

4-H Horse Demonstration Contest Rules

(Updated March 2024)

Superintendent:
Scott Stinnett
817 15th Street
Burlington, CO 80807
scott.stinnett@colostate.edu

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. There is an individual contest and a team contest. A team consists of 2 members.
2. Each county or area is invited to enter as many teams and/or individuals as the county deems appropriate, providing that those teams and/or individuals have qualified via their county qualifying event in the Horse Demonstration Contest.
3. The individual and/or team may be selected by any procedure that the state deems appropriate.
4. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in the county or area they represent or combined in accordance with state 4-H policy prior to April 15 of the current year.
5. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age but not yet have achieved their 19th birthday on January 1 of the year they qualified to compete.
6. Contestants must not have participated in any post secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive demonstration contest. Neither can a contestant be a member of a post secondary team undergoing training in preparation for such an event.
7. Individuals, teams and individual members of that team, who have competed at the National 4-H Contest (National Western Roundup and Horse Classic), as the official Colorado 4-H representative entry will be allowed to compete as members of teams or as individuals at the state contest and be eligible for prizes/awards providing they do not do the same demo, speech or topic as they previously presented. However, the team members/individuals which represented Colorado at the National Western Roundup and Horse Classic are considered to be ineligible to represent Colorado again for the at the National 4-H Contest (National Western Roundup and Horse Classic) in the same division.

Should a team demo with members who have represented Colorado at the National 4-H Contest win state again or place high enough that the opportunity is passed to them, those members may not participate on the team entered in the National 4-H Contest. Members of the team that have not used their eligibility to compete at the Nation 4-H Contest may compete providing the team entered meets the substitution for national contest policy requirements (see State 4-H Policy Document). In the event the team cannot meet the substitution requirements the opportunity to represent Colorado shall be passed on to the next team that meets the above outlined criteria.

In the event an individual demo or speech wins state again the opportunity to represent Colorado shall be passed on to the next individual that meets the above outlined criteria to be eligible.

Further, teams or individuals who win a state competition in more than one contest area may continue to compete in the contest area(s) in which they did not represent Colorado at the 4-H National Contest. At County Contests it is at the host county's discretion as to how eligibility is handled. The State Champion Team or Individual from the State 4-H Contest is expected and encouraged to represent Colorado 4-H at the National 4-H Contest in January of the following year, in Denver (Western Roundup, if they have not already used their eligibility) but it is not required. Colorado 4-H members are not eligible to attend the Eastern National Horse contests in Louisville KY. If the State Champion does not choose to compete at the National 4-H Contest, the opportunity will be offered to the second-place team or individual. If the second-place team/individual declines to represent Colorado at the National 4-H Contest, it will then be offered to the third-place team/individual. If the third-place team/individual declines, it will not be offered to any other teams/individuals and Colorado will not be represented in that contest. Should the second or third place team/individuals choose to accept and go on to represent Colorado State at the National 4-H Contest, the previously outlined ineligibility rules will apply to that team/individuals representing Colorado at the National 4-H Contest for that specific activity.

An Individual Demo contestant is ineligible to compete in the Individual Demo contest at Western National Roundup more than once but can enter the Team Demo contest. And a Team Demo participant is ineligible to compete in the Team Demo contest at Western National Roundup more than once but may enter the Individual Demo contest.

CONTEST RULES

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Demonstrations or presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
2. Presentations may be either of demonstration or illustrated talk format. No live animals may be used.
3. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
4. A public address system will not be used in the contest.
5. Creative audio visual aids may be used, but the contestants must be involved in making or designing them.
6. During the competition, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and presentation topic.
7. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes in length. One point will be deducted from the total score for each minute or fraction of a minute under 10 minutes or over 15 minutes by each of three judges, for a three-points per minute total deduction. After the individual or team has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant(s) begin(s) to speak.
8. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the presentation. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. The contestant should repeat the question, then answer it.

10. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing.

11. For educational purposes the management may videotape all demonstrations with individual or team consent.

12. Once an individual or team has started their demonstration (in this case it is after they have been introduced by the superintendent), they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person, which includes, but is not limited to, the stroking of any key on a computer or other audio visual device. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.

13. Ties will be broken by first the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy scores.

SCORING

Judges will consider the questions listed under each section. Points on the score card will be as follows:

A. INTRODUCTION (10 points)

1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
2. Was the introduction short and to the point?
3. Was a catchy title used?

B. ORGANIZATION (25 points)

1. Was only one main idea presented?
2. Did the discussion relate directly to the step as it was shown?
3. Was each step shown or illustrated just as it should be done in an actual situation?
4. Could the audience see each step?
5. Were materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized?
6. Were charts and posters used if and when needed?
7. Were key points of each step stressed?

C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 points)

1. Were facts and information accurate?
2. Was there enough information?
3. Were approved practices used?
4. Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate?
5. Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?

D. STAGE PRESENCE (10 points)

1. Was the presenter neat and appropriately dressed for subject of presentation?
2. Did the presenter speak directly to audience?
3. Did the presenter look at the audience?
4. Was the presentation too fast or too slow?
5. Was good teamwork displayed? (Team presentation - generally not advisable for one person to do all the talking and the other one all the presenting.)

E. DELIVERY (15 points)

1. Did the presenter appear to enjoy giving presentations?
2. Did the presenter have good voice control?
3. Were all words pronounced correctly?
4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from speech?
5. Did the presenter seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized presentation.)

F. EFFECT ON AUDIENCE (5 points)

1. Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
2. Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?

G. SUMMARY (10 points)

1. Was the summary short and interesting?
2. Were the key points briefly reviewed?
3. Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
4. Could the presenter handle questions easily?

AWARDS

Awards will be announced. Ribbons to the top five (5) individuals, and the top five (5) teams.

EQUIPMENT

The contest officials will supply two tables and two easels. Any other equipment needs must be made through special arrangements with superintendents a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the scheduled date of the contest. Management will not be held responsible for failure of A/V equipment to operate properly.

An equal-access and equal-opportunity University. <https://col.st/II0t3>

Colorado State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider. Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations. CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension ensures meaningful access and equal opportunities to participate to individuals whose first language is not English.

Colorado State University Extension es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades. Colorado State University no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad y se compromete a proporcionar adaptaciones razonables. Office of Engagement and Extension de CSU garantiza acceso significativo e igualdad de oportunidades para participar a las personas quienes su primer idioma no es el inglés.

Protocol for Teams to Compete in National Contests:

Competing in National Contests

The state champion from the State 4-H Contest is expected to represent Colorado 4-H at the National 4-H Contest in January of the following year, in Denver (Western Roundup). Colorado 4-H members are not eligible to attend the Eastern National horse contests in Louisville, KY. However, the high team/individual (if it is an individual contest such as speech or demo from here on noted as “individual”) may select two additional national contests such as contests held by various breed associations. Please contact the contest organizers for further details and entry limitations. This team/individual must designate the two contests they have chosen by July 1st of the year they win the state contest. The coach of the winning team/individual is responsible for notifying the coach of the second-place team/individual, the State 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Contest Superintendent of their choices by **July 1st**.

The reserve state champion from the State 4-H Contest may represent Colorado 4-H at two national contests, after the state champions have made their selection. The coach of the second-place team/individual is responsible for notifying the coach of the third-place team/individual, the State 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Contest Superintendent of their contest choices by **July 10th**.

The third high team/individual from the state contest may represent Colorado 4-H at one national contest after being notified of the intentions of the state champions and reserve champions.

4-H coaches are welcome to take their teams/individuals to any national contest where there is no limit imposed by the contest on the entry of 4-H teams by each state. In any contest where the entries of 4-H teams are limited, the above protocol regarding eligibility must be followed. Only when a contest has not been selected by the first three placing senior teams/individuals at the state contest, may unranked teams be entered to represent counties in the Colorado 4-H program.

When considering out-of-state travel with junior 4-H members, please check with your county Extension Specialist on county and state policies. Generally, juniors do not go on national trips, unless there is a case where a junior is used to fill a senior team, i.e. no other seniors from that county are available. However, coaches, parents, and the junior member should give this decision great consideration, as the junior would then be subject to the same eligibility restrictions outlined below.

Only the team representing Colorado at the National 4-H Contest at Western Round-up is ineligible to compete at the Western National Round-up Contest again in the same contest/division. Members may continue to compete, as teams or individuals, in other national contests (such as those hosted by various breed associations etc.) so that they may further develop their skills.

Winning teams participating in the national 4-H contest must include two of the original qualifying team members. Substitute participants must have participated in the Colorado State 4-H qualifying event prior to the National Contest for which they will be participating.

Colorado 4-H Horse Demonstration Score Sheet

Contestant					
INTRODUCTION (10 points) Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject? Was the introduction short and to the point? Was a catchy title used?					
ORGANIZATION (25 points) Was only one main idea presented? Did the discussion relate directly to the step as it was shown? Was each step shown or illustrated just as it should be done in an actual situation? Could the audience see each step? Were materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized? Were charts and posters used if and when needed? Were key points of each step stressed?					
CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 points) Were facts and information accurate? Was there enough information? Were approved practices used? Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate? Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?					
STAGE PRESENCE (10 points) Was the presenter neat and appropriately dressed for subject of presentation? Did the presenter speak directly to audience? Did the presenter look at the audience? Was the presentation too fast or too slow? Was good teamwork displayed?					
DELIVERY (15 points) Did the presenter appear to enjoy giving presentations? Did the presenter have good voice control? Were all words pronounced correctly? If notes were used, was it done without detracting from speech? Did the presenter seem to choose words at the time they were spoken?					
EFFECT ON AUDIENCE (5 points) Did the audience show an interest in the presentation? Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?					
SUMMARY (10 points) Was the summary short and interesting and the key points briefly reviewed? Did it properly wrap up the presentation? Could the presenter handle questions easily?					