

Hippology Contest

Contact:

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OBJECTIVE

Provide an opportunity for youth to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of equine science and management.

ELIGIBILITY

- All Wyoming 4-H members are eligible to compete in the appropriate age division. Eligibility will be confirmed using zsuites. Juniors~8-13 years old and Seniors 14-18 years old
- This is a team/ and individual contest. Teams may consist of three (3) to four (4) members with youth from the same age group. Counties may enter as many teams as they would like. All team members must be in the same age division and from the same county.

Team Division (Jr. & Senior)

Evaluation Phase
Station Phase
Team Problem
Examination Phase (Sr. ONLY)

***Each division will be scored separately.**

CONTEST

The contest will consist of multiple phases. The official answers for all phases will be determined by the organizing committee and an official judge(s). The answers and scores assigned will be final. No appeal will be considered. If a coach, volunteer or parent chooses to dispute answers their team(s) will receive a 50 point(s) penalty.

Phases may or may not happen in the order listed. Talking amongst team members is encouraged for all phases.

EVALUATION PHASE (ALL)

Youth will evaluate one class of Halter Horses and one performance class, 100 points possible, and answer a set of questions on these classes, 50 points possible (10 questions 5 points each). Each team will submit one placing and one set of answers to the questions.

Classes may consist of video classes or "live" classes depending on the contest and availability.

STATION PHASE (ALL)

This phase will consist of a series of tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. At each station a picture or object may be present. Contestants may be asked to describe or demonstrate the use of an item. There will be a 5-minute time limit set for each station.

Juniors	7 stations	70(70) possible points	(chosen from Junior list below)
Seniors	10 stations	100 (100) possible points	(chosen from all listed below)

Examples of stations are:

Juniors

- Types & parts of saddles
- Bridles
- Horse colors, description & markings
- Horse breeds
- Horse events
- Farrier tools & the hoof
- Horse skeleton, internal & external parts
- Horse equipment
- Gaits & defects

***Stations are set for a period of 3 years for consistency. Please bring any concerns or suggestions you have to the contest contact/coordinator prior to the contest.*

Seniors

- Types & parts of saddles
- Bridles
- Horse colors, description & markings
- Horse breeds
- Horse events
- Farrier tools & the hoof
- Horse skeleton, internal & external parts
- Horse equipment
- Gaits & defects
- Bits
- Defects, blemishes & general unsoundness
- Health, nutrition & feed samples
- Safety & use of knots and hitches
- Parasites
- Reproduction
- Teeth
- Evolution

EXAMINATION PHASE (Seniors Teams)

This phase of the contest will have written questions with multiple choice and true/false answers as well as questions answered from viewing projected slides. The slides will be based on anatomy and may include external, skeletal, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot, and detailed anatomy of the lower limbs. Each contestant will take their exam individually. (100 points possible)

TEAM PROBLEM

A hypothetical problem will be presented to each team. Juniors will be given a scenario prior to the contest. Seniors will be given two problems at the contest.

As a team, contestants will have up to 10 minutes to discuss the problem. Immediately following that discussion, all members on the team will have up to 10 minutes to present the solution. All team members must participate in the discussion and presentation. Responses should include not only "how" but "why", with special attention given to the rationale leading to the response.

Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures and the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all team members to clarify the presentation. (100 points possible)

Example of possible team problems might include:

Juniors (8-13):

1. Establishment of a new stable
2. Information on horses
 - a. What to look for
 - b. Where to look

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- c. How to use different equipment/ tools
- d. Suppliers of information (specialty)
- e. Duplicating or repeating information
- 3. Behavior problems
- 4. Horse farm management
- 5. Training and conditioning programs
- 6. How have horses evolved over the year
- 7. Health Care

Seniors (14-18)

- 1. Balancing a horse's ration
- 2. Breeding and/or leasing contracts, specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care termination, transport, etc.
- 3. Teaching lessons in horse management.
- 4. Biosecurity procedures and preventions
- 5. Health and Diseases
- 6. How have horses evolved over the years
- 7. Behavioral issues

Tie Breakers:

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

- 1. Examination Scores(Seniors)
- 2. Station Scores
- 3. Evaluation Phase

Ties within any phase are to be broken using overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie-breaking is needed, the score at each station, in order, may be used.

PROGRAM WIDE POLICY

Please be sure to refer to the Wyoming 4-H Policy manual for overall Competition, Events and Activities Policies.

CONTEST AWARDS

Awards will be provided in the following categories for individuals (Jr. Int. Sr.):

- Overall

Team awards will be provided in the following categories (Jr. and Sr Teams):

- Overall

The 1st place Senior Team will earn the choice of one of the following trips:

- Western National Round-Up – Denver CO, January 2027
- All American Quarter Horse Congress - Columbus, OH, October 2026
- Arabian Horse Contest – Tulsa, OK, October 2026

The 2nd place Senior Team will choose from the remaining two trips, and the 3rd place senior team will win the remaining trip, if eligible.

*** If you are interested in supporting the Wyoming 4-H Program, please contact:

Steve Mack, Director

1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3354

Laramie, WY 82071

Phone: 307.766.5170

Email: smack@uwyo.edu

References:

- Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms - New Horizons Equine Education Center. Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537 Phone: (800) 777-7257
- Lewis Feeding and Care of the Horse - Lon Lewis Williams and Wilkins. Second Edition. 351 West Camden Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2436 Phone: (800) 638-0672
- Horse Industry Handbooks and updates - American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262 ~ Web: <http://www.ayhc.com/shop>
- Horse Smarts - American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262 ~Web: <http://www.ayhc.com/shop>
- AQHA Rulebook: 2025 73rd edition <http://aqha.com/handbook> ~ Only show rules will be used (SHW300-SHW712).
- Parker Equine Science – Rick Parker. Fifth edition. ISBN-978-1-305-94972-0; Published 2019
- Parker The Horse – J. Warran Evans, et al. 3rd edition.
- Horse Smarts – American Youth Horse Council <https://www.ayhc.com/product-page/horse-smarts>
- NC State Extension: [Sample Horsebowl Questions | NC State Extension](#)
- [horse-livestock-symposium-hippology.pdf](#)
- [Hippology-Study-Resources-1.pdf](#)
- [Sample Hippology Materials | NC State Extension](#)