

## NH 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl

### Question Writing Guidelines

Questions may be submitted by emailing Word or Excel document to [Mary.Davis@unh.edu](mailto:Mary.Davis@unh.edu) Each junior and senior team is encouraged to submit 20 NEW typed questions per team. It is suggested that team members and leaders cooperate on question writing. Questions come from the official sources only.

You may submit Word or Excel Documents. If using excel, please use the format below.

Division	County Code	Question	Answer	Source	Page	Category	Year
SR	2	Q: What term describes ears that are abnormally long?	A: Mule Ears	IDET	183	600	2014
JR	6	Q: A tail that is carried to one side rather than being held straight is called what?	A: Wry tail	IDET	295	600	2014

The Excel spreadsheet must include the Division, Question, Answer, reference source abbreviation (edition) & page number.

There will be two types of questions used: regular questions and bonus questions. No part of a question will be repeated nor will any additional information be given to the contestants relative to the question.

Please try to make your questions innovative and interesting and your answers accurate and complete. Please don't merely record questions word-for-word directly from the resources. Try to put the "key word" of the questions towards the end. True/False, Yes/No, or similar type questions will not be accepted.

#### Hints for writing questions:

Coaches and volunteers spend a lot of time writing questions. Everyone wants to see the questions submitted used in the contest. Here are some hints so that your questions are more likely to be used.

- Make sure to use only current sources for the appropriate division.
- This is a learning activity first. Try to put yourself in the place of a nervous contestant trying to understand the question and quickly respond. Make sure the questions are clear and there is something to be learned.
- Write new questions. We save the questions from year-to-year, so the common questions are already in the question bank.
- If sources are likely to vary, include all sources (for example if you are asking about normal temperature, include the range of the lowest to highest found in all official sources and cite all)

- Include all possible correct answers: For example if asking the name of the teeth found in the interdental space in male horses, you would list canines, tusks, tushes, bit teeth and bridle teeth as acceptable answers.
- Include a range in your answer if it is stated in the sources. The question may ask for the range; if not any answer within the range is acceptable.
- Use ONLY official sources.
- This is NOT jeopardy; therefore word your question as a question and the answer as an answer.
- Try to have challenging but reasonable and not impossible questions.

Write questions in this format:

Q:

A:

Source: (you may abbreviate the source; include title/abbreviation and page #)

For example:

Q: What is the term for the horse color with a body of gold or yellow and a flaxen mane and tail?

A: palomino

Source: IDET 202

**Examples of “problem” questions:**

**Here are some questions that might help you understand. These examples use fruit (bananas). Scroll down for horse examples.**

**Questions are too vague**

What color is fruit? Yellow

**Questions are too common**

Where do bananas come from? Trees

**Questions with yes/no or true/false**

True or false: Bananas are sometimes consumed by monkeys. True

**Multiple choice**

Bananas are described as A. Sweet B. Salty C. Sour

**Questions in jeopardy format**

A slippery fruit by-product often used in cartoons to cause a fall. A. What is a banana peel?

**Questions include blanks**

\_\_\_\_\_ are a kind of yellow fruit that must be peeled before they can be eaten.

A: bananas

**There is not a clear number of answers required**

Name some recipes that use bananas. A: bread, salad, pie

**Questions not proofread**

What country is the largest exporter of bananas? A: three

**Questions use an outside source (this one is also vague)**

Bananas are a good source of what nutrient? A: potassium (USDA)

**Horse Question Examples – problem questions and how to improve them!**

**Avoid vague questions.** For example

Vague question: Q: The rectum connects what?  
Better question Q: The rectum connects what two structures?  
Best: Q: What two parts of the digestive system are connected by the rectum?

Vague question: Q: What will a lame horse do?  
Better question Q: How does lameness affect a horse's movement?  
Best: Q: How can you tell by observing that a horse is lame? (note that this will have many possible correct answers, such as limping, head bobbing, resting a foreleg, not bearing weight evenly...)

**Please no questions with \_\_\_\_\_ (blanks).** That is OK in a contest with written questions, but ours are verbal.

Poor question:Q: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are energy nutrients.  
Better question Q: Name the two energy nutrients.  
Best: Q: There are five classes of nutrients needed by horses. One is energy nutrients, which consists of two types. Name the two types of energy nutrient. (This is a good question, because the key words are toward the end and it is also educational)

**Avoid yes/no, true/false and multiple choice.** If used, multiple choice must have at least three possible answers.

Poor question:Q: True or false; mares have canine teeth. (also poor: do mares have canine teeth? Because it is yes/no)  
Better question Q: Which teeth that are common in males are absent in mares?

Poor question: Q: Which provides more energy a) corn b) beet pulp or c) oats?

Better question Q: Of corn, oats and beet pulp, which provides the most energy when fed in the same quantity?

**Make sure you include all possible answers**, for example:

Q: What light horse breed was influenced by the Morgan.

A: Thoroughbred. Yes, but also Tennessee Walking Horse, Quarter Horse, Standardbred and others (check all sources)

**Although Jeopardy is fun, this is a different kind of contest**, therefore ask questions!

Poor question: Q: This stock horse breed originated in the US and is known for its speed and muscling. (also has several possible answers)

Better question Q: What stock horse breed originated in the US and is known for its speed and muscling?

Best Q: Name the breed that averages 15 hands, is powerful and well-muscled, solid colored, and originated in the US. Foundation sires include Steeldust and King. (educational and removes most of the multiple possible answers from above)

**Examples of great questions** that have been submitted by counties over the years:

Senior

Q: Estrogen and progesterone are two hormones which affect the mammary glands and the mares reproductive tract. What organ secretes these two hormones?

A: Ovary

Q: Explain the difference between a crossbred and a hybrid animal.

A: A crossbred is a cross between two different breeds; a hybrid involves two different species (for example a QH X Arab is a crossbred; a Mule is a hybrid)

Q: Where on the horse's body would you find tactile hairs?

A: Around the nostrils, lips, and eyelids (since no number of responses is required, accept any one, two or all three; you could also ask for two or three answers)

Junior or Senior

Q: What are the names of the two types of hackamore?

A: Bosal and mechanical

Q: Commonly called roundworms, name the large nematode parasites found in the small intestine.

A: Ascarids (also accept scientific name *Parascaris equorum*)

Q: Describe three characteristics of poor quality hay.

A: Bad odor, musty, dusty, lacks green color/poor color/brown, weedy, coarse/stemmy, contains foreign matter

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