

# HORSE EVALUATION

Students who participate in the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) gain new insights into equine science by evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics, conformation and performance. Participants defend their decisions through oral reasons in front of a panel of judges.

In this team CDE, students solve problems related to everything from the nutrition and reproduction of horses to the tack/equipment and feed used to care for horses. Participants strengthen their leadership, observation, analysis, critical thinking and communication skills while also developing and exercising a competitive team spirit and building an awareness of career opportunities within the equine industry.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The score of the 3 high individuals will be used to determine the team score. A total of 5 members may be on the team.
2. All attire and tack is legal in the selection classes.
3. Official FFA dress is required in the event. Black jeans are permissible. Hats are not acceptable.

There will be a total of six to eight classes judged- halter and performance events with two classes of reasons, one reasons class in each area. Classes will be approximately 12-15 minutes in length. All classes will be worth 50 points. Oral reasons should not exceed two minutes in length.

Up to four halter classes will be judged. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint and Morgan. All halter classes will be judged as sound.

Up to four performance classes will be judged. Performance classes may include: Western Pleasure, Western Riding (Pattern One), Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), and Hunter Hack. Performance classes will be judged as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). American Quarter Horse Association reining patterns 1 or 2 will be used in the reining class as located in the current *AQHA Handbook*.

There will be one oral reasons classes selected from Western Pleasure, Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat) and Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat).

## **PROBLEM SOLVING (50 POINTS)**

The problem-solving component of the event is an identification team activity, requiring all members of the team to work cooperatively to complete the test. This will be a 50 point ID and problem-solving test with multiple-choice responses including breeds, tack, equipment, feed, colors, markings, equine science selection, management and production. The questions will come from the last three years of national tests.

## **REFERENCES**

*Official AQHA Handbook*