



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
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In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 25, 2024

TO: FFA Advisors, State Officers and Executive Committee

FROM: Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist

CC: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor

RE: **State FFA Horse Evaluation CDE at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, New Jersey on Sunday, April 6, 2025**

HORSE EVALUATION

The New Jersey FFA Association will participate in the New Jersey State 4-H Horse Evaluation Event as the state qualifying event for National FFA Convention. This event will take place at the Sussex County Fairground in Frankford Township – 37 Plains Rd., August, NJ 07822. It is scheduled for **Sunday, April 6, 2025**. **Please register your teams with the State FFA Office no later than Wednesday, March 1, 2025.** The State office will pre-register all New Jersey teams by the deadline with the New Jersey 4-H.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

Pre-registration is required for participation.

Participant lists, 4-H Permission Slip forms, and payment for all chapters participating in Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is requested by Saturday, March 1. **Please sign-up using www.judgingcard.com.**

Steps to using the [judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com) registration.

1. Log in to www.JudgingCard.com (If you have an AET account, login using that information. If you don't have an AET account, use your chapter number for both the username and password (i.e., NJ0000). Both are case sensitive!)
2. Click on the left most icon at the bottom of the screen for "Registration and Information."
3. Use the month list at the top of the calendar to browse to the month of the contest you need to register for (February).
4. Click on the event link "New Jersey Horse Evaluation CDE" on the calendar (March 1) ...this will pull up the event's registration page.
5. Click the link to "Online Registration" at the top of the page.
6. Click on the link to "Registration" next to each event you need to register for.
7. Change the "Number of Contestants" to what you would like, specify an advisor, and then specify contestant names.
8. Click the "Submit Entry" button.
9. Review all of the entries back on the event's main page.

Schedule for the Day

Registration begins at 8:00 am. Unfortunately, there is no estimated time of completion. As soon as additional information is available regarding the schedule for the day, it will be provided to chapters.

Rules

1. New Jersey 4-H's rules and scoring procedures will be followed. FFA members CAN be a part of a 4-H team at this event.
2. The event will be supervised by a committee (designated by the state 4-H), which shall reserve the right to make any necessary changes in classes, locations, schedule, etc. to facilitate the conduct of the event.
3. All participants must be FFA members in good standing in their respective chapter.
4. A team must consist of four members. Teams must be accompanied by an adult advisor/coach.
5. This event will be used to select the team to represent New Jersey FFA at the National FFA Convention in October.
6. In order to allow contestants to compete for both 4-H and FFA, contestants WILL BE allowed to take books and notes into the contest providing they can carry them at all times. Clipboards & paper provided by each contestant may be set up with lines, boxes, etc. for note taking during the placing phase. Please be aware that National FFA does NOT allow notes or resources on the national level should your team advance. **Resources are not to be used on Individual Tests or the Team Activity.**
7. Contestants will receive identification numbers that must be worn at all times and written on all score cards. Official score cards will be provided on the day of the event and must be turned in when requested. Contestants will turn their card into the person identified at the beginning of the event.
8. While the event is in progress (judging and oral reasons), there shall be no communicating among contestants or between a contest and anyone else (including their advisor/coach).
9. Contestants AND advisors/coaches must be appropriately attired in clean and neat clothing. Contestants are to be in travel official dress. Hard soled shoes are mandatory. NO sneakers, clogs, sandals, t-shirts or shorts. Anyone not dressed appropriately will not be allowed in the ring. No western or large hats that obstruct viewing will be allowed during the judging phase.
10. Horses will not be handled by the contestants at any time but will be provided in halter classes for close inspection and observation of the horses at a walk and trot.
11. Contestants and coaches shall not visit with exhibitors or be in the exhibitor area before or during the event.
12. Any person on the event grounds who is rude or disregards the rules of the event or requests of the committee or an employee of Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension shall be asked to leave the grounds.
13. Absolutely NO dogs or pets allowed at the competition.

Horses for the Event

Halter Classes will be selected from:

Stock-type Horses (Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Paint, Palomino, etc.)

Hunter-type (Thoroughbred Horse or Pony)

Saddle Horse-type (Arabian, Hackney, Morgan, Saddlebred, Tennessee Walker, etc.)

(All Halter Classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind and mouth.)

Performance Classes will be selected from:

Western Pleasure, English Pleasure, Saddlebred 5 or 3 Gaited and Country English Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Western Riding, Reining, Plantation English Pleasure, Walking Horse, Pleasure Driving, Showmanship, Western Seat, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat Equitation, and Yearling Lounge Line

(Performance Horses will be judged as seen (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). All tack and attire are considered legal.)

The animals will be designated #1-2-3-4 worn by the handler/rider.

Class Time Allotment

Fifteen (15) minutes shall be allowed for the contestants to judge non-reason classes, and seventeen (17) minutes will be given to contestants during reason classes to make their observations, take notes and fill out their placing cards. The halter classes will be observed from each side, front, rear, and at a walk and trot.

Reasons

Oral reasons will be given on three (3) or four (4) classes to be announced the day of the event, after classes are judged. Two minutes shall be allowed to give oral reasons to the judge. Halter classes will be judged as sound. Performance classes will be evaluated as seen on event day. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving reasons.

Oral Reasons Time Penalties

2:00.1 – 2:10.0 minutes = 1-point deduction

2:10.1 – 2:20.0 minutes = 2-point deduction

2:20.1 – 2:30.0 minutes = 3-point deduction

2:30.1 – upward = 4-point deduction

Deductions are cumulative up to a maximum of 10 points for any reasons over 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

Additional Activities

In addition to the placing classes and oral reasons, contestants will participate in the following activities:

Individual Activities

Identification Class (50 points): Contestants will identify breeds and/or colors and markings of horses, anatomy/physiology, management, tack and equipment as well as leg deviations (i.e., toed out, toed in, sickle hocked, etc.) items. Each problem will be worth two points each, 25 items total.

Team Activities

Practical Application Activities (up to 200 points; 50 points per activity): Teams will complete up to four activities. Teams will have up to ten minutes for each activity. Examples of practical activities include (but not limited to) feed/hay selection and/or

identification, injection calculations, selecting and/or identifying equipment, etc.

Volunteers

Advisors/coaches must make themselves available to fill any assignments needed by the state 4-H. Information about these assignments will be provided on the day of the event.

Lunch

Lunch will not be provided. Contestants and advisor/coaches are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Although there are eateries in the area, activities of the day may extend past a typical lunch period.

New Jersey 4-H Event Permission Form for Youth

All contestants must submit a completed Permission Form **AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION**. These forms CANNOT be submitted on the day of the event. State FFA Staff must receive these forms in a timely manner so the forms can accompany the registration submitted to the State 4-H office. **DO NOT email these forms, please upload right into the judging card registration.**

Payment:

The Horse Evaluation CDE fee will be \$11.00 per participant payable to Treasurer, State of NJ. No lunch is included in registration. **If your chapter has at least Blue Affiliation, the fee is waived.*

Checks made out to Treasurer, State of New Jersey (\$11.00/ registrant/Horse Evaluation) should be sent to Office of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resources Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08611.