



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**EXTENSION**

## **4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest Rules**

Superintendent:

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### **CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

1. This is an individual contest.
2. Each county or area is invited to enter as many individuals as the county deems appropriate, providing that those individuals have qualified via their county qualifying event in the Horse Public Speaking Contest.
3. Participants 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. Contestant 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 public speaking contest. Neither can a contestant be a member of a post secondary team undergoing training in preparation for such an event.
7. Contestants must not have competed in horse public speaking contests in the past at either the U.S. Invitational, the National 4-H Horse Roundups, the National 4-H Horse Classic - Western Division or the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

### **CONTEST RULES**

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
2. No visual aids may be used, including the use of handouts such as bibliographies and pamphlets. Contestants will be disqualified for using any visual aid, including handouts, prior to, during and after the speech.

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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, but a podium will be provided.
5. During the competition the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.
6. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. One point will be deducted from the total score for each minute or fraction of a minute under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes by each of three judges for a three points per minute total deduction. After the individual has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.
7. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the competition. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
8. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestant should repeat the question, then answer it.
9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing.
10. Ties will be broken by: first, the judges' accumulated delivery score, second, the judges accumulated organization score; and, third, on content and accuracy scores.
11. For educational purposes the management may videotape all speeches with individual consent.
12. 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 introduction short and to the point?

**B. ORGANIZATION (25 points)**

1. Were the main points easy to follow?
2. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
3. Were sentences short, easy to understand?



4. Was speech interesting?

**C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 points)**

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

**D. STAGE PRESENCE (10 points)**

1. Was speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
2. Was the speaker friendly?
3. Did speaker talk directly to the audience?
4. Did speaker look at the audience?
5. Was posture erect, but not stiff?
6. Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium?
7. Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

**E. DELIVERY (15 points)**

1. Did speaker have appropriate voice control?
2. Were all words pronounced correctly?
3. Did speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
5. Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery.)

**F. GENERAL (5 points)**

1. Did speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
2. Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

**G. CONCLUSION (10 points)**

1. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
3. Could the speaker handle questions easily?

**AWARDS**

1. Awards will be announced. Ribbons to the top five (5) individuals.

**EQUIPMENT**

1. Contest officials will supply a podium that may or may not be used.



### Competing in other National Contests

The State Champion Team 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 Round-up). Colorado 4-H members are not eligible to attend the Eastern National Horse contests in Louisville KY. However, the high team 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 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 is responsible to notify the coach of the second place team, the state 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Contest Superintendent of their contest choices by July 1st.

The Reserve State Championship team 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 is responsible to notify the coach of the third place team, 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 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 team coaches are welcome to take their teams 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 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 Agent 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 for further competition as members of a 4-H Team at a 4-H county or state contest. Members may continue to compete, as individuals, in contests that include individual competitors or as members of national teams competing in breed association contests so that they may further develop their skills. Horse and Bowl is strictly a team events by nature and do not allow for individuals to compete.