

**34th Annual
Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Youth
Invitational Horse Judging Contest
Saturday, February 20, 2010**

Objectives: The contest is designed to provide FFA and 4-H members with an opportunity to develop and practice horse evaluation and selection skills, and to defend their decisions in oral reasons. The event will provide Virginia Tech students with experience in event management. Judging can lead to a professional equine career.

Sponsored by: The Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club and the Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team

Contest Co-Managers: Tracey Maier (tmaier@vt.edu) and Diana Campbell (dlcamp07@vt.edu)

Entry Details: Send entries to: Diana Campbell c/o Julia McCann **DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 5, 2010**
3300 Litton Reeves (0306) Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Cost: Juniors NOT giving reasons: \$4.00
All Junior and Senior contestants giving reasons: \$8.00 (lunch provided)
All late entries, regardless of age/reasons: \$10.00
Entries postmarked after February 5, 2010 are considered Late Entries.

Location: The contest will be held at Virginia Tech's Alphin-Stuart Arena, Blacksburg, VA
To Arena: I-81, Take Exit 118b toward Blacksburg which becomes Rt. 460 West and continue on the bypass of Blacksburg when 460 splits (left lane). After passing VT farms, take 2nd Prices Fork Exit (West). At first stoplight, turn left onto Plantation Road. Go @ ½ mile to the green roofed arena on left.

Reasons will be given in Litton-Reaves Hall on main campus. Adults will be needed to help transport competitors onto campus and back to Alphin-Stuart Arena for announcement of the awards.

Bring warm clothing. No dogs allowed. No smoking on the premises.

Eligibility: All contestants must still be eligible to become members of their state or school team, respectively, for national competition. 4-H members still must be eligible to compete in their respective state 4-H horse judging contest. Teams must be county or school teams.

FFA – Teams may consist of no more than 4 members. Eligibility of teams will be determined by rules stated in the National FFA Career Development Event Manual as well as “Official Board Policy”.

Senior teams – members must be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at the time of the contest.

Junior Teams – members must be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at the time of the contest.

4-H – Teams may consist of no more than 4 members. There will be two contests:

Senior teams – members must turn 14 years of age before January 1, 2010 and not have had their 19th birthday before December 31, 2009.

Junior Teams – members will not have had their 14th birthday before January 1, 2010.

****Note: An individual may not be on both 4-H and FFA teams.**

General Information:

4-H and FFA Senior Teams:

- Each senior will give three sets of oral reasons.
- Lunch is provided for seniors giving reasons.

4-H and FFA Junior Teams:

- Juniors have the option to give one set of reasons and are encouraged to do so.
- Juniors who do not give reasons will not receive lunch

Coaches: Responsible for their own lunches.

Entries: Receiving entries postmarked by the Feb. 5 deadline is a great help in planning for lunches, reasons, and many organizational aspects of the contest. If late entries are necessary, the \$10.00 entry fee is charged, regardless of the division of competition. Checks should accompany the entries. If policies prevent the inclusion with the entry, the coach should notify Diana Campbell at dcamp07@vt.edu to have arrangements acknowledged.

- **In the event that a Junior member decides to give reasons after registration, that individual may pay an extra \$4.00 for lunch and participate in the reasons competition.**

Scoring: Scoring is based on the Hormel Computing System, with 50 points being a perfect score on a class placing or on a set of oral reasons. All classes will consist of four horses. Halter classes will be numbered 1-2-3-4 left to right from the rear. Riders of performance horses will wear the horse's number (1,2,3,4). Fifteen minutes will be allowed for each class placing. For teams, the three high scores will be added together for team score. The lowest scoring team member of a four member team will be eligible for individual awards.

Soundness: All halter horses are to be judged as sound of limb, eye, mouth, wind, and reproductive status. All performance horses will be judged as they go unless otherwise stated by contest officials. Legality of tack, equipment, and rider dress will be confirmed prior to the class.

Classes: Contestants will judge 6 to 10 classes. Classes will be announced at the contest. Classes will be selected from, but not limited to, the following list:

HALTER		PERFORMANCE	
Hunter in Hand	American Saddlebred	Western Pleasure	Reining/Western Riding
Thoroughbred	Pony Halter	Hunter Under Saddle	Racking Horse
Stock Horse	Morgan	English Pleasure	Saddle Seat Type English Pleasure
Ponies of the Americas	Sport Horse (Warmblood, etc.)	Hunter Hack	Saddle Seat Equitation
Tennessee Walking Horse	Draft Horse (non-reasons)	Plantation Pleasure	Trail
Arabian/Half-Arabian	Mule (non-reasons)	Country Pleasure	Hunt Seat Equitation Western Horsemanship

Judging classes will be generally scored and conducted according to the rules of the USEF and AQHA. Breed classes will be judged according to the respective breed standards.

Contest Etiquette:

- **Contestants are not permitted to carry cell phones.**
- **Contestant dress code.** Cold weather is the norm for Blacksburg in February and warm layers are anticipated for everyone. No hats are allowed during the judging competition. During the reasons competition, contestants are expected to dress neatly and professionally but expensive clothing and horse show outfits are not necessary. While FFA has their own dress code that is very professional, 4-H competitors may select a blazer, scarf, sweater, or tie for the men to neaten their appearance. Boots or closed toe shoes will be appropriate for the halter judging section of the contest. With proper planning, there is little need for a full wardrobe change of clothing at lunch when time is more appropriately spent learning the reasons.
- **Contestants must not confer during the contest,** including oral reasons preparation. Contestants must supply their own note pads and pencils. Contestants may not take any printed materials into the contest other than notes they prepare during the contest and patterns provided to all contestants. Placing cards will not be returned in the reasons room.

- The reasons competition is designed to reward excellence in accuracy and oral delivery of the pertinent information. **Contestants are strongly urged to not use their notes during the delivery to the reason taker.** A short and accurate set of reasons delivered without notes will **ALWAYS** score higher than a more detailed set of reasons that is read to the reasons judge. *Reason scores will reflect a 15 point penalty if the set is read by the contestant.* **NOTE:** All reasons judges will be empathetic to contestants, especially those who are in the initial learning stages. Judges in the reasons rooms will have been there, done that, made mistakes, and *learned from them.* They will be encouraging to all efforts and understanding when things don't feel perfect to the contestant. This event truly is intended to be a practice contest for learning and **all youth are encouraged to embrace this mindset.**

Honor Code: Contestants are on their honor not to use any assistance during the contest, especially during reasons. Contestants must adhere to the honor code or risk removal from competition.

Awards:

Halter, Performance, & Oral Reasons	Jr. and Sr. Individuals (1 st – 10 th) Jr. and Sr. Teams (1 st – 5 th)	Ribbons for 4-H and FFA
Overall Winners	Jr. and Sr. Individuals (1 st – 10 th) Jr. and Sr. Teams (1 st – 5 th)	Ribbons for 4-H and FFA
High Scores	Overall Individual (Jr. & Sr.) Overall Team (Jr. & Sr.) Reasons Individual (Jr. & Sr.)	Plaque for 4-H and FFA

Coaches, parents, guests, and 4-H members not giving reasons will be on their own for lunch. When they depart after the classes, it is requested they not return to the Alphin-Stuart Arena until 3:30 PM.

2010 Block & Bridle Horse Judging Contest
Tentative Schedule
February 20, 2010

*** In the case of inclement weather, teams will be notified as soon as possible via email about the status of the events. Please check for email messages prior to departure if the weather is of concern. ***

- 8:00-8:45 Registration -Virginia Tech Alphin-Stuart Arena
- 8:30 All officials and contest staff to meet. All guest horses to be on grounds
- 8:50 Welcome and assembly of groups for judging. Initial classes may be performance.
- 9:00 Contest Orientation and Contest Judging
- 12:00 Conclude Judging. Lunch for reason contestants
- 12:30-3:30 Oral Reasons at Litton-Reaves (on Campus)
- @4:00 Brief review of classes and placings by official judges
- 4:30 Awards
- 5:00 Adjourn

Motels

Blacksburg

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Comfort Inn | 540/951-1500 | |
| Holiday Inn | 540/552-7001 | |
| Hawthorn Inn (formerly Amerisuites) | 540/552-5636 | *Closest to Arena |

Christiansburg

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Quality Inn | 540/382-2055 |
| Days Inn | 540/382-0261 |
| Econo Lodge | 540/382-6161 |
| Super 8 | 540/382-7421 |

Registrations are due by February 5th. Any registration received after February 5th must include a \$10.00 entry fee/competitor. Changes should be made prior to 2/15/10 via email to dlcamp07@vt.edu.

**Registration Form
Block and Bridle Horse Judging Contest
February 20, 2010**

4H Unit or FFA Chapter _____

Name of Coach _____

Coach Mailing Address _____

Coach Email Address _____ Telephone _____

Senior 4-H/FFA: \$8.00 per person (includes lunch). Entry fee of \$10.00/contestant if postmarked after 2/5/10

LIST NAMES:

Team 1: _____

Team 2: _____

Team 3: _____

Team 4: _____

Individuals _____

Junior 4-H/FFA: \$8.00/person if giving reasons; \$4.00/contestant if not giving reasons. \$10.00/contestant if entry made after 2/5/10, regardless of reasons competition. Please designate a non-reason contestant with a * by the name.

LIST NAMES:

Team 1: _____

Team 2: _____

Team 3: _____

Team 4: _____

Individuals _____

*****Total amount of entry fees paid:* _____

*****Total number of lunches needed for this entry:* _____

******Number of vegetarian lunches requested:* _____

**Return by February 5th to Diana Campbell c/o Dr. Julia McCann, 3300 Litton Reeves (0306),
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061**

Make checks payable to: VT Block and Bridle