

Horse Evaluation CDE

1. All classes will consist of 4 horses.
2. Computer scan sheets will be used for this CDE. Horticulture #105482 will be used. An example of the form is included on the CDE web page. No pre-printed materials will be allowed during the event. Contestants will be provided copies of class patterns and breed/discipline approved scoresheets during corresponding classes
3. All attire and tack is legal in both the halter and performance classes.
4. Up to four halter classes will be judged. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types:

Stock Type: Quarter Horse (AQHA), Paint, Appaloosa, Pony of Americas (POA)

Pleasure Type: Arabian/Half Arabian, American Saddlebred, Morgan, Miniature Horses

Other: Conformation Hunter, Ranch Conformation, Or others as available

Horses may be grouped together with like breeds, ie. Pleasure Type halter or Stock type halter. Halter classes will be judged as sound.

5. Up to four performance classes will be judged. Performance classes may include:

Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle(Hunt Seat), English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Western Riding, Reining, Hunter Hack, Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Trail, Ranch Riding, Driving, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Dressage Seat Equitation, and Showmanship at Halter.

Patterns will be provided to the teams prior to the start of the event for all classes requiring patterns. Performance classes will be judged as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly).

6. There will be two oral reasons classes selected from the Halter classes and the following performance classes:

Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle(Hunt Seat), English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Western Riding, Reining, Hunter Hack, Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Trail, Ranch Riding, Driving, and Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Dressage Seat Equitation, and Showmanship at Halter.

One set of reasons on a halter class and one set on a performance class will be given.

Note: Points will be deducted if participants use notes during the oral reason presentations according to the oral reasons rubric provided. (see rubric below)

7. Classes will be approximately 10-15 minutes (or the time necessary to complete the class) in length. All classes will be 50 points. Oral reasons should not exceed 2 minutes in length.
8. Individual activities - Knowledge Test - 60 points. Topics include: Equine Industry, Equine Diseases, Breed Identification, Tack/Equipment, Equine Management, and Anatomy & Physiology. (5 questions from each topic, 2 points each)

9. Teams can consist of up to four members. The top three scores will determine the team score.
10. Official Dress or appropriate FFA attire is required.
Refer to Rule 1-A-5 on page 1.1. No head attire will be allowed.

TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken in the following order:

Team

- a. Total class placing scores for team
- b. Team total Horse Knowledge score
- c. Total oral reasons score for team

Individual

- a. Total class placings score
- b. Total oral reasons score
- c. Placing class selected by official

References

- Current Official AQHA Handbook – American Quarter Horse Association, Amarillo, Texas – <https://www.aqha.com/documents/82601/273287534/2025+AQHA+Rulebook.pdf/07e201b7-cca0-2704-4630-95aae9590f28?t=1731959413304>
- Heird, Dr. James C. and the American Quarter Horse Association, Competitive Horse Judging. First Edition. The American Quarter Horse Association, 1990.
- Judging 101 - <http://judging101.com/>
- Oklahoma State University Horse Breed Website – <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>
- Official Judging Guide from each of the various breed associations and audio visuals.
- National FFA Horse Judging Handbook <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/aanr31h1h6l49hbw5yjt39lmti6xjna8>
- <https://putnam.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2020/02/Hippology-and-Horse-HorseColorsMarkings.pdf>
- National FFA Horse Rules and Resources: (references are located in the horse evaluation handbook under the handbook tab, additional materials included are included under preparation tab) <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-lde/>

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to use the best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.