



December 5, 2024

To: Extension Agents, FFA Instructors, and Coaches

From: Hunter Liles, Extension Youth Animal Science Associate
Mckenzey Kirby and Shelby Bellows, B & B Horse Contest Chairpersons
Katherine Carter, Hunter Liles, Emma Helm and Beth Sheely, B & B Club Advisors

RE: 2025 Block & Bridle Club Hippology and Horse Judging Contests

The Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech has scheduled their 2025 Hippology and Horse Judging contests for Friday, February 7th and Saturday, February 8th, respectively. These contests will be held on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg with the livestock judging and stockmen's contests held in the Alphin-Stuart Arena.

Please take time to completely and thoroughly read this letter, which includes rules, eligibility requirements, and contest content. While we gladly welcome your questions, most of the questions we receive are already answered in the information that follows. A detailed schedule with contest starting times and locations can be found on the last page of this letter.

Contest Eligibility

There is no limit to the number of teams a unit, club, or chapter can enter in any contest. There are NOT separate 4-H and FFA Contests, therefore youth may not dual enter. Each participant must decide whether they will compete representing their 4-H Unit or FFA Chapter.

All contestants must be an enrolled and eligible member of the FFA Chapter or 4-H Unit they represent in the contest. Enrollment eligibility will be verified using 4HOnline and State FFA enrollment records for all contestants.

All members of a team must represent the same Unit, Club, or Chapter. There is no option to combine members from different Units or Chapters to facilitate a team.

***All senior contestants must be eligible for their respective organization's National Hippology CDE or Contest, having not previously participated in that event.

Entry

The entry fee is \$10 per individual in all divisions of the Hippology Contest and the Regular (non-reasons) divisions of the Horse Judging Contest. Individuals competing in the Advanced divisions of the Horse Judging contest will pay a \$15.00/person entry fee – this includes lunch for those contestants. **All entries are due no later than Friday, January 31st. Late entries will not be accepted.** Entry fees should be paid on the day of the contest and will be assessed based on the number of youth ENTERED in the entry system. **Please do NOT submit payment when mailing your entry forms.** Payment should be brought the day of the contests. Invoices for the amount due, based on the number ENTERED, will be generated and emailed upon acceptance of entries. Acceptable forms of payment are:

- Personal, business, or school check made payable to: Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club

- VT Hokiemark or VA 4-H Foundation Check made payable to: Block & Bridle Club
PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS WITH ENTRY FORMS
- Copy of your VT Hokiemark PO Paperwork
- Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request
- Credit Card Payment THE DAY OF THE EVENT
- VTF Funds Transfer is not encouraged. Please have VTF cut and send a check directly to the VT Block and Bridle Club at 175 W. Campus Drive, 3490 Litton Reaves, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Entry Forms - Contest entry forms must be submitted online using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2025BNBHorse>

Directions for how to complete the entry form(s) and what information you will need to provide are included at the beginning of the form.

All contests and all contestant information will be submitted at these links. Please have the following information available for each contestant prior to beginning the entry process:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Any special dietary restrictions
- Any Assistive Services Requested (reader, interpreter, etc.)

You will only need to know how many contestants you plan to enter for each contest and the required identifying information for each child as listed above. Youth will not be assigned to teams during the entry process. That information will be provided during check-in. Please pre-enter all youth that want to participate. **Only pre-entered youth that have been verified as enrolled and eligible will be allowed to participate in the contests.**

IMPORTANT – Hippology and Horse Judging: ALL AGE DIVISIONS WILL BE BROKEN AND DETERMINED BASED ON BIRTH DATE (NOT GRADE LEVEL): Contestants 13 years and younger as of January 1, 2025 will compete in the JUNIOR Division. All contestants ages 14 to 18 as of January 1, 2025 will compete in the SENIOR division. No contestant may have had their 19th birthday prior to January 1, 2025.

The link to the entry forms will also be posted to the Block and Bridle Club's website:

<https://vtblockandbridle.wixsite.com/vtblockandbridle>, the Virginia Youth Horse Website [4-H Horse Program | Virginia Cooperative Extension | Virginia Tech](#), and on the Virginia Youth Horse Programs Facebook page [\(1\) Facebook](#)

Once complete, Please print/scan and email a copy of the Qualtrics Summary form to both of the following email addresses:

Hunter Liles – huntl97@vt.edu

Horse Weekend Chairpersons - blockbridlehorseweekend@gmail.com

You must submit the online Qualtrics form AND email a copy of the completed summary form. This will help us confirm entries and will be used to generate an invoice. Payment or proof of payment request as listed previously must be presented at check-in. Please do NOT mail payment with your entry forms.

Hippology Contest

Contest Includes the following 30 minute stations:

- Examination Phase - 50 question multiple choice quiz
- Slide Phase – Multiple Choice ID's or Photo Questions utilizing Powerpoint Slides. (25 Questions)
- Station Phase – Series of stations where contestants will have to complete questions at each station (50 questions total, 5 stations). Stations may include but are not limited to:
 - ID
 - Types or parts of saddles of various style
 - Tack, bits, horseshoes, parts of shoes
 - Tools and Equipment
 - Grains and Forages
 - Internal and External Parasites
 - Parts of the Horse or various systems within the horse
 - Blemishes and unsoundness
 - Equine Teeth
 - Use of horse health measures to assess equine health including
 - Pulse
 - Respiration
 - Dehydration
 - Measurements such as Body Condition Scoring, Height, etc.
- Judging Phase – Contestants will be required to place 1 – 3 classes. These may be live and/or picture/video classes and may be performance or halter.
- Team Problem Phase – All teams (minimum of 3 members) will be presented with a team problem and have equal time to discuss among themselves and provide the required answers on the Scantron provided. Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Balancing Rations
 - Farm Management/Design
 - Horse Selection
 - Behavior Issues and/or Training
 - Equipment Usage

Contest materials are prepared utilizing a standard set of resources. The list of resources is available on the 4-H Horse Program Website and will be available in addition

Contestants are welcome to bring simple 4-function calculators for the team problem. Only simple 4-function calculators will be allowed – no cell phones or smart watches will be allowed in the contest. Contestants who are seen with or utilizing electronic devices will automatically be disqualified.

All Hippology contest participants (junior and senior) will be scored using a Scantron sheet. This form can be found at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/Samples/705D-2.pdf>

All contestants will need a clipboard and at least one No.2 pencil to complete the scantron sheet.

Horse Judging Contest

This contest will consist of 6 – 10 classes with a mixture of Halter and Performance Classes. Judging classes will be generally scored and conducted according to USEF or AQHA rules, or the respective breed association standards. Classes may include but are not limited to

- Halter – Hunter in Hand, Stock Type Halter, Gaited Type halter, Arabian Type Halter, Draft Horse at Halter, Miniature Horse at Halter
- Performance – Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Huntseat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, Ranch Rail, Ranch Riding, English Pleasure, Saddle Seat Equitation, Country Pleasure

All halter horses will be judged as sound. Performance Horses will be judged as they go, unless otherwise stated by contest officials. Legality of tack, equipment, and rider dress will be confirmed prior to the class.

Time will be given to observe horses at a walk/trot, but no close inspection will be given to maximize safety of both horses and contestants.

Contestants are not permitted to carry cell phones or other electronic devices. They may supply their own notepads, clipboards, and pencils. Contestants may utilize print materials (EX. AQHA Rulebook, USEF Rulebook, AQHA Judging Manual) in addition to notes they prepare during the contest and the patterns provided.

The Horse Judging contest will be broken into four divisions:

- Junior Regular Horse Judging and Senior Regular Horse Judging – **these contestants will NOT give reasons and will be dismissed prior to lunch on Saturday, February 8th**
- Junior Advanced Horse Judging and Senior Advanced Horse Judging – **these contestants will place classes in the morning and give reasons in the afternoon at Litton Reaves (1 sets for Juniors and 3 sets for Seniors)**

Horse Judging Contestant Responses - **All judging contests** will be scored using the Scantron Form#: 705A-12 scantron. This form can be found at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/705A-12.pdf> Please familiarize your contestants with this form before the contest.

Summary of Hippology and Horse Judging Contest Details

Contest Divisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hippology: junior and senior (No separate 4-H and FFA divisions)2. Horse Judging: junior advanced, senior advanced, junior regular, and senior regular. <u>Junior advanced and senior advanced contestants will give reasons.</u> (No separate 4-H and FFA divisions.)
Contest Eligibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ALL DIVISIONS WILL BE DETERMINED AND BROKEN ON DATE OF BIRTH2. Junior Contestants:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Ages 9 - 13 as of 01/01/2025, including 4-H youth who reach their 9th birthday by September 30, 20253. Senior Contestants:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Ages 14 to 18 as of 01/01/2025.4. Contestants <u>must</u> be enrolled in the chapter or unit they represent in the contest5. No contestant can have had their 19th birthday before 01/01/20256. A team consists of either 3 or 4 members from the same unit or chapter – for four member teams the top three scores in each respective division will be used to calculate the team total

Contest Chairs

Chairpersons:

Mckenzey Kirby, Shelby Bellows

Contest Entry and Eligibility Questions

Hunter Liles, huntl97@vt.edu, 540-231-6345

Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate

Katherine Carter, carterke@vt.edu, 540-231-2257

Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist

Lodging Information

- There are a number of hotels in the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and surrounding areas that you can contact for reservations and lodging.

**2025 VT Block and Bridle
Equine Educational Contests
Tentative Schedule of Events**

Schedule of Events - Subject to Change based on Entry Numbers or other unforeseen circumstances

Friday, February 7th– Hippology Contests

1:00 – 1:30 PM	Registration ALL Divisions of Hippology contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
2:00 PM – 5:30 PM	All DIVISIONS Hippology contest (meet in Alphin-Stuart Arena)
Following contest	Contestants and coaches able to view Stations, Judging Phases (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

Saturday, February 8th – Horse Judging Contests

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Check In for ALL Divisions (Alphin Stuart Arena)
9:00 AM	Contest Start
11:45 AM	Regular Contestants Released to Coaches
12:00 Noon	Lunch for Advanced Contestants, Transport to LR for Reasons
1:00 – 3:30 PM	Reasons For Advanced Contestants (Litton Reaves)
Approx. 4:00 PM	Officials and Awards for Hippology and Horse Judging (Alphin Stuart Arena)