Virginia FFA/4-H: Hippology

State Fair of Virginia

2026 Contest Letter

State Fair Address: Meadow Event Park 13111 Dawn Blvd Doswell, VA 23047 Caroline County	**Contest Registration and Tickets:** Participants must have a $6 Student Competition Ticket to enter the Fairgrounds unless they are already at the Fair for another competition. Agricultural Education instructors are responsible for ordering tickets: https://www.vaffa.org/state-fair-of-virginia	**Event Location:** Blue Ribbon Tent	**Date:** October 2, 2026 **Times:** *Check In:* 10:00 AM *Contest Begins:* 10:30 AM (approximately) *Awards:* Following the event at the Blue Ribbon Tent
Contest Superintendents: Hunter Liles	**Entry Deadline:** September 16, 2026 by 5:00 PM.	**Questions? *Contact us!*** *Virginia FFA Association* Andy Seibel - gseibel@vt.edu Sarah Jo Jones - shelms07@vt.edu 540-231-3823	

Purpose:

The purpose of the State Fair of Virginia 4-H/FFA Hippology Contest is to:

- Stimulate the study of and interest in equine science selection, management, and production through the agricultural education curriculum., management, and production through the agricultural education curriculum.
- Provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of interest and instruction in equine science.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. This contest is open to pre-entered 4-H, and FFA members in the state of Virginia.
2. No electronic devices including smart watches, may be worn, used or carried by contestants.

3. There will be two divisions: Junior division will be students in grades 9 and below and Senior division will be students in grades 10-12. Chapters/Clubs may enter two teams per division.
4. Individuals and teams may compete. A team consists of 3 or 4 individuals.
5. 4-H or FFA members who have competed at a national hippology contest are not eligible to compete
6. If four contestants are designated, all will participate, and the lowest scoring individual overall will be automatically designated as an alternate. The alternate's scores will not be included in team scores, but alternates will be eligible for individual awards.
7. Contestants may not talk or discuss materials during the contest.

Event Format:
The contest will consist of four phases:

a. **Horse Judging**: (200 Points) This phase of the contest will consist of placing classes shown on video and/or static photos. Two halter classes and Two performance classes will be presented.

b. **Examination**: (100 Points) A *Written Exam* (50 Points) and *Projected Slides* (50 Points) where participants will identify equine breeds, health conditions, conformation faults, color, color patterns, anatomy, disciplines and their proper appointments.

c. **Station Phase** (100 Points) A series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the station's requirements. Stations may include:

- Various types and parts of saddles
- Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes, and parts of horse shoes
- Farrier tools and equipment
- Miscellaneous tools and equipment
- Grains and forages
- Internal and external parasites
- Blemishes and unsoundnesses
- Equine aging by teeth
- Breeds, colors, and markings
- Measurements such as: Wither heights, Shoe size, Girth, Collar size, Gullet width, Saddle fit
- Anatomy: external, skeletal, internal organs, digestive and reproductive organs, and detailed anatomy of the hoof and lower limbs.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:
This event is organized into the following parts and point values:

1. Horse Judging (200 point total)
   Two Halter Classes (50 points each)
   Two Performance Classes (50 points each)
2. Examination (100 points total)
   Written Exam (50 questions, 2 points each)
   Slides (25 questions, 2 points each)
3. Station Phase (100 points)

Tie Breakers: The following criteria will be used to break ties, should they occur:

Individuals:

1. Highest written phase
2. Highest station phase
3. Highest judging phase

Teams: The highest average score in above orde

Awards:

Ribbons:

1st-6th Place Teams - Rosette Ribbons
1st-6th Place Individuals - Rosette Ribbons
7th-10th Individuals - Flat Ribbons

Premiums (Top Senior Teams):

Placing	Premium	Placing	Premium
1st	$100	6th	$50
2nd	$90	7th	$40
3rd	$80	8th	$30
4th	$70	9th	$20
5th	$60	10th	$10

Premiums (Top Senior Individuals):

Placing	Premium	Placing	Premium
1st	$50	6th	$25
2nd	$45	7th	$20
3rd	$40	8th	$15
4th	$35	9th	$10
5th	$30	10th	$5

Premiums (Top Junior Teams):

Placing	Premium	Placing	Premium
1st	$50	6th	$25

2nd	$45	7th	$20
3rd	$40	8th	$15
4th	$35	9th	$10
5th	$30	10th	$5

Premiums (Top Junior Individuals):

Placing	Premium	Placing	Premium
1st	$25	6th	$5
2nd	$20	7th	$5
3rd	$15	8th	$5
4th	$10	9th	$5
5th	$5	10th	$5

State Fair Scholarship Program

Contestants will be eligible to participate in the State Fair Scholarship Program. Please see the State Fair website, www.statefairva.org, for more information regarding the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements for other available scholarships. The following scholarships will be awarded to the top three individuals in each level.

Junior Scholarships

Placing	Amount
1st	$300
2nd	$200
3rd	$100

Senior Scholarships

Placing	Amount
1st	$400
2nd	$300
3rd	$200

Event Sponsor:

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