

2025 State 4-H Horse Topic Speech, Illustrated Presentation and Team Problem Contests

Guidelines and Entry Material

General Information

1. The State 4-H Speech, Illustrated Presentation and Team Problem Contests on Horse and Dog Topics will be conducted on Saturday, February 6th as part of the Horse Communication Contest Day. Check in will be at 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the OSU Agriculture Building, Stillwater.
2. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Contests require pre-registration to be submitted on or before 5 pm, Monday, January 20, 2025. Entries must be submitted to the county educator and entered into the FormSite registration page.
3. Members must be enrolled in 4-H a minimum of 30 days prior to the contest, so membership must have been established on or before January 8th, 2025. Contests are open to any age member, 9-19, as long as they meet the membership requirements of the County 4-H program 30 days prior to contest.
4. A member can enter up to **two** different contests from the six categories: Speech (Dog or Horse), Illustrated Presentation (Dog or Horse) or Team Problem (Horse only). Illustrated Presentation may be entered as an individual or a team of two members (horse only). Team Problem requires a 3 to 4 person team.
5. The top ranking entries in speeches, individual illustrated presentation and team-illustrated presentations will be eligible to represent Oklahoma at any regional or national qualifying contests that restrict participation to state winning teams as long as the members meet age participation requirements of the specific contests. If a qualified contestant elects not to participate, then the next higher placing contestant would be eligible.
6. Members will be awarded blue, red or white ribbon designations (Danish system). Additional awards for top placing members.
7. It is **strongly** recommended that youth prepare a new speech or illustrated presentation for each year of participation in the communication contest.

Guidelines for Horse or Dog Topic Speech (Public Speaking) Contest

1. Subject must pertain to the horse or dog industry.
2. Time limits for speeches are to be between 5 and 10 minutes. One point per judge will be deducted from the score for every minute or fraction of a minute under or over the time limits. (Those considering out of state competitions should prepare speeches between **7 to 10 minutes** in length which is characteristic of time limits required for regional and national 4-H contests).
3. Contestants may use written notes. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judge (s).
4. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
 - a. Introduction (10 points)
 - Did the introduction create interest in the subject?
 - Was the introduction short and to the point?
 - b. Organization (15 points)
 - Were the main points easy to follow?
 - Were the main points arranged in the best order?
 - Were the sentences short and easy to understand?
 - Was the speech interesting?
 - c. Content and Accuracy (20 points)
 - Were the facts and information accurate?
 - Was there enough information concerning the subject?
 - Was credit given to the sources of information, if appropriate?
 - Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

- d. Stage Presence (15 points)
 - Was the speaker appropriately dressed?
 - Did the speaker talk directly to and maintain eye contact at the audience?
 - Was posture erect, but not stiff?
 - Did the speaker refrain from leaning on the lectern or other distracting mannerisms?
 - Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?
- e. Delivery (20 points)
 - Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
 - Were all the words pronounced correctly?
 - Did the speed of speaking enhance the delivery of information, or was the speech delivered too slowly or quickly?
 - Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
 - If notes were used, was it done without distracting from the speech?
 - Did the choice and delivery of words seem natural rather than a projecting a sense that the speech was memorized or read?
- f. General (10 points)
 - Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
 - Did the speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?
- g. Conclusion (10 points)
 - Was the conclusion short and interesting?
 - Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
 - Could the speaker handle questions easily?

5. Questions will be asked by the judges only.

6. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This will not be counted in the allotted time.

7. One podium will be provided.

Guidelines for Horse Topic Illustrated Presentation Contest

1. Subject must pertain to the horse industry. (No live animals may be used.)
2. May be a demonstration or illustrated talk: power point presentations, posters, displayed items, etc. May be an individual presentation or a team of two.
3. Time limits are to be between 7 and 12 minutes for individual presentations, and 7 to 15 minutes for team presentations. One point per judge will be deducted from the score for every minute or fraction of a minute under or over the time limits. (Those considering out of state competitions should prepare **individual presentations between 9 and 12 minutes in length** and **team presentations 10 to 15 minutes in length** which are characteristic of time limits required for regional and national 4-H contests.)
4. Two tables will be provided for illustrated presentations. Members are responsible for any additional equipment needed. Rooms will have a screen, and have existing computers and software for **Microsoft PowerPoint presentations with .pptx extension**. The County Extension Educator may contact the contest supervisor, Dr. Kris Hiney, if you have particular questions or needs on audio visual equipment.
5. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
 - a. Introduction (10 points)
 - Did the introduction create interest in the subject?
 - Was the introduction short and to the point?
 - b. Organization (25 points)
 - Was one main idea demonstrated?
 - Was each step/part shown just as it should be done in an actual situation, or was an explanation given for differences?
 - Were the key points for each step/part stressed?
 - Was use of visuals and oral presentation in unison?

- Did visuals effectively enhance the oral presentation?
 - Could the audience visualize each step/part in the presentation?
 - If a team, was the contribution of both presenters relatively balanced in time and information delivery?
- c. Content and Accuracy (25 points)
- Were the facts and information accurate?
 - Was enough information concerning the subject presented?
 - Were approved practices demonstrated/discussed?
 - Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?
 - Was credit given to the sources of information when appropriate?
- d. Stage Presence (10 points)
- Was the speaker(s) appropriately dressed?
 - Did the speaker(s) talk directly to and maintain eye contact at the audience?
 - Was posture erect, but not stiff?
 - Did the speaker refrain from distracting mannerisms?
 - Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?
- e. Delivery (15 points)
- Did the speaker(s) have appropriate voice control and inflection of speech?
 - Were all the words pronounced correctly?
 - Was the presentation presented at an appropriate speed of speech?
 - Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the presentation?
 - If notes were used, was it done without distraction?
 - Did the style of delivery and use of words encourage audience attention, or conversely appear overly memorized or presented as if it were read?
 - If a team, was the delivery of the presentation enhanced by the interaction of the team members?
- f. Effect on Audience (5 points)
- Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
 - Could the audience go home and use the information?
- g. Summary (10 points)
- Was the summary short and interesting?
 - Were the key points briefly reviewed?
 - Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
 - Could the speaker handle questions easily?
6. Questions will be asked by the judges only.
7. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
8. Contestants may use notes. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestants at the discretion of the judge (s).

Guidelines for Horse Topic 'Team Problem' Oral Presentation Contest

1. There are no specific out of state competitions specific to this contest.
2. The goal of the contest is to promote teamwork, problem solving and oral communication skills.
3. County-based member teams of a minimum of three or maximum of four 4-H'ers (3 to 4 member teams). All teams will be presented with the same problem relating to a particular scenario of horse management or use.
4. Teams will be given equal time for preparation (Usually 10 to 15 minutes depending on the number of presentations) to discuss the problem. No electronic devices or notes are allowed in the preparation room. Following the preparation time, the team will present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures that answers the questions posed from a horse management or use scenario.

5. Each member of each team is encouraged to equally contribute to the solution & oral presentation. Evaluation will be based on the orally expressed understanding of the problem, completeness and logic of the answer, and clarity, organization, and delivery of the oral presentation.
6. Judging score sheets will determine overall team score based on the following guidelines: Delivery (organization, clarity, delivery, presentation) 40 percent; Solution (Accuracy, completeness and logic of the answer) 40 percent; Contribution of team (equal contribution to the oral presentation and solution) 20 percent.
7. In general, the solutions should be designed for the team to complete the oral presentation in a 5 to 7 minute timeframe. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation.
8. The specific scenario and/or question will **not** be provided prior to the team preparation time. However, to allow for better preparation, topic areas that may/will be addressed will be narrowed down to one or two general areas. The possible topic areas for the specific year will be provided **the registered team's** respective County Educator from the State Extension Equine Specialist *after* the team has been entered in the contest. Potential topics will be released January 28th, 2025.
9. Topic areas of possible team problems that specific scenarios will be drawn from will include:
 - a. Identifying feeds and feedstuffs, and balancing a horse's ration.
 - b. Managing specific horse operations (i.e. breeding, training, trail ride, show facility).
 - c. Horse facility needs including building types and layout, fencing, pasture use, and horse herd management.
 - d. Recommendations for selecting, locating and purchasing horses for specific uses.
 - e. Training and conditioning programs: physical conditioning, monitoring fitness, training schedules for specific uses
 - f. Behavior problems-causes, management of and corrections.
 - g. Contract needs when leasing, breeding, training or using horses belonging to others.
 - h. Teaching lessons in horsemanship designed for beginner or inexperienced riders.
 - i. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment/tack; demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment/tack.
 - j. Anatomy related to unsoundness/blemishes of the leg and/or hoof.
 - k. Dental care and anatomy including aging of equine based on teeth.
 - l. Health management such as parasite programs, vaccination programs etc.
 - m. Current issues in the equine industry
10. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
 - a. Delivery (40 points)
 - Did the presenters have appropriate voice control and inflection of speech?
 - Was the presentation presented at an appropriate speed of speech?
 - Did the speaker's expressions reflect the mood of the presentation?
 - If notes were used, was it done without distraction?
 - Was the solution presented in a logical and organized sequence?
 - Was the solution effectively summarized in concluding remarks?
 - b. Solution (40 points)
 - Did the solution accurately relate to the specific problem that was presented?
 - Was the problem understood?
 - Did the solution use approved practices?
 - Was the solution organized such that main points were emphasized?
 - Were the main points supported with specific statements of support?
 - Did the solution completely address the problem?
 - Was the solution practical and usable by a horse owner?

c. Contribution by team members (20 points)

- Did the team members contribute equally as a presenter, time and level of information?
- Was the delivery of the presentation enhanced by the interaction of the team members?