



New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

■ Cooperative Extension

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Dear 4-H Horse Club Members,

Please find attached information for this year's **COUNTY 4-H EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR CONTEST**, scheduled to take place in person on **Wednesday, May 25, 2022** at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension office. We hope that every eligible 4-H'er will consider applying for and participating in the contest. It is a great opportunity to practice your interviewing, public speaking, and writing skills and to represent our Cape May County 4-H Horse Program! It is also an important way to have your 4-H achievements recognized.

There are both Junior and Senior divisions in the contest. **Juniors must be in the 6th-9th grades; seniors must be in the 10th-12th grades. All contestants must be 4-H members in good standing.** Contestants will submit a resume and 4-H story, have a personal interview with a panel of judges, and give a short stage presentation on the evening of May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Here is the application process:

1. Contact me at (609) 465-5115, x3606 or [linda.horner@co.cape-may.nj.us](mailto:linda.horner@co.cape-may.nj.us) for the registration packet, which consists of a resume, written story and event permission form. The resume and event permission form are fillable pdfs and can be typed on your computer. The story is a Word template and can also be typed right on your computer.
2. Submit TYPED forms with signatures to the 4-H office by the deadline.

Equestrians of the Year may only hold the title for one year. Judges have the option of not awarding a title in either division if there is only one contestant. Sashes and trophies will be awarded to junior and senior contest winners. First through third runner-up ribbons will also be awarded in each division. All other contestants will receive participation ribbons. The senior division winner will go on to represent Cape May County at the State 4-H Equestrian of the Year Contest on August 13 in Mercer County. The senior stage presentation topic is the same for both state and county.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The application deadline is Friday, May 13th.**

See the attached pages for more details. Please consider applying if you qualify!

Sincerely,

Linda Horner  
4-H Program Coordinator

# 2022 CAPE MAY COUNTY 4-H EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR CONTEST *Fact Sheet*

- When:** 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2022
- Where:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office
- Who's Eligible for Senior Competition:** Members in good standing of CMC 4-H horse clubs currently enrolled in 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Who's Eligible for Junior Competition:** Members in good standing of CMC 4-H horse clubs currently enrolled in 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades.
- 4-6 Min. Stage Presentation Topic for senior contestants:** "What are some ways that we as youth members and adult volunteers of the 4-H equine program and of the horse industry as a whole can work together to increase cultural diversity in our programs?"
- 3-5 Min. Stage Presentation Topic for junior contestants:** "Explain what colic is, how it is treated and how horse owners can best prevent it."
- Application Deadline:** **Monday, May 13, 2022**
- How to Apply:**
1. Complete the fillable pdf resume and 4-H Story (Word template). You must have Adobe Reader on your computer.
  2. Submit completed, typed forms with signatures to the 4-H office by the deadline.
- Entry Fee:** None
- Schedule of Events:**
- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 6:00 p.m.  | Contestant registration and instructions   |
| 6:15 p.m.  | Individual interviews with judges  |
| 7:30 p.m.* | Presentation of individual speeches begins before judges and guests (PARENTS MAY ATTEND AT THIS TIME.) |

Announcement of winner and refreshments will take place following stage presentations and judges' scoring. *\*Start time may change due to number of candidates.*

**Questions or Assistance:** Linda Horner, 465-5115, ext. 3606; linda.horner@co.cape-may.nj.us  
***Please refer to Contest Requirements on reverse of this page for more information.***



## *2022 County Equestrian of the Year* *Contest Requirements*



1. The **Individual Interview** will be approximately 10-15 minutes in length. Each judge will ask 2-3 questions. Contestants should take their time and give full, complete answers. The judges will then be given 5 minutes to make comments and scores on their sheets. Spectators are not permitted during the individual interview.
2. In the **Stage Presentation** segment of the contest, senior contestants will give a 4-6 minute presentation on the stated senior topic. Junior contestants will give a 3-5 minute presentation on their stated topic. No use of visual aids will be allowed, however, note cards are acceptable. Two points will be deducted from the score for each minute or part of a minute a presentation is under the minimum time or over the maximum time. Contestants with presentations more than 1 minute over maximum time will be interrupted and asked to stop by contest officials.
3. Immediately following each contestant's stage presentation, he or she will be asked to answer one **Impromptu Question**. Impromptu questions will be horse, horse-industry, or 4-H related. The answer to the question should be 1-2 minutes in length. The judges will have five minutes to mark their cards, make comments, and for the next contestant to get ready for his or her presentation.
4. During the stage presentations, all contestants will wait outside of the presentation area. Parents and spectators will not be allowed in the contestant waiting area once presentations have begun. Junior contestants will be allowed to observe senior presentations.
5. Competitors may wear horse show or business attire for both the individual interviews and the stage presentation.
6. Each judge will evaluate every contestant separately. The scores from the judges will be added together and divided by the number of judges to give a final average score for each contestant.

*Good Luck Everyone!*