

Horse Evaluation

A Special Project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation

Important Note: Please thoroughly read the General Rules at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all South Dakota FFA Career Development Events.

Purpose

The purpose of the Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is to promote the study of and interest in equine science selection, care, management and production; to encourage experiential learning through the use of practical skills and applied knowledge; to provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of instruction in equine science.

Objectives

- To instill leadership and motivate learning in the classroom through development of student skills in cooperative learning, observation, analysis and communication.
- To develop and exercise competitive spirit in a team atmosphere.
- To create a foundation for career choices by building an awareness of opportunities within the equine industry.
- To advance knowledge in equine science selection, care and well-being, management and production of horses.
- To provide the opportunity to evaluate, make decisions and orally justify decisions on conformation traits and performance of horses.

Event Rules

Each team will be comprised of three or four members.

The top three individual scores will be used to determine the final team score.

Event Format

The CDE shall consist of three halter placing classes, one performance placing class, two sets of oral reasons, one set of questions, and a written test.

Placing Classes – 200 points

Four classes of four horses – three will be placed on conformation and action and one will be placed on performance.

The horses in the classes will be placed first, second, third, and fourth.

In halter classes, two (2) minutes will be allowed for each view of the horse and for close inspection.

All tack and attire is legal.

Horses will be judged as sound of limb.

Questions – 25 points

Five questions will be asked on one of the two classes not being used for oral reasons.

The questions will be asked following the placing of the classes (following the departure of the horses) and will be answered using the animals' assigned number in the class. Notes may be taken during the class but notes may not be used when questions are being asked.

Oral Reasons – 100 points

Oral reasons will be presented on two classes.

When oral reasons are to be given it will be announced prior to the placing of the class.

Oral reasons scores will be recorded for the participant.

Students will be allowed a minimum of 20 minutes to prepare each set of oral reasons.

Oral reasons will be judged on presentation, accuracy, organization, and terminology.

Use of notes during oral reasons delivery, time under 1 minute, and/or time over 2 minutes will result in point deductions.

Oral reasons will be given to specific judged based on contestant numbers. Contestant number 1 will give reasons to judge number 1, contestant number 2 will give oral reasons to judge number 2, Contestant number 3 will give reasons to judge number 3 and Contestant number 4 will give reasons to judge number 4.

Individual Written Test – 50 points

The written test will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Each question will be worth 1 point.

Fifty minutes will be allowed for the individual test.

Questions will come from the references listed in the rules.

Scoring

	Possible Points
3 Halter Classes (50 points each)	150
1 Performance Class (50 points each)	50
1 Set of Questions (5 points each)	25
2 Sets of Oral Reasons (50 points each)	100
Individual Written Test (1 point/question)	50
Total Possible Individual Score	375
Total Possible Team Score (3 members count)	1125

Tiebreakers

In the case of a team tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Total Team Oral Reason Score
2. Team Written Exam Score

In the case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Individual Oral Reason Score
2. Individual Placing Scores in the following order: Conformation Class 1, 2, 3 followed by the Performance Class

References for Written Test

National FFA Core Catalog – Past CDE Materials

Official AQHA Handbook

Horse Industry Handbook - A Guide to Equine Care and Management - Project of the American Youth Horse Council

Competitive Horse Judging. The American Quarter Horse Association. (found online by searching Competitive Horse Judging)

Official judging guide and audiovisuals from each of the various breed associations.

Gillespie. *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production, 8th Edition*. Delmar Publishers, Inc., 1989.

Evans. *The Horse, 3rd Edition*. W.H. Freeman & Company.