

2026 4-H/FFA Horse Evaluation Contest

Superintendent: Amy Neuman - (406) 545-9663
Competition Date: **TUESDAY** - October 13, 2026
Registration: www.JudgingCard.com | (979) 575-2686 | info@judgingcard.com
Entry Fee: \$75/team | \$25/individual (*please see team specifications below*)
Payment: NILE Contests
Check or Credit Card
accepted. Send payments
or call with payment info P.O. Box 1981
Billings, MT 59103
livestock@thenile.org | (406) 256-2495



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Entry Deadline:

September 30, 2026

Teams entries submitted at
www.JudgingCard.com

**NEW Contest
Rules!
Read Below**

Day of Schedule:

7:30am-8:30am

Registration - First Interstate Arena Concourse

8:40am:

Pre-contest instructions - First Interstate Arena

9:00am:

Judging of all classes - First Interstate Arena

Reasons will be given after the completion of judging

Officials will be given at the conclusion of the contest

12:00pm:

Lunch - Arena Concourse - *Requires a pre-paid lunch ticket purchased with entry - \$10/person*

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for all youth to exhibit abilities they have developed in visually evaluating horses in halter and performance classes. Youth will demonstrate their knowledge of equine related terminology in a competitive situation. Through participating in this judging contest, youth can learn assessment formulation and questioning skills, increase self confidence, and develop the ability to speak in public. This contest is ran by the NILE and is not affiliated nor governed by Montana or National 4-H or FFA rules.

Registration & Entry Fee: All registrations will be submitted through JudgingCard.com, (www.Judgingcard.com). If you have never previously registered a team through JudgingCard.com, please contact them to setup an account: info@judgingcard.com or (979) 575-2686. Upon completion of your registration you will be directed to send payment for all your entries and requested lunch tickets to the NILE Office.

Entry Fee: Due September 30, 2026. Entries for ALL teams will be \$75. Entry fee for individuals will be \$25/person. All payments of entries and requested number of lunch tickets, shall be mailed or called into the NILE office. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS. Entries must be paid in full PRIOR TO ARRIVAL at competition.** A Purchase Order (PO) IS NOT ACCEPTED. All entries shall be submitted through JudgingCard.com (see above). **NO REFUNDS AFTER September 30, 2026!**

Eligibility: Contestants may compete on a 4-H team, FFA team, or as an individual. Teams must be made up of individuals from the same FFA chapters or counties (4-H). FFA contestants must be currently enrolled in high school.

Maximum Entry: NO MORE THAN Two (2) 4-H teams per county consisting of one (1) senior team and one (1) junior team - Two (2) FFA teams consisting of one (1) senior team and one (1) junior team. Only those team members officially entered may judge from the arena floor. Additional judges are NOT allowed on the floor.

Teams: Each FFA Chapter or 4-H Team will consist of **NO MORE THAN** one (1) senior team and one (1) junior team each consisting of four (4) members with the option of two (2) alternates; for up to six (6) members per team. The top four (4) scores will count towards the overall team score. Maximum of 12 members per chapter/county may judge. FFA Jr. Team members shall be defined as members grade 10 and below, Sr. Teams will be defined as members grades 11-12 of current school year. A 4-H Junior Member will be defined as ages 8-13 and a 4-H Senior Member will be defined as members 14 years and over as of current 4-H year.

Individuals: Individuals enrolled in a 4-H or FFA program that have not graduated or under the age of 19 and are not part of a team, may be allowed to enter. (Not a collegiate competition). However, no more than twelve (12) total judges (counting those on teams) will be allowed from a county/chapter. Those competing as individuals will not be eligible for team awards, but will be eligible for individual awards.

Contest Guidelines:

- The contest will consist of up to eight (8) classes consisting of both halter and performance classes. Halter classes could include: Senior Geldings, Senior Mares, Junior Geldings, Junior Mares, Two Year Olds, and Yearlings. Performance classes could include: Ranch Riding, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Hack, Reining, or Trail.
- Reasons: Oral reasons will be given on two or three classes within rotation of the contest.
- All participants will be expected to remain in the contest until the announced hour of completion.
- Participants will be allowed a time of ten minutes to judge each class. Each participant is asked to judge independently and separately from other contestants or team members. No visiting during the time of judging, if found visiting the contestant will be disqualified. Any participant with a cell phone on their person during the contest will face automatic disqualification.
- The chaperon, advisor or leader is required to register their team, pick up judging packet and attend the leaders meeting prior to contest. The chaperon, advisor or leader must also be available to help in the contest. Coaches will also be asked to give a phone number where they can be contacted during the contest in case of emergency.

Awards: Results will be posted within 24 hours of the completion of the contest. All results as announced are final. One award will be given in each category, all ties will be broken. Sr & Jr. FFA & 4-H - plaque to top placing teams, plaques to teams 2nd - 3rd place (per division). Plaques to individual champions 1st through 3rd (per division). Division champion awards (plaque to top placing individual): Champion Halter, Performance & Reasons Judge (per division).

Questions: For general contest questions and information please call the NILE office at 406.256.2495 or livestock@thenile.org. For team entry & registration, contact JudgingCard.com (see top of page for contact information).