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The Illinois 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held virtually on Compass Blackboard on Saturday April 24, 2021 from 10AM to 2PM CST. Participants must be registered for this event in 4HOnline by March 31, 2021. Reasons will be given via Zoom or FlipGrid.

Note: 4-H members who have previously competed in the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup Judging Contest are NOT eligible to compete in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. The Illinois 4-H Judging Contest will determine the Illinois 4-H State Horse Judging Team semi-finalists.

Participation: A county may enter any number of 4-H participants. Contestants will compete in one of two groups:

Group I - (Reasons) - 4-H members wishing to try out for the State 4-H Judging Team.
- All Group I contestants must have passed their 14th and not their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year.
- Only 4-H members eligible to be a member of the State 4-H Judging Team may compete in Group I.
- Each Group I contestant will give two sets of oral reasons after all classes have been judged. One set will be done on a pre-designated halter class, and one set will be on a pre-designated performance class.

Group II - (Non-Reasons) - Contestants of 4-H age not wishing to try out for the State Team.
- Group II contestants may be any age within 4-H age requirements.
- Group II contestants are not required to give oral reasons but can if they want the experience.

Classes: All contestants will judge six (6) classes of which at least two (2) will be halter classes.

Halter classes may be selected from Appaloosas, Arabians, Morgans, Paints, Quarter Horses, Saddlebreds, Standardbreds, Thoroughbred Hunters, Tennessee Walking Horses, Missouri Fox Trotters, Draft Breeds and Mules.

Performance classes may be selected from Western Pleasure, Saddle Seat or Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, Ranch Pleasure and Ranch Riding (AQHA).

Two (2) minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to the judges.

The highest scoring contestants in Group I from the State Contest will be invited to a private workout with the state 4-H Horse judging team coach to determine the four-member 4H State Horse Judging Team.
**General Rules:**

1. All contestants must be 4-H members and a record of their enrollment must be on file in the respective Extension office. **Counties may find it more appropriate to select older youth for this statewide event.**

2. Contestants need not be enrolled in a project pertaining to the field in which they participate; however, state judging events should be used to support the county/club 4-H livestock curriculum.

3. **Registration is to be made in 4HOnline by March 31.**

4. Members of past State 4-H horse judging teams who have represented Illinois at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup Judging Contest (and in some instances the All-American Quarter Horse Congress Youth Horse Judging Contest) are ineligible to compete in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest.

5. Members of teams having participated at national breed organization judging contests are eligible for the State 4-H Horse judging team as long as they have not competed at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup and in some instances the All-American Quarter Horse Congress Youth Horse Judging Contest.

**Results and Awards**

The summary results in the contests will be emailed within seven (7) working days of the contest to the County 4-H Contact. Detailed results and ribbons will be mailed within two weeks of the contest.

Contestants will be ranked in three groups with blue, red and white ribbons awarded. Ribbons will mailed to county offices once results are tabulated. Ribbons will not be awarded to county teams.