

IV - NYS 4-H HORSE COMMUNICATIONS CONTESTS - Individual and Team

Rules and Regulations

****NOTE: National rule changes will be automatically reflected in New York State 4-H educational event rules in following years.****

Dress Code:

A strict dress code will be enforced. Clean, neat clothing, appropriate for the event and weather conditions will be expected. Remember, contestants are representing 4-H, Cornell, and their county and region. Shirt must have sleeves and cover midriff. No inappropriate language on clothing. Skirts and shorts must be longer than the individual's fingertips when their hands are at their sides.

I. Eligibility

1. Teams to compete in regional contests may be selected by any means agreeable to the majority of counties within that region. Regions are encouraged to allow as many youth as possible to participate in regional competitions. Regions are advised to follow state rules, but may alter to fit their needs. All teams competing in state and national contests must conform to state and national rules.
 - a. **Seniors:** Senior contestants must be at least 14 years of age but not yet 19 years of age by January 1 of the current calendar year.
 - b. **Juniors:** Junior contestants must not have achieved their 14th birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.

Please note: For State events, a junior youth must have reached their 9th birthday prior to January 1 of the current calendar year.
 - c. **Novice (optional):** Contestants must not have achieved their 14th birthday prior to January 1 of the current calendar year **and** must never have participated in a Communications contest at the regional level. At the discretion of the region, exceptions may be made to allow contestants who are 9 years of age or less to compete.
- A. **Age** - Contestants must be at least nine (9) years of age before January 1 of the current year but not have been nineteen (19) prior to January 1 of the current year. To be eligible for selection as a member of a state team, a contestant must be at least fourteen (14) years of age before January 1 of the current year.
- B. **Project Enrollment** - Contestants must be enrolled in the 4-H horse project in accordance with county limitations.

- C. No contestants may compete at any level in the same specific event in which they have previously competed in an official 4-H contest of national character and in the same species.
 - 1. No member of a presentation team which competed in an official national contest may compete in team events even with a new partner, but are eligible to compete in individual events.
 - 2. Individual presenters and public speakers who have competed in official national 4-H competition may not compete in the same specific individual event but are eligible to compete in the alternate individual event and in team competition.
- D. Each contestant must have been officially designated as a contestant by the Cooperative Extension Educator, 4-H, of his/her county, and must be officially designated by the chairperson of the Regional 4-H Horse Educational Committee (HEC).
- E. Youth must physically be present at the county, regional and state events. This would preclude alternative methods of qualifying, such as a videotape of the youth.
- F. Contestants must not have participated in any post secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive individual presentation/demonstration, team presentation/demonstration or public speaking contests.
- G. Opportunities to represent New York in one of the National 4-H Horse Roundup competitions will be offered to participants in the State Contest based on their placing in the contest and their availability for travel and additional training.
- H. Contestants may participate in only one state-wide 4-H Horse Communications event (Public Speaking or Team Presentation or Individual Presentation) in a given year.

II Entry Procedures

- A. Each region may enter the following in the State Contest:

Senior Junior

Individual Presentations	4	4
Team Presentations	4	4
Public Speakers	4	4
Special Programs	2	2
Video Presentations	2	2
Impromptu	2	-

Please use appropriate entry forms, completed with designated signatures.

- B. Entry deadlines will be stated on entry forms.
- C. Contestants are expected to check in with the division chairperson 30 minutes before their scheduled time. Failure to be ready to present at the scheduled time will result in elimination.

III. Scoring/Awards

- A. In each division of the contest, three (3) judges will independently evaluate each presentation. Copies of the scoring sheets will be made available upon request, to help in preparing the presentation.
- B. Rosettes will be presented to:
 - 1. high ten (10) Senior Individual Presentors
 - 2. high five (5) Senior Team Presentors
 - 3. high five (5) Senior Public Speakers
 - 4. high five (5) Senior Impromptu Speakers
 - 5. high ten (10) Junior Individual Presentors
 - 6. high five (5) Junior Team Presentors
 - 7. high five (5) Junior Public Speakers
- C. Score sheets at the State event will be made available to the 4-H youth for review. However they must be returned. If an individual 4-H'er would like a copy of their score sheet, they may request a copy but must do so through their Cornell Cooperative Extension Office.

IV. Divisions

PLEASE NOTE: The same communications presentation may not be repeated in the same division in subsequent years, at the State level. There must be a legitimate attempt to change the subject matter, content, title, etc.

Introductions: Introductions should be brief and simple. They should include the presenter(s) name and the title of the presentation. Other brief information may be included at the discretion of the presenter; please keep information pertinent to the presentation. The introduction will be counted in the total time of the presentation.

Technology :

- 1. Computer generated, integrated, and highly technical forms of presentations (ie: Power Point) will be allowed in 4-H Horse Communications Events.
- 2. When doing a Power Point presentation, everything must be designed, developed and produced by the contestant, just like a contestant would do if making standard posters and props.

3. Although a contestant may be “tied” to the computer during the presentation in order to progress through the slides, reading off of the computer screen is just like using notes, and will be judged as such.
4. The contestant is responsible for bringing, setting up and using the computer, projection unit, and other necessary equipment. Realize that completely dimming the lights in the room may be necessary for older projection units, but may result in the judges not being able to see the contestant, which could result in point deductions. It would be wise to have a newer, high lumens projection unit that will not require a completely dark room.
5. If pictures and information are taken directly from another source (online or otherwise), it is necessary, as with traditional presentations, to cite where the information was acquired so that the judges are aware. For example, pictures that are taken off of a website should have the url of the website listed below it so that the judges can read it.

A. Individual Presentations- Senior and Junior

1. This is an individual event.
2. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
3. The presentation may be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All references to the term “presentation” in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a presentation of a step by step procedure with an end product or result. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message.

Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different as defined above. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferable. Visual aids may include but are not limited to handouts, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media (Power Point, websites, etc.). No live animals or people may be used.

4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).
5. Presenters must supply all of their own equipment, including easels.
6. Creative audio visual aids may be used, but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.

7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, region and presentation topic.
8. Presentation should be 9-12 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of minutes) under 9 minutes or over 12 minutes.
9. Contestants should cite their own major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
11. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach to provide all necessary recording equipment.

B. Team Presentations - Senior and Junior

1. This is a team event where both participants should have an equal role in the presentation. A team consists of two members (2 Juniors or 2 Seniors - no mixed ages).
2. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
3. The presentation may be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All references to the term "presentation" in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a presentation of a step by step procedure with an end product or result. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message.

Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different as defined above. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferable. Visual aids may include but are not limited to handouts, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media (Power Point, websites, etc.). No live animals or people may be used.

4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestants. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).

5. Participants must supply their own props. Any other equipment needs must be made through special arrangement with contest officials.
6. Creative audio visual aids may be used, but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.
7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, region and demonstration topic.
8. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 10 minutes or over 15 minutes.
9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
11. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their presentations. It is the responsibility of the team/coach to provide all necessary recording equipment.

C. Public Speaking - Senior and Junior

1. This is an individual event.
2. Subject must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
3. No visual aids charts or other equipment may be used.
4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).
5. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, region and speech topic.
6. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. Three (3) points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes.
7. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusions of their speech. This time will **not** be counted in the allotted time.

8. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will **not** be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
9. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score, and third on content and accuracy scores.
10. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the team coach/team to provide all necessary recording equipment.

V. **Special Programs** (No National competition available)

A. **Videotaped Presentation** - Senior and Junior

1. **Time Limit:** 20 minutes minimum, 30 minutes maximum.
2. Each presentation may be the work of not more than ten (10) members who shall be solely responsible for camera work, recording of video and audio inputs, all graphic and photographic materials contained in the tape, the development of the script, and the narration.
3. Non 4-H members may assist with editing, but must be under the supervision and direction of at least one member of the 4-H production crew.
4. If music is incorporated, proof of the legal use of this music must be submitted.
5. Unless the presentation is prepared on 1/2" VHS cassettes, a tape player suitable to accommodate the tape production must be supplied by the presenting group.
6. At least one member of the production crew must represent the presentation in competition and be prepared to answer questions concerning the content and the development process.
7. Scoring -

Camera Work - 40 pts.

Clarity (10 pts.) - Is the general overall visual quality of the film suitable for instructional purposes?

Focus (10 pts.) - Obviously no lapses or fuzziness. Are the images central, crisp and sharp?

Continuity (10 pts.) - In the filming process, is there an orderly and logical presentation of the subject so that information flows smoothly?

Editing (10 pts.) - Film contains a minimum of irrelevant material. It is light, lean and has images which always deal with its subject? Some consideration should be given to a variety of camera angles, closeups, etc.

Script - 30 pts.

Coordination with video (15 pts.) - Script closely and accurately goes along with images. The pace is good.

Audio Clarity (15 pts.) - Voice is measured, clear. There is proper volume, uniform quality with sufficient pauses and no loss of information.

Miscellaneous (if used) - **10 pts.**

Graphics, music, credits, time - These should be clear, of obvious quality and be an integral part of the presentation.

Time Limit: 20-30 minutes - 3 pts. penalty for each minute or portion thereof under 20 minutes, or over 30 minutes.

Explanation and Questions - 20 pts.

Participant should be able to explain the purpose of this project and why this knowledge is important.

Participant should demonstrate knowledge and research on this topic and be able to answer pertinent questions raised by the subject matter.

8. Ties will be broken by the highest individual score sheet first, and finally by decision of the judge.

B. Impromptu Speaking - Senior

1. **Time Limit:** 5-8 minutes
2. The objective of this contest is to promote confidence and communication skill building within the 4-H community. In addition, creates an arena for horse 4-H'ers to express their knowledge and opinions of the horse world.
3. This contest is open to senior level 4-H'ers only.
4. Contestants will have no prior knowledge of what the topics for the contest will be.
5. Contestants cannot use any props during their speech.
6. The topics will pertain to the horse industry.

7. When arriving at the state contest at their assigned time, the contestant will check in and be directed to the chairperson.
8. The chairperson will present the participant with a box full of topic questions.
9. The contestant will choose two topics at random.
10. After looking at the topics, the contestant will tell the chairperson what topic they will use as their speech.
11. The contestant will then receive 15 minutes to prepare their speech. There will be a room where selected resources are provided that the contestant can use.
12. The contestant can use notes he/she made during their preparation time during his/her speech.
13. The contestant should introduce himself/herself and state their topic question.
14. There will be between one and three judges judging the contestant.
15. There is no national contest for this contest.
16. Contestants must qualify by competing at an impromptu contest at their local and regional levels.
17. Ties will be broken based on the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.

VI. National Contest

- A. Four (4) senior individuals will be invited to represent New York in the National 4-H Horse Communications Event. They will be selected among the high individuals in the state contest, based on availability for the contest and rank, subject to confirmed eligibility.

Individual Presentation - one (1) 4-H youth

Team Presentation - two (2) 4-H youth

Public Speaking - one (1) 4-H youth

- B. Commitment of qualified participants to be a part of the national NYS 4-H Horse Communications Team must be made by some time prior to the first day of State Fair.