State 4-H Horse Judging Contest Guidelines (updated 5/1/12)

Divisions: Beginning-any youth, 7-18 years of age before January 1, 2011(non-reasons)
Intermediate-4-Hers, 9-13 years of age before January 1, 2011
Senior: 4-Hers, 14-18 years of age before January 1, 2011

1. **No achievement level completion is required to participate in the Kansas 4-H State Horse Judging Contest.**

2. There is no limit to the number of individuals and teams extension units may enter in each age division. Teams are to be made up of three or four members. When four members are entered; the three team members with the three high overall scores will make up the team's score.

3. The Beginner division will be open to any youth 7-18 years old before January 1, 2012, to gain knowledge and skills. Beginners will not give reasons, nor will they be eligible for national competition. Individuals will receive recognition for participation; no team awards will be given.

4. Any 4-H team member who has participated in a post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive event that would be of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area is ineligible to compete in the state horse judging contest. *A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or its students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants*

5. Composite teams are accepted only from bordering extension unit when extension units that do not have enough participants to fill a team at June 15 registrations.

6. Team member changes can be made the morning of the contest at registration.

7. Previous Kansas State Horse Judging Contest senior teams or individuals are eligible for competition, but may win first place only twice.

8. Judging contest will have 6 – 8 classes (2-6 halter and 2-6 performance).
   - Intermediate division will give 2 sets (1 halter and 1 performance) of oral reasons
   - Senior division will give 4 sets (2 halter and 2 performance) of oral reasons
   - No reasons on for horsemanship or equitation

9. No talking between contestants is allowed during the contest. Questions from contestants are to be directed to the contest officials. Cell phone and electronic device use is prohibited. Anyone caught with cell phone or electronic device will be disqualified.

10. Time allotted for judging classes: non-reason classes – 10 minutes; reason classes – 15 minutes.

11. Presentation of oral reasons: 2 minutes (over 2 minutes will be penalized); use of notes score will be deducted. Reason taker will score accordingly.

12. Dress code is casual and industry appropriate. No team names on jackets (award jackets) will be allowed.

13. Only Senior Teams are eligible for national contests. The top four senior teams are offered an opportunity to compete in one national contest each. The first place team has first choice. Coaches and team members must be prepared to select the national contest they wish to compete immediately following the state contest. Travel assistance for the top three senior teams will be allocated according to available funding.

14. When determining eligibility for national contests, the regional and national rules will supersede the Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest rules.

15. The first placed 4-H senior team will receive a traveling trophy sponsor by the KSU Collegiate Horse Judging Team. The trophy must be returned the following year.