

# HORSE EVALUATION

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

*A Special Project of the Tennessee FFA Foundation*

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Tennessee FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is to stimulate the study of and interest in equine science selection, management and production through the agricultural education curriculum, and provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of instruction in equine science.

### OBJECTIVES

- A. To instill leadership and motivate learning in the classroom while developing student skills in cooperative learning, observation, analysis and communication.
- B. To develop and exercise competitive spirit in a team atmosphere.
- C. To promote career choices by providing an opportunity for participants to become acquainted with professionals within the industry.
- D. To advance knowledge in selection and management of horses.
- E. To develop proficiency in communicating effectively in the terminology of the industry.
- F. To provide the opportunity to evaluate, make a decision and justify those decisions on conformation traits and performance of horses.

### EVENT RULES

---

**TEAM OF:** 4 FFA members

**OFFICIAL DRESS APPROPRIATE:** Optional

**STATE PARTICIPANTS:** Open to all chapters

**MATERIALS NEEDED:  
(ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT)** No. 2 pencils  
Clean, clear (see-through/transparent) clipboards  
4 Official judgingcard.com scorecards

### FORMAT

This event may consist of the following components:

- A. Breed Identification Class**
- B. Tack and Equipment Identification Class**
- C. Two Halter Classes**
- D. Two Performance Classes**

## **E. Two Oral Reasons Classes (1 Halter set, 1 Performance set)**

### **A. Breed Identification Class**

A breed identification class of 10 problems worth 2 points each will be given and may include equine colors and markings. Students will identify breeds, colors, and markings on live horses or by viewing pictures, drawing, etc. No more than 30 minutes will be given for this class. Multiple identical classes may be used and set up around the event facilities to expedite this class.

### **B. Tack and Equipment Identification Class**

A tack and equipment identification class of 10 problems worth 2 points each will be given and may include any equine tack and equipment. Students will identify tack and equipment by viewing pictures or by viewing the actual tack and equipment. No more than 30 minutes will be given for this class. Multiple identical classes may be used and set up around the event facilities to expedite this class.

### **C. Two Halter Classes**

Two halter classes will be judged. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint, American Saddle bred, Morgan, stock type, and Tennessee Walking Horse. All halter classes will be judged as sound.

Classes will be approximately 12–15 minutes in length. Students will be instructed to take notes on the class that will be used for the oral reasons class.

### **D. Two Performance Classes**

Two performance classes will be judged. Performance classes may include: Western Pleasure, Western Riding (Pattern One), Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), Hunter Hack, Tennessee Walking Horse Plantation Pleasure, and Tennessee Walking Horse Western Pleasure. Performance classes will be judged as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). American Quarter Horse Association reining pattern will be provided to the teams prior to the event.

Classes will be approximately 12–15 minutes in length. Students will be instructed to take notes on the class that will be used for the oral reasons class.

### **E. Two Oral Reasons Classes (1 Halter set, 1 Performance set)**

Students will separately deliver 1 set of oral reasons based upon notes from the designated Halter class, and 1 set of oral reasons based upon notes from the designated Performance class. Oral reasons should not exceed two minutes in length. Participants may only bring their placing cards into the oral reasons.

## GUIDELINES

1. All attire and tack is legal in the selection classes.

## SCORING

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>INDIVIDUAL</i>	
Breed Identification Class	20
Tack and Equipment Identification Class	20
Two Halter Classes	100
Two Performance Classes	100
Two Oral Reasons Classes	100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>320</b>

### *TEAM*

Individual Scores (top 3)	960
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>960</b>

## TIEBREAKER

Ties will be broken by the total score on classes in the following order:

1. Oral Reasons
2. Halter Classes One, Two
3. Performance Classes One, Two
4. Breeds Identification Class
5. Tack and Equipment Class

## AWARDS

Awards will be presented to the top two teams at the Tennessee FFA Convention, and the state winning team will represent Tennessee at the National FFA Convention.

## REFERENCES

Refer to this list in digital form in order to access many of these references as links.

- [Horse Evaluation CDE site on FFA.org for free practice materials](#)
- [National FFA Core Catalog—Past CDE Material](#)
- [National FFA Learn – Free Past CDE Questions and Answers](#)
- [Tennessee 4-H Horse Judging Manual](#)
- [Horses and Tack, Howard Ensminger](#)
- [Teskey's Tack](#)
- [Current Official AQHA Handbook](#)
- [American Quarter Horse Association](#)
- [2002 edition of the AQHA Championship Judging Series](#)
- [Competitive Horse Judging, AQHA](#)
- [The Horse](#), Warren, Borton, Hintz, and Van Vleck
- [Horse Industry Handbook](#), published by the American Youth Horse Council
- [Equine Science Curriculum](#), National Council for Agricultural Education

- [Judging 101](#)
- [Tack Identification](#) (official reference for terminology for tack equipment identification)
- [Oklahoma State University horse breed website](#)
- [University of Kentucky Agripedia website](#)
- [University of Tennessee](#)
- [Tennessee Walking Horse Breeder and Exhibitors Association](#)