



North Dakota 4-H Horse Judges Certification

Objectives

- Identify judges who demonstrate knowledge of the North Dakota 4-H Horse Show Rules and Judges Guide (GBH092).
- Certify competent judges with equine expertise, personal character and interest in:
 - Helping youth grow and learn in their horsemanship skills
- Establish judges who maintain the ideals of 4-H.
 - Decisions reflect the 4-H philosophy of fairness and impartiality
- Identify judges who demonstrate ability to work with youth.
 - Positive communication skills with youth, parents and show management
- Select judges who demonstrate professionalism in attire and conduct at all times.
- Educate new and established judges in the role of a judge and rule updates for 4-H horse shows.
 - Developing knowledgeable and confident judges
- Train our present judges and provide training for beginning judges.
- Develop a published judges list available for North Dakota 4-H and open show managers throughout North Dakota to build uniformity throughout North Dakota's horse judging practices.
 - Placement on the list is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the judges committee

Program Overview

The 4-H horse judges certification program is designed to test knowledge of class rules and judging procedures. Individuals who wish to judge 4-H horse shows in North Dakota should be certified. An official certified horse judges list will be maintained by the Center for 4-H Youth Development and distributed to all counties. Counties are strongly encouraged to hire judges from the list for all 4-H horse shows. The certification testing procedure includes passing a written test and judging mock classes.

Testing Procedure

Anyone 18 years of age and older who is interested in judging 4-H horse shows may take the test. If you don't have previous judging experience, we highly encourage working with other certified judges prior to judging shows on your own.

Participants will be required to pass two sections of testing to be considered certified and have their contact information added to the judges list.

Written exam – The written exam will contain 50 multiple-choice and/or true/false questions covering rules and procedures found in the North Dakota 4-H Horse Show Rules and Judging Guide (GBH092). Participants must receive a score of 80% to pass.

Judging – Participants will be asked to judge three mock classes that may be presented live or on video. Classes to be judged could be any described in the North Dakota 4-H Horse Show Rules and Judging Guide (GBH092). Participants must receive an overall score of 75% on this portion to pass.

Candidates who pass both portions of the exam will be considered certified and their names added to the official certified horse judges list. Certification is good for three years; after this time, individuals must recertify to remain on the list.

Candidates who fail to pass one or both of the exam portions will not be considered certified; however, candidates who fail to pass will be able to sign up to retake the exams at a later date.

Note: Prior judging experience does not guarantee success on the exams. Several rules are unique to North Dakota 4-H. Also, North Dakota uses the 4-H Danish system of awards, which is different than the way many open and breed shows are judged.

Exemptions

Any person who holds a judging card with a nationally recognized breed association or is certified by another state system can petition to be exempt from taking the judging portion of the testing process. These individuals still will be required to pass the written portion of the test.

Cost

The cost for testing is \$20.

For questions, contact:

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