Location & Times

The 2013 State 4-H Horse Judging Contest and the 2013 State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contest will be held April 5-6, 2013 at the Tonopah Rodeo Grounds.

Entries & Entry Fee

The entry fee is $15.00 per contestant per contest and is applicable to all contestants whether they are juniors, intermediates, or seniors. The fee and registration forms are due to the State 4-H Office on or before Friday, March 15th. Refund requests will be accepted until close of business on Friday, March 8th.

Purpose

The ability to recognize and interpret visual differences between animals and to understand equine production/management practices. These are valuable skills for 4-H Club Members to learn, comprehend, and utilize.

The purposes of the Nevada State 4-H Horse Judging Contest and the Nevada State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contest are two-fold: subject matter education and life skills development.

- To encourage 4-H Members to learn modern evaluation methods and to select the appropriate animals for a defined purpose.
- For 4-H Members to demonstrate their skills and abilities pertaining to breeds, performance, equipment, production/management, feeds and nutrition, and proper care.
- To help youth learn the techniques of logical, accurate decision making; to recognize the reasons for their decisions; and to develop the ability to orally express their thoughts.
- To encourage 4-H Members to assume responsibility for their decisions and actions.
- To encourage 4-H Members to establish goals and determine a course of action which will assist them in accomplishing those goals.
- To assist youth career awareness, career possibilities, and career guidance.
- To provide youth with opportunities to initiate and enhance life skill development.
Eligibility

The Nevada State 4-H Horse Judging Contest and the Nevada State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contest are open to all County 4-H Programs throughout Nevada. All 4-H Club Members are eligible, except for the following situations:

No 4-H member who has taken post-high school Animal Science, Horse Judging or related subject courses may enter. In addition, any member who has competed in a National Level 4-H Horse Judging Contest or a National Level 4-H Hippology or Horse Skillathon Contest will be ineligible to compete in the same contest on the State Level. However, the member is encouraged to become a junior coach for the county clubs and become involved in other aspects of the program.

*Addendum: Youth who have competed in a National 4-H Contest may be a practice participant in the same contest at the State 4-H event. A practice participant’s scores will not be considered for the State 4-H Contest awards and placings.

Each County 4-H Program may enter as many eligible contestants as they wish. Age category classifications are as follows:

- **Junior Age Requirements:** 9 & 10 years of age on January 1, 2012
- **Intermediate Age Requirements:** 11 - 13 years of age on January 1, 2012
- **Senior Age Requirements:** 14 - 19 years of age on January 1, 2012

The selection of eligible contestants is the responsibility of County 4-H/Extension Staff.

Each county entering either of these contests must provide at least two individuals and two back-up individuals to assist with the operation of the contest. The individuals will serve as:

- **Horse Handlers:** individuals will handle horses for showing or demonstration purposes, if needed.
- **Group Leaders:** individuals keep track of youth in their group, make sure there is no talking between contestants, and review score sheets/cards to make sure names and/or numbers are on all score sheets/cards that are turned in. The name and/or number will be highlighted by the group leader to indicate score sheets/cards have been received.
- **Station Coordinators:** individuals make sure there is no talking between contestants, help maintain flow between stations, and answer any questions that contestants may have for the station.
- **Timers:** individuals manage time and instruct contest coordinator and/or contestants of start and finish for specific time frames.
- **Scorers:** individuals use keys/answer sheets to grade score sheets/cards.
- **Other Tasks:** when necessary, individuals may be asked to do different tasks not mentioned above. Instructions will be given on how to complete tasks.
Names and contact information of these individuals are considered part of the entry. The eligibility of contestants/volunteers is the responsibility of County 4-H/Extension Staff.

**Dress**

All contestants are expected to wear the official Nevada 4-H Uniform (white shirt, green tie, and appropriate pants) at the State 4-H Horse Judging and State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contests. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his identity or the county which he/she represents. Helmets are required for the close inspection portion of the Horse Judging Contest, and may be required for the practicum portion of the Horse Skillathon Contest.

**Teaching Materials**

Teaching materials for the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest and the State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contest are available in publication/print format and PowerPoint format from the Nevada 4-H Website ([http://www.unce.unr.edu/4H/programs/stem/animals/](http://www.unce.unr.edu/4H/programs/stem/animals/)). Educational materials can also be obtained from other sources such as Livestock Nutrition and Feed on the Nevada 4-H Website under Livestock Management/Skillathon, National 4-H Horse Publications, Breed Association Websites and Information, and many other sources.

**Grievance**

A protest/grievance must be filed by a contestant (not a parent, leader, etc.). It must be made in writing, and it must be accompanied by a deposit of $50.00, which will be forfeited if the grievance is not sustained. Grievances must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal, with specific charges and recital of the facts relied upon or the rule violated. It must also name any witnesses and the contact information from whomever information is to be obtained.

Any protest/grievance must be filed by a contestant (not a parent, leader, etc.). It must be made within one hour of the time of the action or questioned incident and turned into contest officials. All decisions of the contest officials shall be final.

**Scoring**

All contestants will be scored on an individual basis for both the judging and skillathon contests. The only exception to this rule is when the contest consists of group activities (as in the Skillathon Contest). In this case, the score received for the activity will be given to all the individuals participating in the group. For example, the group scored an 84 on the group problem; therefore, all individuals participating in the group will receive a score of 84. Group
determination for the group activities portion of the Skillathon Contest will be by age classification first and then randomly (count-off: i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4; same counties: i.e. all Washoe Intermediate participants together; etc.) and will consist of four (4) people per group maximum and three (3) people per group minimum.

**Awards**

Plaques, trophies, ribbons, and other similar awards will be presented to individual and team winners in each of the three age categories (junior, intermediate, and senior) in each of the contests (horse judging and horse skillathon). All contestants are eligible to receive individual and team awards and honors.

Individual awards are given to the contestants who have the overall top four scores in each age category.

Team awards are determined by the addition of the overall top three contestant scores in each age category for each county represented. Team awards are given to the county teams that have the overall top three scores in each age category.

As decided by the Nevada 4-H Staff, the top four (4) Senior Individual contestants in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be eligible to compete at the National 4-H Horse Judging Contest (held in Denver, Colorado) as a member of the Nevada 4-H Team. The chaperone for this trip will be the 4-H Staff Person from the county with the highest scoring individual. Congratulations to these four individuals from the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest.

As decided by the Nevada 4-H Staff, the top four (4) Senior Individual contestants in the State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contest will be eligible to compete at the National 4-H Hippology Contest (held in Denver, Colorado) as a member of the Nevada 4-H Team. The chaperone for this trip will be the 4-H Staff Person from the county with the highest scoring individual. Congratulations to these four individuals from the State 4-H Horse Skillathon Contest.

**Horse Judging Contest**

Decisions and placings of contest officials and management are final. All placings, as announced, are final. Tie-breakers will be resolved with highest reasons score.

The Horse Judging Contest will include halter and performance classes. The halter classes may include any horse of similar type and breed such as Quarter Horse, Paint, Arabian, Stock, Miniature, and so on. The performance classes may include any type of performance such as Pleasure (Western or English), Equitation (Western or English), Reining, Trail, and so on.
Each class will have four horses, and contestants should rank the horses from best to poorest making sure to consider all information provided about the class. The horses will be numbered 1, 2, 3, or 4 within a class, and in order from left to right as viewed from the rear. Contestants should assume animals are all of equal age and place them on visual appraisal, unless evaluation data and/or production information is provided. After the judging of each class is completed, the contestant’s scoring cards will be turned in to the group leader. A correct placing receives a score of 50 points.

The specific classes chosen for reasons will be announced at the beginning of the contest. 4-H members should be trained and encouraged to take notes on reasons classes. They should bring a clean notebook (no writing). They may use the notes they take during the contest to study; however, using them while actually giving reasons may lower the reason's score.

A set of reasons should last no longer than two (2) minutes, and the official, at his or her discretion, may ask the 4-H member questions concerning the class. The score assigned total reasons set, ranging from 0 to 50 points, will be dependent upon these factors (in approximately this order of importance):

1. accuracy
2. organization of thoughts, completeness and conciseness
3. manner of presentation (articulation, mannerisms, appearance)

4-H members are not expected to be professional speakers in order to score well and no specific "style" of giving reasons will be preferred unless it contributes to accuracy, organization and mannerisms. However, an organized format is often helpful to 4-H members in giving reasons.

Contestants will start the rotation for giving reasons 15 minutes after the end of the last class. The reasons order will be via a “random sort” and seats will be assigned for each contestant. Contestants are expected to sit in their assigned seat (which will be in reasons order) during the duration of the reasons aspect of the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. After a contestant has given their last set of reasons, they will be permitted to leave the reasons sitting area (after they clean up around their seat).

While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the contest management. Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices while participating in the contest. This includes mobile phones, pagers, PDA’s, and other device capable of transmitting information.
Contestants may be suspended from the contest for talking or collaborating during the contest, carrying a device during the contest, for infringement of any of the stated rules, or for conduct unbecoming a 4-H Member.

- Suspension will result in being asked to leave the event premises and complete removal from the contest.
- The individual will not be allowed to represent Nevada at any regional or national level horse judging contest.

**Skillathon Contest**

Decisions and placings of contest officials and management are final. All placings, as announced, are final. Tie-breakers will be resolved 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.

The following is a list of common Skillathon classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a changing horse industry. The contest is not limited to the following classes; therefore, point totals may vary as well.

Some aspects of the Skillathon Contest are conducted on an individual basis and will be scored as such. Individual components of the contest may consist of any of these categories:

**Classes competed as an individual:**

1. **Equipment Identification:** (100 possible points) Identify, from a provided list, the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in the horse industry.
2. **Breed Identification:** (100 possible points) Identify, from a provided list, horse breeds from photographs or pictures and color or appropriate markings. Contestants must also match breeds with the most appropriate description supplied.
3. **Feed Identification:** (50 possible points) Identify, from a provided list, the feeds provided used in the horse industry.
4. **Anatomy Identification:** (100 possible points) Identify, from a provided list, the anatomy of the horse 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.
5. **Horse Judging Class:** (100 possible points) Rank one or two classes of horses.
6. **Horse Health Exercise**: (50 possible points) Demonstrate how to read a medicine label, complete a treatment record, determine TPR, and make responsible management decisions regarding horse health.

7. **Quiz**: (50 possible points) Complete a 25 question multiple choice and true/false quiz concerning the complete horse industry.

**Total possible individual points = 450-600**

Some aspects of the Skillathon Contest are conducted on a group basis. In these aspects of the contest, the individuals work as a group to solve the problem, answer the question, or derive the appropriate solution. Each group member receives the same score for this part of the contest. Group components of the contest may consist of any of these categories:

**Classes completed as a group:**

1. **Horse Health Exercise**: (100 possible points) Demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, calculate dosage rates, complete a treatment record, be familiar with administration routes, animal identification and restraint methods, and make responsible management decisions regarding horse health. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)

2. **Blemishes, Unsoundness, and Conformation**: (125 possible points) Identify blemishes from photos, pictures, and drawings (50 possible points). Evaluate the conformation and unsoundness of an animal from photos and videos provided (75 possible points). (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)

3. **Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise**: (100 possible points) Group members will evaluate a breeding animal scenario and make animal selection decisions based upon performance/visual data to rank breeding animals within the situation. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)

4. **Horse Facility Management**: (100 possible points) Evaluate a particular type of horse facility and make recommendations on types of contracts to use, how to deal with horse behaviors, equipment needed, and programs to offer.

5. **Equine Feeding**: (100 possible points) Identify the proper names for horse feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group. Feed samples and lists of feed names and nutrient groups will be provided. Utilizing feed ingredients given, formulate a ration for a specific horse situation.

**Possible point total for team classes = 100-600**

Contestants may take notes during the contest. However, no prepared notes or printed material may be used by contestants during the contest.
It is the responsibility of the contestants to be in the appointed place at the times designated by contest officials.

During the individual aspects of the contest, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the contest management. Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices while participating in the contest. This includes mobile phones, pagers, PDA’s, and other device capable of transmitting information.

Members may be suspended from the contest for talking or collaborating during the contest (during individual components of the contest), carrying a device during the contest, for infringement of any of the stated rules, or for conduct unbecoming a 4-H member.

- Suspension will result in being asked to leave the event premises and complete removal from the contest.
- The individual will not be allowed to represent Nevada at any regional or national level horse skillathon contest.

**Appreciation**

The UNCE 4-H Youth Development Program partners with 4-H/UNCE County Staff to present and conduct these contests for the benefit of all participants. Please honor and continue the positive relationship between all 4-H and UNCE Staff by always putting your “best foot forward”. This includes respecting fellow competitors, officials, equipment, and facilities.

Please take the time to offer a “thank you” to everyone that worked together and very hard to present an educational and positive event for each participant.