CONNECTICUT 4-H HORSE PUBLIC SPEAKING
CONTEST

RULES AND REGULATIONS

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. This is an individual contest.

2. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in Connecticut.

3. Contestants must be 7, 8 or 9 years of age by January 1 of the current year to be entered in the novice contest.

4. Contestants must be at least 10 years of age, but have not yet achieved their 14th birthday on January 1 of the current year to be entered in the junior contest.

5. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age, but have not yet achieved their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year to be entered in the senior contest.

6. Contestants must not have participated in any post secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive public speaking contest.

7. Contestants must not have competed previously in the public speaking contest in the Eastern National 4-H Roundup in Louisville or the Western National 4-H Horse Classic in Denver.

THE CONTEST

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

2. No visual aids may be used.

3. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech.

4. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the team/coach to provide all necessary recording equipment.
5. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.

6. A public address system will not be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.

7. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.

8. Speeches should be 2½ - 5 minutes in length for the novice contest. There will be no penalties for being over or under the time limit.

9. Speeches should be 4 - 8 minutes in length for the junior contest. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge’s score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 4 minutes.

10. Speeches should be 7 - 10 minutes in length for the senior contest. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge’s score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes.

11. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of the speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.

12. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question and then answer it.

13. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced when the group meets prior to the contest.

14. Up to three judges will be used and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations. Each judge assigns his or her final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placing. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.

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

16. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges.
17. The senior winner will be declared the state winner and eligible for competition at the national level if the contest is declared an official contest as per the Connecticut 4-H horse program.

18. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the scorecard 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?

B. ORGANIZATION 15 points
1. Were the main points easy to follow?
2. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
3. Were the sentences short and easy to understand?
4. Was the speech interesting?

C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY 20 points
1. Were the facts and information accurate?
2. Was there enough information concerning the subject?
3. Was credit given to the sources of information, if it was appropriate?
4. Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

D. STAGE PRESENCE 15 points
1. Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
2. Did the speaker talk directly to and look at the audience?
3. Was the speaker’s posture erect, but not stiff?
4. Did the speaker refrain from leaning on the podium?
5. Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

E. DELIVERY 20 points
1. Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
2. Were all words pronounced correctly?
3. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
4. Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to memorized or ready-type delivery?

F. GENERAL 10 points
1. Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
2. Did the 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?