Ohio 4-H Horse Communications Contest Rules (updated 1/1/26)

GENERAL RULES:

1. Contestant Eligibility

a. Youth can only participate in one division per contest year.

b. Each contestant must be currently enrolled in a 4-H or FFA Horse project, be a member in good standing with the county they represent, and have successfully completed EquiSTEP by the contest registration deadline.

c. Junior Contestants must be at least 8 years of age and in third grade and under 14 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.

1. Junior Contestants are eligible to compete in this contest in subsequent years.

d. Senior Contestants must be at least 14 years of age on January 1st of the current year, and not be more than 18 years of age on January 1st of the current year.

1. As this contest determines which contestants will represent Ohio at national contests, only senior 4-H members are allowed to compete in the senior division to comply with national eligibility requirements.

2. Senior contestants may be enrolled in or have completed freshman and sophomore level college equine and/or communications courses. However, senior contestants may not be enrolled in or have completed junior or senior level college equine and/or communications courses. In addition, senior contestants are ineligible to participate in the state contest if they are or were a member of an intercollegiate horse judging or communications team.

3. Senior division champion individuals and teams are expected to represent Ohio 4-H at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup. Senior contestants must score 85% or greater in their category to be eligible to compete at national contests.

2. Divisions Public Speaking, Individual Presentation/Demonstration, and Team Presentation/Demonstration. A "team" will consist of two members.

3. Topics Speech and presentation/demonstration topics must pertain to the horse industry, be horse-related, and be original and factual.

4. Use of Visual Aids/Equipment/Notes

a. Visual aids of any kind (posters, items, equipment, etc.) are not allowed in public speaking.

b. For individual and team demonstrations/presentations, two tables and a chalkboard or whiteboard to display posters will be available for contestants. In addition, an LCD projector, computer, and projection screen will be available for contestants. Contestants may use their own laptop computer but are

responsible for making sure that it will connect to the LCD projector provided for contestants. Internet access via Wi-Fi is not available.

c. Brief notes may be used if desired; however, excessive use of notes may be penalized at the discretion of the judges.

d. A microphone will not be used during the contest.

e. No videotaping or photographing of speeches or presentations/demonstrations is allowed during the contest, except by the respective coaches or designated individuals.

5. Time

a. The following time limit for the contest divisions are as follows:

Presentation Type	Division	Minimum Time Limit Without Penalty	Maximum Time Limit Without Penalty
Public Speaking	Junior	4:00 minutes	6:00 minutes
Individual Presentation/Demonstration	Junior	6:00 minutes	8:00 minutes
Team Presentation/Demonstration	Junior	7:00 minutes	10:00 minutes
Public Speaking	Senior	7:00 minutes	10:00 minutes
Individual Presentation/Demonstration	Senior	9:00 minutes	12:00 minutes
Team Presentation/Demonstration	Senior	10:00 minutes	15:00 minutes

b. A three (3) point penalty will be deducted from the total score for every minute or fraction of a minute under the minimum time limit or over the maximum time limit.

c. Only the time recorded by the official timekeeper will be recorded for scoring purposes.

d. Presentations exceeding the maximum time limit by more than 5 minutes will be stopped by the contest officials. The judges will score the speech or presentation/demonstration accordingly.

6. References Contestants should cite their major references at the conclusion of the speech or presentation/demonstration. Reference time will not be counted in the allotted time.

7. Questions Only the judges may ask questions.

8. Scoring Judges will consider applicable questions listed under each section of the score sheet. Ties between contestants will be broken by 1) the accumulated delivery score, 2) the accumulated organization score, or 3) the accumulated content and accuracy scores.

A copy of the scoresheet for public speaking and presentations/demonstrations may be found online at www.horse.osu.edu on the contest page.