



MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

Hutson School of Agriculture

NACTA Judging
Conference 2019

Hippology Contest Official Rules

Saturday, April 13th

Location and Time to Be Determined

Contest Director:

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Contest Rules

1. Each participating school may enter one (1) team.
 - a. Each team will compete in their respective division, either junior (2-year schools) or senior (4-year schools).
 - b. Junior and senior divisions will be evaluated on the same contest components.
 - c. A team will consist of four (4) members, each competing individually. All contestants participating in the contest are eligible for individual awards.
 - d. Team scores will be the total of all four team members. While more than one team may be registered for a given school, only one team can be designated as the team competing for team awards. This designation must be made before the contest begins.
 - e. If an overall tie occurs, the practical problem scores will be used to determine the winner. If the tie remains unbroken, the written exam score will then be used to determine the winner.
 - f. A competing individual may compete in this contest up to two times as an official contestant in a national NACTA Hippology contest. A contestant that placed in the top three in the contest in the previous year is still eligible to compete in the same contest for another year of competition.
2. Contestants will not communicate with each other at any point during the contest. This includes the written exam, conformation evaluation, or identification portions of the contest. Breaking this rule will result in ejection of all those involved from the contest and a score of zero (0) awarded for all remaining scores.
3. Contestants are not to have cellular phones, “smart watches”, tablets, etc., on their person during the contest. Breaking this rule will result in ejection from the contest and a score of zero (0) awarded for all remaining scores.
4. Reference items (books, notes, etc.) and paper are not allowed during the contest. If they are needed, they will be provided.
5. Contestants will be allowed to bring #2 pencils, a calculator (phone are not allowed), and a clip board.
6. Once materials have been turned in, contestants will not be able to retrieve them. This includes written or identification exams, placings for the conformation evaluation, notes from the practical problem, etc.
7. Time allowances will be monitored by the contest judges. All decisions of the judges are considered final.
8. Standard competition etiquette is expected of all contestants.

Contest Format:

1. Written Exam: 50 points per individual; 200 points per team
 - a. Individual exam consisting of multiple choice and/or true/false questions.
 - b. Topics related to equine industry may include:
 - i. Nutrition and feeding
 - ii. Reproduction and breeding
 - iii. Genetics
 - iv. General health care (hoof and dental care, diseases and parasites, etc.)
 - v. General management (housing, emergency preparedness, etc.)
 - vi. Breeds
 - vii. Behavior and handling
2. Identification Exam: 50 points per individual; 200 points per team
 - a. Individual exam where contestants will identify tools and equipment commonly used in the equine industry.
 - b. Focus areas will include:
 - i. Feeds and feeding
 - ii. Tack and equipment
 - iii. Reproductive management
 - iv. Equine anatomy
3. Conformation Evaluation: 50 points per individual; 200 points per team
 - a. Contestants will individually place a class of four (4) horses.
 - b. Possible classes include stock-type halter, conformation hunter, Arabian halter, or performance halter.
 - c. Horses will be considered sound.
4. Practical Problem: 200 points per team
 - a. Team based problem solving session, which will include a demonstrated proficiency in one of the following areas:
 - i. Nutritional management
 - ii. Reproductive management
 - iii. Health assessment
 - iv. Farm management
 - v. Emergency management
 - b. Each team will be given the same amount of time to review the problem and discuss their solution. Paper will be provided, but its use is not required.
 - c. After the designated amount of time, the team will orally present the solution to a panel of judges. Each member of the team is expected to contribute during the oral presentation, and notes may not be used. If paper is used during the discussion session, it will be turned in to the judges before the team starts the oral presentation.
 - d. Evaluation will be based on the depth of understanding of the problem and completeness of the logic and methods used in developing the solution.

- e. Judges may ask questions of any or all team members to clarify the presented information.