

**New Mexico 4-H State Conference**  
**Hippology Contest Rules (Revised 2008)**

*Hippology is an activity that can make learning fun for 4-H members, by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a friendly but competitive setting.*

The Hippology Contest has three (3) different phases: 1) Examination Phase 2) Station Phase 3) Judging Phase

**II. Contestants and Eligibility**

- A. Counties competing in the Hippology Contest may enter two (2) teams of not more than four or less than three members. Teams of less than three members will compete as individuals only. On teams where there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals, but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate, and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
- B. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H during the current year in the county they are representing.
- C. Contestants may not have participated in an official, post secondary Hippology, horse bowl, or horse judging contest nor have been in training in preparation for one of these contests.

**THE CONTEST**

1. Examination Phase -- 200 points -- this phase of the contest will include, but is not limited to:
- a. Written Exam: All answers will be recorded on the contestant's scantron form. It is the contestant's responsibility to make sure that the scantron is correctly filled in and legible.
  - b. Projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
  - c. Anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.
  - d. All contestants from the same county must take this exam at the same time, and students will have a maximum time limit of one (1) hour to complete this portion of the contest.
2. Station Phase -- 200 points -- this phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. All contestants from the same county must enter the station room at the same time, and students will have a maximum time limit of one (1) hour to complete this portion of the contest. All answers will be recorded on the contestant's scantron form. It is the contestant's responsibility to make sure that the scantron is correctly filled in and legible. Examples of stations which may be used include, but are not limited to:
- a. Identification of:
    1. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles.
    2. Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes and parts of shoes.  
Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.  
Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms of methods of preparation.
    3. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused.
    4. Blemishes and unsoundnesses.
    5. Age of equines based on teeth.
  - b. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc., to assess horse health.

c. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.

3. Judging Phase -- 200 points -- contestants will be required to place at least four (4) classes consisting of two (2) halter or conformation classes and two (2) performance classes. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the judging contest, with the placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, pictorial, video and/or classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.

### **TIE-BREAKING**

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

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

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

### **AWARDS**

First through fifth place team and individual ribbons will be awarded. Plaques will be awarded to the high point team and high point individual. Medals will be awarded to the high point team members.

### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

- Equus Magazine, **glossary only**, December 2004 – November 2005
- Evans The Horse – Evans, Borton, Hintz, and Van Vleck. Second Edition. W. H. Freeman and Company, 660 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94104. (415) 391-5870
- Lewis, Lon Feeding and Care of the Horse Williams and Wilkins, Second Edition. Camden Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2436. (800) 638-0672
- AYHC Horse Industry Handbooks -- by the American Youth Horse Council; American Youth Horse Council, 4093-A Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434
- AHC Youth Leaders Manual -- Attn: Lisa Holland, 2571 N. Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40509. (606) 299-9714
- Kainer The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy. Kainer and McCracken, Alpine blue Ribbon Books, P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537-0027. (800) 777-7257.
- State Line Tack Catalogs

Grains, forages and feed preparations used in this contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.

(reviewed 2015)