

# HORSE JUDGING

Horse Judging trains young people in decision-making skills related to equine selection. 4-H members learn:

- How to evaluate the conformation of different types and breeds of horses.
- How to evaluate the performance of different types and breeds of horses.
- How to defend their placings through the delivery of oral reasons.

**Publication(s):** There are no official UT Extension Publications on Horse Judging. There are, however, several videos available for loan from the Regional Office. Various breed associations, such as the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), are excellent contacts for resources and training materials.

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**Eligibility:** See the Judging Team Eligibility Table at the end of this section.

## General Rules:

A team will consist of three to four members, with the top three scores being combined to make up the team score. The team members will evaluate the conformation and/or performance of a variety of equine breeds. Examples include: Quarter Horse Mares, Stock Horse Geldings, Conformation Hunters, Walking Horse Conformation, etc. Examples of performance classes are: Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Plantation Pleasure, Reining, etc. A class will consist of four horses. **Senior High contestants will be required to give 2 to 3 sets of oral reasons.**

## Regional Contests:

The Regional Horse Judging Contest will be held in April at a location designated by the Region Office. Check the Region Calendar for date and location.

## State Contest:

The State Contest will take place in conjunction with the TN 4-H Horse Championships in Shelbyville. The contest is traditionally held at noon on Tuesday of the show week in June. The top four placing Senior High teams from the Regional Contests will qualify for this contest.

## Southern Regional Contest:

The top two placing teams in the State Contest receive an automatic berth in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships contest, traditionally held the first week of August. The location of the contest rotates among the 13 Southern Region states.

## National Contest or Tour:

The top placing Senior High team will earn an automatic berth in the Eastern National Horse Judging contest, held in Louisville, Kentucky. This contest is held in November.