Contestants may only use notepads that are clean and free of any written material. It is recommended that one member of the team bring a clipboard and calculator for the team problem. The team problem and class placings will likely be turned in on a “scantron” that will recognize #2 pencil marks, so **#2 pencils are highly recommended.** Pencils will not be provided. No cell phones and no hats will be allowed during any portion of the contest.

Students should be prepared for the prevailing weather conditions on contest day. They may wear gloves, carry water bottles, etc. Food and drinks will not be provided, but contestants can carry granola bars, water bottles, etc. with them if needed. In the event of inclement weather such as heavy rain, the contest will be held at Weber Hall. Due to wood chips on the arena floor, performance classes would be provided via video. Halter classes would remain as live horses.

Judging will consist of 6 judged classes, 3 sets of oral reasons, and a team problem-solving component (test). Each of the classes and reasons will be worth 50 points for a total of 450 points per individual. The top 3 individual scores will count toward the team score. Ties will be broken according to the guidelines outlined in the national horse CDE rules.

The team problem-solving component will allow all members of the team to work cooperatively to complete the activity. This may include a 20-item problem-solving test with multiple-choice responses over equine selection (judging), management, and production. Refer to the National CDE Handbook for other team activity possibilities. Total value of the activity per team is equal to 100 points.

Once the team activity is complete, contestants will not be allowed to talk to each other. Any questions should be directed to group leaders. Contestants will be asked to leave the contest area if they are found talking to one another during the placings or reasons portion of the contest and they will receive “0” scores on all remaining classes and reasons. Contestants not following directions or displaying disrespectful behavior may also be asked to leave and will receive “0” points on remaining scores.

Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint, Morgan, and Draft breeds. All halter horses will be judged as sound. Performance classes may include Western Pleasure, Reining, Ranch Riding, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Trail, Hunt Seat Equitation, and Horsemanship. The American Quarter Horse Association rulebook will be used in all performance classes. All tack and clothing will be considered legal. All horses will be judged as sound.

All classes are considered possible reasons classes with at least one set of reasons coming from the halter classes. Students will be advised to take notes on all classes. Contestants may not use their notes when giving oral reasons and must stay under two minutes in length. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a severely penalized reasons score (using notes = automatic 25 point reduction). Contestants are not allowed to have a phone or smart watch on their person at any time during the contest. Contestants found breaking this rule will be disqualified and asked to leave the contest area.

Judging and Team problem solving references are listed in the National FFA CDE Handbook.