



New Hampshire 4-H Horse Communication Contest Rules

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Each county is invited to have two entries in each division of this contest (for example two individual demonstration/presentation, two public speaking, and two team demonstration/presentations).
2. Delegates may be selected by any procedure which a county deems appropriate.
3. As of January 1 of the year in which this event is held, contestants must be at least 12 years of age, but not have reached his or her 19th birthday.
4. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the county they are representing during the year in which this event is held and participation. Eligibility must be certified by the County 4-H Program Coordinator.
5. Certification of participation eligibility should consider the following: "This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition." See details below.
 - A. Post-secondary undergraduate students may participate in and/or complete freshman and sophomore level equine management or communications courses. Students completing a junior, senior or graduate level equine and/or communications course are ineligible to participate in the National 4-H Horse Competition.
 - B. Students are ineligible to participate in a National 4-H Horse Competition if they are currently enrolled in courses that provide specific training for the competitive event in which they are participating. For example, student participation in collegiate horse judging events, on intercollegiate horse judging teams and in intercollegiate communication events would eliminate a 4-Her's eligibility to participate in the National 4-H Horse Competition.
6. After competing in a communication event at Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, a contestant is ineligible to compete in the same specific contest again at the NH, NE Regional or Eastern National Contests.
7. See also specific rules and score sheets for public speaking and demonstration/illustrated talk (team and individual) on the following pages.



Public Speaking Rules & Resources

1. The subject must pertain to the equine industry. Speeches, not appropriately related to the equine industry, may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. No visual aids may be used. PowerPoint presentations, props, slides and posters are not allowed.
3. No coaching from audience members, parents or coaches is allowed during the speech.
4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
5. A public address system will not be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.
6. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.
7. Speeches should be 5-8 minutes for juniors (age 12-13) and 7-10 minutes in length for seniors (age 14-18). One point will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes.
8. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. The judges will ask the contestant appropriate question(s). After the judges have asked questions, the audience may ask questions, but responses to audience questions will not affect contestant score.
10. Contestants may record their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to provide all necessary recording equipment.
11. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest, except by respective participant or their designees.
12. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing in conjunction with coordination of other events in which contestants are participating, and will be announced by the event program.
13. Three judges will be used and each judge will score presentations independently. After all presentations are presented and scores are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations. Each judge assigns his or her final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placing.
14. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
15. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
16. The score sheet attached (or a similar score sheet) will be used.



Individual and Team Presentation (Demonstration and Illustrated talk) Rules & Resources

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. The presentation may be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All references to the term “presentation” or “demonstration” in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a presentation of a step by step procedure with an end product or result. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message. Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different as defined above. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferable. Visual aids may include but are not limited to: handouts, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media (PowerPoint, websites, etc.). No live animals may be used.
3. Contestants may use notes. However excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judge(s).
4. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest.
5. Participants must supply their own props. An easel and a table will be provided for the presenter’s use. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment. An LCD projector MAY be available; please check with county staff or State 4-H Office or bring your own.
6. Creative audio visual aids may be used but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.
7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and presentation topic.
8. Presentations length should be:
Individual: Juniors 5- 10 Minutes Seniors 9 – 12 Minutes
Team presentation: Juniors 8-12 Minutes Seniors 10-15 Minutes
One point will be deducted from the total score on each judge’s score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under the allotted time.
9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. No coaching is allowed from audience members, parents or coaches during the presentation.
11. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest, except by respective team coaches or their designees.
12. Contestant order will be announced the day of the contest.
13. The judges will ask the contestant appropriate question(s). After the judges have asked questions, the audience may ask questions, but responses to audience questions will not affect contestant score.
14. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
16. Three judges will be used and each judge will score presentations independently. After all presentations are presented and scores are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations.

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Each judge assigns his or her final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placing.

17. Ties will first be broken by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.

16. The score sheet attached (or a similar score sheet) will be used.



New Hampshire 4-H Horse Communications Contest Score Sheet Public Speaking

Name _____ 4-H Age _____ Years participating in Presentations _____

Title of Speech _____ Club/County _____

Each item must be scored by checking the box that best describes the presentation. The numerical value of each x appears at the head of its column. Key: O = Outstanding, S = Satisfactory, NI = Needs Improvement

CRITERIA	O	4	S	2	NI	COMMENTS	
	5		3		1		
INTRODUCTION – 10 points							
Introduction creative, aroused interest							
Introduction was short and to the point.							
ORGANIZATION – 15 points							
Main points were easy to follow & arranged in logical order?							
Sentences short and easy to understand							
Speech was interesting.							
CONTENT AND ACCURACY – 20 points							
Facts and information were accurate.							
Enough information was presented about the subject.							
Appropriate credit was given to sources of information							
Content was appropriately related to the horse industry.							
STAGE PRESENCE – 15 points							
Speaker was neat and appropriately dressed.							
Speaker talked directly to and looked at the audience.							
Speaker's posture was erect, but not stiff. Speaker refrained from leaning on the podium and seemed relaxed and at ease.							
DELIVERY – 20 points							
Speaker used appropriate voice control.							
All the words were pronounced correctly.							
If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the presentation.							
The speaker chose words at the time they were spoken (preferred) as opposed to a memorized or ready-type delivery.							
GENERAL – 10 points							
The speaker conveyed a sense of wanting to communicate?							
The speech reflected the thoughts and personality of the speaker?							
CONCLUSION – 10 points							
The conclusion was short, interesting and properly wrapped up the speech						Time: _____ Points deducted _____	
Presenter handled questions easily							



TOTAL FOR EACH COLUMN							
Evaluator's overall comments						TOTAL SCORE	

Time Guidelines: Juniors 5-8 Minutes Seniors 7-10 Minutes

Time Deduction: Deduct 1 point from the total score of each judge for each minute or fraction of a minute under 5 or 7 minutes or over 8 or 10 minutes (depending on division).

Introduction -- 10 point range (O) aroused interested and added to presentation (S) appropriate (NI) needs improvement
Introduction was creative and interesting without being overly dramatic and detracting from the topic.
Introduction was short and to the point without being too brief.
Organization -- 15 pts. range (O)Organized, logical & skillfully added to the presentation (S) - acceptable (NI) needs improvement
The main points were easy to follow, engaging and told in a logical order. A story was told.
The sentences were short and easy to understand. A large word was not used if a small word was appropriate.
The speech was interesting and informative.
Content and Accuracy -- 20 points (O) extremely accurate and thorough (S) effective (NI) needs improvement
Facts and information were all accurate. Opinion or speculation was not presented as fact.
The topic was covered thoroughly and enough information was presented.
Appropriate credit was given to information sources including publications, websites and individuals.
Content was appropriately related to the horse industry. Unrelated topics should be penalized or disqualified (see rules)
Stage presence --15 points range (O) style and demeanor added to presentation (S) appropriate (NI) needs improvement
The speaker was neat & appropriately dressed in apparel suited to the topic. Business attire is appropriate for most speeches.
The speaker directed his or her speech directly to the audience using eye contact and voice projection
The speaker had good posture without being stiff. Gestures were appropriate and not overdone.
Delivery -- 20 points range (O) delivery expertly added to the presentation (S) satisfactory (NI) needs improvement
Speaker used appropriate voice control, inserting emphasis and pauses to add impact.
All words were pronounced correctly and used appropriately.
Note were used sparingly, if at all. Reading of notes or script should be heavily penalized.
The words appeared to be chosen at the time of the speech; rigid memorization should be avoided.
General -- 10 pts range (O) speaker's skill and enjoyment added to the presentation (S) -- satisfactory (NI) needs improvement
The speaker conveyed a sense of wanting to communicate and deep interest in the topic.
The speech was suited to the personality, thoughts and body language s of the speaker.
Conclusion -- 10 pts range (O) the conclusion added to the presentation, reinforcing ideas (S) satisfactory (NI) needs improvement
The conclusion was short, interesting and wrapped up the speech; key points and areas of interest were overviewed creatively.
The presenter answered questions easily; the content of the question was implied in the answer or the question was repeated.



New Hampshire 4-H Horse Communications Contest Score Sheet

Individual and Team Presentations (Includes Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks)

Name _____ 4-H Age _____ Years participating in Presentations _____

Name _____ 4-H Age _____ Years participating in Presentations _____

Title of Presentation _____ Club/County _____

Each item must be scored by checking the box that best describes the presentation. The numerical value of each x appears at the head of its column.
Key: O = Outstanding, S = Satisfactory, NI = Needs Improvement

CRITERIA (If not applicable give 5 points)	O 5	4	S 3	2	NI 1	COMMENTS	
INTRODUCTION – 10 points							
Introduction creative, aroused interest							
Introduction was short and to the point.							
ORGANIZATION – 25 points							
One main idea was demonstrated							
Clear order or logical sequence, if team, teamwork. Discussion related to each step as it was shown.							
Visual aids attractive, correct, easily seen & understood							
Materials and equipment were carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized.							
Key points for each step were stressed.							
CONTENT AND ACCURACY – 25 points							
Facts and information presented were accurate.							
Enough information was presented about the subject.							
Approved practices were used.							
Appropriate credit was given to sources of information							
Content was appropriately related to the horse industry.							



STAGE PRESENCE – 10 points					
Presenter(s) were neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation.					
Effectively used voice & eye contact to engage audience Pace of presentation was appropriate.					
DELIVERY – 15 points					
Presenter appeared to enjoy giving the presentation If Team presentation, presenters worked equally					
Used correct grammar, terminology, pronunciation. Presenter seemed to choose words as they were spoken (preferred) as opposed to a memorized presentation?					
If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the presentation.					
EFFECT ON AUDIENCE – 5 points					
Audience showed an interest in the presentation. Could they go home and carry out the idea?					
SUMMARY – 10 points					
Summary was short and interesting; key points were briefly reviewed and summary properly wrapped up the presentation.					
Presenter handled questions easily					
					Time: _____ Points deducted _____
TOTAL FOR EACH COLUMN					Total Score

Time Guidelines:

Individual: Juniors 5- 10 Minutes Seniors 9 – 12 Minutes

Team presentation: Juniors 8-12 Minutes Seniors 10-15 Minutes

Time Deduction: Deduct 1 point from the total score of each judge for each minute or fraction of a minute under or over that allowed.

Introduction -- 10 point range (O) aroused interested and added to presentation (S) appropriate (NI) needs improvement
Introduction was creative and interesting without being overly dramatic and detracting from the topic.
Introduction was short and to the point without being too brief.
Organization -- 25 pts range (O)Organized, logical & skillfully added to the presentation (S) - acceptable (NI) needs improvement
One main idea was demonstrated without distraction from unrelated ideas.
The demonstration was done in a clear and logical order; teamwork was equal if a team.
Visual aids were clear, legible and understood. Posters, computer presentations, and other materials may be used.
Materials and equipment were neatly arranged and well organized without clutter or unneeded items being used.
Key points for each step were shown, including tips for success and cautions if applicable.
Content and Accuracy -- 25 points (O) extremely accurate and thorough (S) effective (NI) needs improvement
Facts and information were all accurate. Opinion or speculation was not presented as fact.
The topic was covered thoroughly and enough information was presented.
Approved practices were used, including safety measures when appropriate.
Appropriate credit was given to information sources including publications, websites and individuals.
Stage presence --10 points range (O) style and demeanor added to presentation (S) appropriate (NI) needs improvement
The presenter was neat & appropriately dressed in apparel suited to the topic. (for example riding apparel for a saddling demo)
The speaker directed his or her speech directly to the audience using eye contact and voice projection
Delivery -- 15 points range (O) delivery expertly added to the presentation (S) satisfactory (NI) needs improvement



Presenter(s) appeared to enjoy the presentation; teams worked together equally if applicable.
Correct grammar, pronunciation, terminology was used. The words appeared to be chosen at the time rather than memorization.
Note were used sparingly, if at all. Reading of notes or script should be heavily penalized.
Effect on audience -- 5 pts range (O) Audience maintained avid interest (S) -- satisfactory (NI) needs improvement
The audience showed an interest and the demo conveyed the ability to carry out the idea.
Summary -- 10 pts range (O) the conclusion added to the presentation, reinforcing ideas (S) satisfactory (NI) needs improvement
The summary was short, interesting; key points and areas of interest were reviewed and summarized.
The presenter answered questions easily; the content of the question was implied in the answer or the question was repeated.