



**WI State FFA CDE Handbook**  
**Horse Evaluation**

**Purpose:** of the FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is to:

Promote the study of and interest in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management and production through the agricultural education curriculum.

### Event rules

The complete rules, policies and procedures relevant to all Wisconsin FFA Career and Leadership Development Events (LDE) may be found in the Guide to CDE and LDE Policies and Procedures.

- Teams will consist of four members and all 4 scores make up the team score.
- All teams MUST compete at a regional live qualification contest (River Falls, Mid-State, Platteville, South Central or Fox Valley) A group of top teams from each regional will advance to the State CDE.
- Teams advancing to the State LIVE CDE Contest will be selected from the top teams in regional CDE Contests.
- All teams are expected to be checked-in prior to the contest start time. The contest takes approximately 3.5 hours to complete.
- All members of the team will participate in a general knowledge quiz.
- Contestant dress is “school appropriate” Official dress or special clothing is NOT needed. A contest participant should appear neat and clean. Examples Black jeans or khakis and a button-up shirt would be appropriate. Warm shirts such as turtlenecks are permitted. If a jacket is worn, it should also be clean and neat in appearance. Clean boots are highly recommended. Inappropriate dress includes baggy jeans, jeans with holes, T-shirts, shorts, or sweatshirts. Open-toed shoes and hats of any style are not permitted.

### Event format

**a)** Upon arriving at the competition site, all team members will be placed into one of four groups for Phase I, II, and III. For the first three phases, all competitors should be working alone and there should be no communication amongst any competitors. NOTE: Any communication between competitors at any time during Phase I, II, or III will result in immediate disqualification of the offending member's entire team. Phase IV is the only phase of the competition wherein teams are expected to work together.

**b)** Upon arrival at the competition site, all team members and any coaches will be asked to silence phones and any other electronics. The handling/use of an electronic device (such as cell phones or tablets) by competitors during any phase of the competition will result in immediate disqualification of the offending member's entire team.

#### **a) PHASE I: Class Evaluation:**

**Performance Classes (50 points/class):** Individual competitors will judge 2 or 3 performance classes. Horses viewed during performance classes should be judged “as seen” for soundness. Performance classes may include ranch riding, hunt seat equitation, reining, hunter under saddle, trail, hunter hack, Western horsemanship, or Western pleasure.

**Halter Classes (50 points/class):** Individual competitors will judge 2 or 3 halter classes. All horses are to be judged as sound of wind, limb and eyesight; no stallions will be used in this contest. Competitors will be provided the chance to view all halter horses from frontal, both lateral, and hind views. Additionally, competitors will be provided the opportunity to view horses at close inspection for both halter classes. Please note that competitors are not allowed to touch any horse during close inspection. There will be no tracking of horses in either halter class.

**b) PHASE II: Oral Reasons (50 points):** Individual competitors will provide one set of oral reasons. All classes are possible to be used as a reasons class. The oral reasons class will be announced before the class has been judged.

**c) PHASE III: General knowledge Class (50 points):** Participants will be tested on a wide variety of equine topics: Equine Industry, Equine Diseases, Breed Identification, Equine Management, and Anatomy & Physiology. Reference: The study guide from the National Horse Judging Team Coaches' Association (NHJTCA) Equine Management & Evaluation Certification.

There will be a total of 25 multiple choice questions, each worth 2 points.

**d) PHASE IV: Practical Application Team Activity (50 points):** Participants will answer questions and gather information from practical application activities. Teams will complete one activity. Participants will have up to 15 minutes for this activity. Examples of practical activities include, but are not limited to, feed/hay selection, injections, lameness and selecting equipment to shoe a horse properly.

## Equipment

**Needed:** Each participant must have a clean (free of notes) paper clipboard and two sharpened No. 2 pencils. Contest management will provide blank paper for competitors to use during class evaluations and a scantron sheet for answers. The use of the AQHA rulebook is prohibited during the competition.

*For practicums, members may be provided these items:*

## Team activities

Team members will work together to read and answer multiple questions regarding one or two management scenarios related to horses. Team members will have 15 minutes for each scenario and each scenario is worth 25 points. Scenario topics include, but are not limited to, information regarding equine nutrition and feeds, marketing/current trends, health, reproduction, and/or welfare.

## Individual activities

Horse Knowledge Test (50 points)

Participants will be tested on a wide variety of equine topics: Equine Industry, Equine Diseases, Breed Identification, Equine Management, and Anatomy & Physiology. Questions

will be modeled after the iCEV-National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association Equine Management & Evaluation Certification.

Evaluation and then (4-6) Placing Classes:

2 or 3- Performances classes

2 or 3- Halter Classes

Included will be 1 or 2 oral sets of reasons presented on the previous designated Placing Classes.

## Scoring

	Individual points	Team Points
General knowledge exam	50	200
Halter/Performance classes – 4-6 total	50/class	200/class
Oral reasons- 1 or 2	50/class	200/class
Team practical application activities		50
	300/450	1850/2650

## Tiebreakers-

Ties will be broken in the following order:

Individual: 1. Oral reasons total 2. Performance classes total 3. Halter classes total

Team: 1. Team oral reasons total 2. Team performance classes total 3. Team halter classes total

Approximate Timeline FFA Horse CDE

Pavilion 1 – New Holland --upstairs

7:45 to 8:10 Registration of teams- Start Team photos.

8:10 Welcome and Orientation/directions

8:15 Team Activity

Arena

Class 1 8:30 to 8:50

Class 2 8:55 to 9:15

Class 3	9:20 to 9:40
Class 4	9:45 to 10:05
Class 5	10:10 to 10:30
Class 6	10:35 to 11:00

Back to Pavilion 1 - New Holland --upstairs

Written exam and Oral Reasons 11:10 to 11:45

11:45 Review of Official Placing & key to questions

11:45 -Finish team photos-

## Awards

**Team trophy for the Wisconsin State Winning team**

**Trophy for the top placing individual**

**Possible cash awards**

**Highest placing team will advance to the National FFA CDE Competition.**

## References

To better prepare competitors for the National FFA Competition, the official judge will be utilizing the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) rulebook. Coaches and or competitors interested in the use of the AQHA rulebook can find both electronic and paperback copies of the AQHA handbook can be obtained/purchased from the AQHA website <https://www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook> at Please note that rulebook usage will be prohibited during all phases of the competition.

Lessons from  
National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association Equine Management & Evaluation Certification

[iCEV | Course Details](#)