



ND FFA Association

HORSE EVALUATION

CDE Handbook

Purpose

The purpose of the Horse Evaluation CDE is to promote the study of and interest in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management, and production.

Objectives

Through this CDE participants will be able to:

1. Create a foundation of career choices in the equine industry;
2. Advance knowledge in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management, and horse production; and
3. Provide the opportunity to evaluate, make decisions, and orally justify decisions on conformation traits and performance of horses.

Rules

1. Each chapter may enter one team of three to five active members. The score made by the three high individuals on the team will constitute the team score in determining team ratings;
2. Chapters with less than three participants may enter individuals for individual awards only;
3. Chapters will be allowed to enter multiple teams. You will need to designate your five members for your first team and all additional participants under another team in the registration system;
4. AQHA Handbooks are not allowed at the event. No scoresheets, patterns, etc. can be brought to the event by the participants. Only a clean notebook is allowed for participants;
5. Patterns and scoresheets for specified performance classes will be posted to the ndffa.org website and paper copies provided the day of the event for participants;
6. Participants will be permitted to view the horses from all angles; three minutes each on rear, side, front, and moving stations; two minutes close (optional); and six minutes general time;
7. All attire and tack are assumed legal in the selection classes;
8. The event will consist of four halter classes and two performance classes (as horses are available); and
9. Students will use Universal Form C #705C-1 for the placing classes and written test. Additional placing cards may be used by contestants to be handed to the official reason taker at the time of presenting reasons or the official reason taker may record scorers on a spreadsheet. The contestant's identification number, squad number and placing may be written on these documents.

Format

i. Placing Classes

a. Four halter classes (as horses are available)

- i. In halter classes, the participants will be allowed 20 minutes to place the class;
- ii. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, American Saddlebred, Arabian, Paint, Morgan, or recognized Draft Breed;
- iii. All halter classes will be judged as sound; and
- iv. Each class will be worth 50 points.

b. Two Performance classes (as horses are available)

- i. For performance classes, the participants will be allowed 20 minutes to place the class;
- ii. Performance classes may include: Western Pleasure, Horsemanship (identify/post the pattern prior to the event), Trail (identify/post the pattern prior to the event), Reining, (AQHA Patterns 1 or 2), English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), and Hunter Hack;
- iii. Performance classes are to be judged as presented; and
- iv. Each class will be worth 50 points.

c. Oral Reasons

- i. Oral reasons will be required on two classes: one for a halter class and one set for a performance class;
- ii. The reasons classes will be designated by the event chairperson at the end of the event;
- iii. No notes will be allowed while the participant is delivering oral reasons; and
- iv. Participants will have at least 12 minutes to prepare reasons and not more than two minutes in which to deliver reasons.

c. Identification Test – Individual

- i. Participants will identify breeds and/or colors and markings of horses, tack, and equipment as well as leg deviations (i.e., toed out, toed in, sickle hocked etc.,) items;
- ii. 25 questions worth two points each. 50 total points per individual; and
- iii. Answers will be recorded on Universal Form C #705C-1.

Scoring

Activity	Individual Points	Team Points
Placing Classes	300	900
Oral Reasons	100	300
Identification Test	50	150
Total Points	450	1350

Awards

1. Individual
 - a. Individual scores will be tabulated and broken into gold, silver, and bronze award areas;
 - b. Individual ties will not be broken; and
 - c. The high individual receives the “baby bison” trophy and a \$250.00 stipend.
2. Team
 - a. Team scores will be tabulated by adding the top three team member scores. They will be broken into gold, silver, and bronze;
 - b. The high team shall be eligible to represent North Dakota in the National FFA Horse Evaluation career development event. The high team receives the Traveling “Becky Fisher Memorial” Trophy and travel stipends from the ND FFA Foundation to participate in the National Event;
 - c. Team Tie Breakers: 1) Team Oral Reasons Total; 2) Team Placings Total; and 3) Team Problem Solving.

References

1. National FFA Horse Evaluation CDE handbook list of references.

North Dakota FFA Association – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The North Dakota FFA Association adopts and adheres to the National FFA Organization's official AI Policy in full. All North Dakota FFA members, chapters, advisors, and state staff are expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the National FFA Organization regarding the appropriate and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in FFA activities, competitive events, and academic work.

For the complete and current National FFA AI Policy, including detailed guidelines on appropriate use, please visit:

🔗 <https://ffa.app.box.com/v/NFFAAIPolicy>

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the North Dakota FFA Association state office.