

**41st Annual
Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Youth
Invitational Horse Judging Contest
Saturday February 11, 2017**

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 career in the equine industry.

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

Contest Manager: Harleigh Humphries (hlh13@vt.edu)

Entry Details: Send entries to: Harleigh Humphries c/o Beth Boteler
3270 Litton Reaves (0306) Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

DEADLINE: January 27, 2017

Cost: Juniors NOT giving reasons: \$5.00

All Junior and Senior contestants giving reasons: \$9.00 (lunch provided)

All late entries: \$12.00

Entries postmarked after January 27, 2017 are considered Late Entries.

Location: The contest will be held at Virginia Tech's Alphin-Stuart Arena, 500 Plantation Rd. Blacksburg, VA 24060

From I-81: Take Exit 118B toward Blacksburg, which is Rt. 460 West. Exit on Prices Fork Rd West. At first stoplight, turn left onto Plantation Road. Go approximately ½ mile to the green roofed arena on left.

Reasons will be given in the Alphin-Stuart Arena (Seniors) and in the Judging Pavillion (Juniors), which is across the street from Alphin-Stuart Arena.

Bring warm clothing. No dogs allowed. No smoking within 100 ft of the arena.

Eligibility: All contestants must be eligible for national competition on their state or school team. 4-H members 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.

Senior teams – members must turn 14 years of age before January 1, 2017 and not have had their 19th birthday before December 31, 2016.

Junior Teams – members will not have had their 14th birthday before January 1, 2017.

****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 will be 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. They will be provided lunch
- Juniors not giving reasons will not be provided

Coaches: lunch

- Coaches are responsible for their own lunch or may request to have lunch provided at \$5.00 per coach. Advance notice is required.

Entries: Receiving entries postmarked by the Jan. 27th deadline is a great help in planning for lunches, reasons, and many organizational aspects of the contest. Checks should accompany the entries. If policies prevent the inclusion of payment, the coach should notify Harleigh Humphries at hlh13@vt.edu to make arrangements for payment upon arrival.

- **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 lined up head to tail and numbered 1-2-3-4 beginning with the rear horse. Riders of performance horses will wear the horse's number (1,2,3,4). Fifteen minutes will be allowed for each class placing. The three high scores will be added together for the team score. All team members 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 and selected from, but not limited to, the following list:

Halter		Performance	
Hunter In Hand	American Saddlebred	Western Pleasure	Reining/ Western Riding
Stock Horse	Pony Halter	Hunter Under Saddle	Racking Horse
Pony of America	Morgan	English Pleasure	Saddle Seat type English Pleasure
Tennessee Walking Horse or Gaited Type	Sport Horse (Warmblood ect.)	Hunter Hack	Hunt Seat Equitation Western Horsemanship
Arabian/Half Arabian	Draft Horse (non-reasons)	Plantation Pleasure	Trail / Ranch Riding
Thoroughbred	Mules (non-reasons)	Country Pleasure	Saddle Seat Equitation

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 at any time during the contest.**
- **Contestant dress code.** Cold weather is the norm for Blacksburg in February and warm layers are recommended 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. Boots or closed toe shoes are appropriate for the halter judging section of the contest. With proper planning, there is little need for a full wardrobe change when time is more appropriately spent preparing 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. All senior contestants will remain in the arena stands to await giving reasons. Juniors will be held in the pavilion for their set of reasons. There will be some heat, but again, warm clothing is recommended.
- 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 of reasons. **Reason scores will incur a 25-point penalty if read by the contestant, without regard to content. NOTE:** Judges will be empathetic to contestants, especially those who are in the initial learning stages. They will be encouraging and understanding. This event is intended to be a practice contest for learning.

Honor Code: Contestants are on their honor regarding assistance during the contest. Contestants must adhere to the honor code or risk removal from the contest.

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.)	Ribbons for 4-H and FFA

Coaches who have not made prior arrangements, parents, guests, and 4-H members not giving reasons will be on their own for lunch. The arena will be closed to all but senior contestants during and after lunch. Reasons are expected to conclude at 3:30PM at which time the doors will be open to all. Official placings and awards will be announced approximately 45 minutes after completion of reasons. We hope to end the day around 5:00PM.

**2017 Block & Bridle Horse Judging Contest
Tentative Schedule
February 11, 2017**

** In the event of inclement weather, teams will be notified as soon as possible via email to the coach 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 Classes begin.

12:00 Lunch. All coaches, parents, and contestants not giving reasons must leave the arena.

12:30-3:30 Oral Reasons. Seniors stay in Alphin-Stuart bleachers; Juniors proceed to the Pavilion.

3:30 Brief review of classes and placings by official judges

4:00 Awards and adjourn

Motels

Blacksburg

Comfort Inn 540/951-1500
Holiday Inn 540/552-7001
Hawthorn Inn 540/552-5636

Christiansburg

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

Registration is due by January 27th. Any registration received after January 27th must include a \$12.00 entry fee per competitor. Changes should be made prior to February 11th via email to hlh13@vt.edu

**Registration Form
Block and Bridle Horse Judging Contest
February 11, 2017**

4H Unit or FFA Chapter _____

Name of Coach _____

Coach Mailing Address _____

Coach Email Address _____

Telephone _____

Senior 4-H/FFA: \$9.00 per person (includes lunch). Entry fee of \$12.00 per contestant if postmarked after 1/27/17

LIST NAMES:

Team 1: _____

Team 2: _____

Team 3: _____

Team 4: _____

Individuals _____

Junior 4-H/FFA: \$9.00/person if giving reasons; \$5.00/contestant if not giving reasons. \$12.00/contestant if entry made after 1/27/17, 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, include coaches at \$5.00 each:** _____

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

**Return by January 27th to Harleigh Humphries c/o Beth Boteler, 3270 Litton Reaves, Virginia Tech,
Blacksburg, VA 24061**

***Please make checks payable to: VT Block and Bridle**