



Horse Judging Contest Memo

Date:	Saturday, November 1, 2025
Location:	TAMU – Commerce (Mary Bonham Equine Pavilion)
Contest Check-In:	8:30 a.m.
Orientation:	9:00 a.m.
Contest Begins	9:00 a.m. - Noon
Reasons:	Seniors will give 1 set of halter and 1 set of performance. Intermediates will give 1 set of halter. Juniors will have no reasons.
Awards:	TBD

Registration. Each participating member is required to register on 4-HOnline and pay the district \$15.00 contest registration fee. Registration will begin on October 1, 2025 and close at midnight on October 15, 2025. No late entries will be accepted. No refunds will be issued.

If the county has multiple team entries, please denote team names on 4-H Connect using this naming structure:

<County> Jr/Int/Sr Team #1
<County> Jr/Int/Sr Team #2
<County> Jr/Int/Sr Team #3 Example:
Bowie Int Team #2 No unique team names.

Participation. Contestants must be active 4-H members enrolled in a Texas 4-H and Youth Development county program in District IV. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to UIL rules) to compete on the day of the contest. A contestant may compete as an individual or as a member on a team.

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Academic Eligibility. According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed “eligible” to compete in an event that takes place on a weekday or weekend. All 4-H youth, including public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:

- Complete a “Declaration of Eligibility Form”
OR
- Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.
- Contact your local County Extension Office for the process used by **YOUR** county.
- Eligibility Forms will be returned to and remain in the County Extension Office.

Use of Electronic Devices. No cell phones, smart watches, calculators, or other electronic devices are allowed during the contest. Individuals found in violation will be disqualified. **Coaches and parents are not allowed to text contestants, County Extension Agents, or judges during the contest.**

Age. Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1st of the current 4-H year. Age divisions for this contest are:

- Junior (3rd, 4th, & 5th grades)
- Intermediate (6th, 7th, & 8th grades)
- Senior (9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th grades)

Entries per County. Each county may enter unlimited teams/individuals per division listed above.

Members per Team. Teams consist of 3 or 4 members of the same division. Junior members will be allowed to move up to the intermediate division in order to complete a team. Juniors and intermediates are **not** allowed to move up to the senior division. Only the top 3 total individual scores will count toward team awards.

Recommended Items to Bring. Clipboard, blank paper for notes, pencils, and sunglasses (you will be judging outdoors).

Coaches and Parent Seating. Parents and coaches will be allowed to sit at the north end of the arena **ONLY** during the contest. If there is any interference from the spectators, they will be asked to leave the judging area.

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Awards. 1st through 5th place individual and team awards in each age category. The top 3 placed senior teams and/or individuals will qualify for the State Contest. There will be no rolling up of youth to a state-qualifying team.

Judging Classes. The horse contest will consist of six (6) to eight classes (8) with four horses in each class. There will be two (2) to four (4) halter classes and four (4) to six (6) performance classes. Judging class cards will be used for the contest.

Scantrons. Contestants will use a Universal Form A Scantron for the contest. They are responsible for providing accurate scoring information on the scan sheet, including team number. Contest officials will not correct, enter, or change scan sheet marks or errors. Individual scores will not be tabulated without the correct team number. Scantrons will be provided. Contestants should familiarize themselves with this sheet prior to competing.

Oral Reasons. Senior contestants will give 1 set of oral reasons on a halter class and 1 set on a performance class. Intermediates will give 1 set on a halter class. Junior contestants will not give oral reasons. Contestants will be notified at the time of placing whether or not reasons will be required on the class being judged at that time.

Resources. Below is one of many you can use.

<https://equinehusbandry.ces.ncsu.edu/equinehusbandry-educational-materials/horse-judging-resource-material/>

<http://www.livestockjudging.com/> (under videos there are several videos of classes that are free to use for practice).

Participants with Disabilities. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact [Denita Young @ 972-952-9252](mailto:Denita.Young@972-952-9252) or djyoung@ag.tamu.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the program or note such needs when registering on 4-H Online.

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