

HORSE EVALUATION

Students who participate in the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) gain new insights into equine science by evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics, conformation and performance. Participants defend their decisions through oral reasons in front of a panel of judges.

In this team CDE, students solve problems related to everything from the nutrition and reproduction of horses to the tack/equipment and feed used to care for horses. Participants strengthen their leadership, observation, analysis, critical thinking and communication skills while also developing and exercising a competitive team spirit and building an awareness of career opportunities within the equine industry.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. A chartered FFA chapter may enter one team. A team may consist of **5 eligible members**. **The score of the 4 high individuals will be used to determine the team score.** Anytime there are 2 members of the same chapter in any one practicum/station, they will not ever be allowed to meet together or communicate during the event. There will be no communication between any competitors during the events. Any infraction of this rule will be sufficient to eliminate the contestant from the event.
2. All attire and tack is legal in the selection classes.
3. Official FFA dress is required in the event. Black jeans are permissible. Hats are not acceptable.

There will be a total of six to eight classes judged- halter and performance events with two classes of reasons, one reasons class in each area. Classes will be approximately 12-15 minutes in length. All classes will be worth 50 points. Oral reasons should not exceed two minutes in length.

Up to four halter classes will be judged. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint and Morgan. All halter classes will be judged as sound. **Halter classes can include Ranch Conformation and will be judged as sound; no tracking or close inspection will be done.**

Up to four performance classes will be judged. Performance classes may include: Western Pleasure, Western Riding (Pattern One), Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), and Hunter Hack, Ranch Trail, Showmanship, and Ranch Rail Pleasure/Working Western Rail. Performance classes will be judged as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). American Quarter Horse Association reining patterns 1 or 2 will be used in the reining class as located in the current *AQHA Handbook*.

There will be one oral reasons class selected from Western Pleasure, Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat) and Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat).

PROBLEM SOLVING (50 POINTS)

The problem-solving component of the event is an identification team activity, requiring all members of the team to work cooperatively to complete the test. **This will be a 50 point ID test with multiple choice responses coming from the last three years of Breed and Tack ID tests from Nationals.**

For 2025-2026 the test bank will include: 2019, 2022, and 2023, national FFA event tests.

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.

REFERENCES

Official AQHA Handbook

ALIGNMENT TO AFNR CONTENT STANDARDS & OREGON EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Employability 01. Adhere to workplace practices
- Employability 02. Exhibit personal responsibility and accountability
- Employability 03. Practice cultural competence
- Employability 04. Demonstrate teamwork and conflict resolution
- Employability 05. Communicate clearly and effectively
- Employability 06. Employ critical thinking to solve problems
- Employability 07. Demonstrate creativity and innovative thinking
- Employability 08. Demonstrate fluency in workplace technologies
- Employability 09. Plan, organize, and manage work
- Employability 10. Make informed career decisions
- AS.06.01 Classify animals according to taxonomic classification systems and use (e.g. agricultural, companion, etc.).
- AS.06.03 Select and train animals for specific purposes and maximum performance based on anatomy and physiology.
- CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.
- CRP.01.02 Evaluate and consider the near-term and long-term impacts of personal and professional decisions on employers and community before taking action.
- CRP.02.01 Use strategic thinking to connect and apply academic learning, knowledge and skills to solve problems in the workplace and community.
- CRP.04.01 Speak using strategies that ensure clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in formal and informal settings.
- CRP.04.02 Produce clear, reasoned and coherent written and visual communication in formal and informal settings.
- CRP.05.02 Make, defend and evaluate decisions at work and in the community using information about the potential environmental, social and economic impacts.
- CRP.08.01 Apply reason and logic to evaluate workplace and community situations from multiple perspectives.
- CRP.08.03 Establish plans to solve workplace and community problems and execute them with resiliency.
- CRP.12.02 Create and implement strategies to engage team members to work toward team and organizational goals in a variety of workplace and community situations (e.g., meetings, presentations, etc.).