

**Entries are due to Lena Cottle, University of Nebraska, C204
Animal Science Building, Lincoln, NE, 68583-0908.**

Contestants and Eligibility:

1. This is an individual contest.
2. See the [General Contest Rules](#) to determine how many contestants each county or EPU may send to state. Junior Division contestants must be 10 years of age and under 14 years of age on January 1, of the current year. Senior Division contestants must be 14 years of age and under 19 years of age on January 1, of the current year.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in their county 4-H horse project.
4. Contestants must not have participated in official post secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive events of a similar nature in the same subject matter area. Neither can the contestant be a member of a post secondary team undergoing training in preparation for an event.
5. State Senior winners will be highly encouraged to represent Nebraska at the National 4-H Horse Classic Contest held January, in Denver, Colorado. Other contest options may be available if participation in this contest is not possible (contact State 4-H office). For more information please see National Contest Eligibility and General Contest Rules. An alternate will be named at the time of the contest in the case that the first place speaker is unable to represent Nebraska in the national contest.
6. Contestants will be notified of their speaking times by one to two weeks prior to the contest. Speakers will be contacted directly by the contest superintendent.
7. Contestants are to follow 4-H attire guidelines as outlined in the Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide 4H-373, page 18-20. Exceptions: No hats or headgear permitted.
8. Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however previous speeches may not be used verbatim for the 4-H Horse contest. It is okay to use the same ideas from a speech previously delivered in competition, but it must be 4-H Horse related. Enough changes should be made to make that speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H public speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, other 4-H member, or anyone else.

The Contest:

1. Subject must pertain to the horse industry or be horse related and the 4-H Strategic Plan Outcomes - - 4-H Science, Agricultural Literacy, Career Development/College Readiness, Citizenship and Leadership, and Healthy Living. Speeches must be original

and factual. Speeches not appropriately related to horses can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).

2. No visual aids may be used.

3. Contestants may use note cards. However, excessive use of the notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s). If note cards are used, it is preferred that they be 3"x 5" or 4" x 6".

4. A public address system will **not** be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided. Contestants will not be penalized for use or non-use of the podium.

5. Contestants should not include personal introduction of themselves during their speech. A contest emcee will be appointed to introduce each contestant by their name, county and their speech title.

6. **Speech Length.** Junior division speeches should be 5 - 7 minutes in length. Senior division speeches should be 7 - 10 minutes in length. One (1) point will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) over the allotted time and two (2) points per minute will be subtracted from each judges score card for every minute under the allotted time.

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

8. Two or more judges will be used. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Questions will **not** be counted in the allotted time. Contestants **should** repeat the question then answer it.

GOOD LUCK!