western Rail.

- d. American Quarter Horse Association reining patterns #1 will be used in the reining class as located in the current AQHA Handbook. Students are responsible for knowing this pattern.
- e. Any pattern maybe used from the American Quarter Horse Association, located in the current AQHA Handbook. Patterns and scoresheets will be provided for each of the performance classes, as well as, Hunter in Hand.
- f. Placing classes will use Form 2 for judging and scoring.
- g. Contestants will be allowed to use scoring sheets know as attachments B& C during the competition.

2. *Oral Reasons*

- a. A minimum of two sets of oral reasons will be given - halter and performance. The number of reasons classes will never be worth more than 1/3 of the total point value of the contest and split equally between halter and performance when possible. *(Adopted 8/09)*
- b. If a contestant uses notes of any kind (including placing cards) when delivering reasons, the contestant will be given a score of 5 or less points. *(Revised 95)*

3. *Problem Solving*

- a. Optional on the State level.
- b. This is a team activity, requiring all members of the team to work cooperatively to complete the test. This will be a 20 item problem-solving test with multiple-choice responses over equine science, selection, management and production. Time allowed will be one hour. Score earned will be recorded on the individual scores.

4. *Written Exam* Removed from contest (Adopted 2026)

Team Problem Solving References:

1. Evans, Borton, Hintz, and Van Vleck. The HORSE (2nd edition). W.H. Freeman and Co. Publisher's Address: 41 Madison Ave., New York. NY 10010. ISBN 0-7167-1811-
2. Gillespie. MODERN LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION. Delmar Publishers, Inc. 1989.
3. Ensminger. HORSES AND HORSEMANSHIP. Interstate Publishers, Inc. 1994. Publishers Address: P.O. Box 50, Danville, IL 61834. Toll Free: 800/843-4774.

Rules and Regulations:

1. All general rules apply except as indicated in the specific rules for this contest.
2. Each chapter may send one team (one blue team and one gold team) to the State FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event. (Every Chapter has a blue and a gold chapter.) *(updated 2022)*
3. A team will consist of three or four members. Where four members judge, the lowest individual's score will be dropped before determining team scores.
4. The members of a team who placed first in State in prior years are ineligible to judge in subsequent years.
5. Twelve minutes will be allowed for non-reason classes, and fifteen minutes for reason classes.
6. There are no district or area elimination events prior to the state competition.
7. Banners will be presented to the top four teams. A High Point Individual Award will be presented to the highest scoring individual.
8. First and second place teams in the State Event are eligible to compete in the AQHYA World Judging Contest held in August.
9. Tie Breakers: (applied in the following order)
 - a. Reasons class as selected by contest superintendent.
 - b. Performance placing class as selected by contest superintendent.
 - c. Other reasons or placing class as selected by contest superintendent.

References

1. 4-H Horse Judging Guide, (LSU)
2. American Quarter Horse Association
3. American Paint Horse Association
4. Horse Specialist, LSU Cooperative Extension Service
5. CEV "How to Judge Western Riding"
6. Current AQHA Rulebook
7. "Competitive Horse Judging" rule book for AQHA

American Quarter Horse Association
P.O. Box 200
Amarillo, TX 79168
(806) 367-4811
(800) 291-7323
www.aqha.org

American Paint Horse Association
P.O. Box 961023
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0023
Phone: (817) 834-2742
Fax: (817) 834-3152
www.apha.com

This format will be used for all placing classes for horse judging.

Form 2 STANDARD FFA PLACING CARD		
	Placings	Check Placing
Contest _____	A. 1-2-3-4	
	B. 1-2-4-3	
Class Name _____	C. 1-3-2-4	
	D. 1-3-4-2	
Class No. _____	E. 1-4-2-3	
	F. 1-4-3-2	
Contestant Name _____	G. 2-1-3-4	
	H. 2-1-4-3	
Contestant No. _____	I. 2-3-1-4	
	J. 2-3-4-1	
	K. 2-4-1-3	
	L. 2-4-3-1	
Tabulator's Score _____	M. 3-1-2-4	
	N. 3-1-4-2	
	O. 3-2-1-4	
	P. 3-2-4-1	
	Q. 3-4-1-2	
	R. 3-4-2-1	
	S. 4-1-2-3	
	T. 4-1-3-2	
	U. 4-2-1-3	
	V. 4-2-3-1	
	W. 4-3-1-2	
	X. 4-3-2-1	