

# 2026 Indiana 4-H Hippology Contest Schedule

Please note that the registration fee for Hippology is \$25 to cover the fees for contest materials and awards. Participants will need to provide their own lunch!!! This contest is for youth enrolled in the Indiana 4-H program.

Checks are made payable to Purdue University. Payment is expected day of contest. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to any school or 4-H club failing to submit full payment within 30 days following the contest. Any school or 4-H club with an outstanding balance due 60 days after the contest will not be allowed to register for any further state career development events until their outstanding balance has been paid in full.

## Hippology Event

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> -Purdue University

### **Objective:**

The objective of the Hippology activity is to provide an opportunity for youth to:

1. learn and demonstrate their breadth of knowledge and understanding of horse management; and
2. learn life-skills such as acquiring knowledge, communicating, solving problems, relating to others, and applying leadership skills.

### **General Rules:**

Divisions: **Junior (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Intermediate (6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Senior (9<sup>th</sup> and above)**

***Participant's grade is determined as of January 1, 2026.***

1. This is an event for teams and for individuals. A team shall consist of not less than three, and not more than four members. Teams can be made up of individuals in different divisions, however, the entire team must compete in the division of the oldest individual. (e.g. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grader on one team would compete as an intermediate team). It is recommended that if there are not enough youth of an age to create a team, that the youth be entered in the appropriate division as an individual. **Coaches and teams are responsible for complying with all national policies. Team makeup can vary to allow for opportunities at the state level.**
  - a. **Each county may enter a maximum of two teams in each division. Unlimited additional members can be entered as individuals.**
2. Participants may not have participated in a post-secondary school Hippology, Horse Bowl or horse judging event nor have been in training for one of these events.
3. Recognition will be awarded to the top ten Junior, Intermediate, and Senior individuals. All participants, including those competing on teams, will be ranked individually for individual honors. Team recognition will be given to the top five Junior, Intermediate, and Senior teams. Awards, however, will be presented only to the top five finishers in each category.
4. The highest scoring senior 4-H team will have the option to participate in the national 4-H event in Louisville, KY in November 2026\*. The second and third highest scoring senior 4-H teams will have the Option to participate in the Invitational Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, OH in October

2026\*. (\*ALL CONTESTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THEIR HOST ORGANIZATION\*)

5. A team may only make one-member substitution between the state and national events. Members of the highest scoring team are eligible to enter this same event in future years. Participants that compete in the national event are ineligible to enter the national Hippology event in future years.

A **\$25 registration fee** is required for each participant. Make checks payable to Purdue University.

**Registration deadline is 12:00 PM EST March 27, 2026. Entries should be completed via 4-H Online:**

<https://26hippology.4honline.com>

**Registration will not be accepted after the deadline.** Send registration payment to Courtney Stierwalt, State 4-H Office, 615 W State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

## **The Hippology Event**

### **Written Examinations (100 points)**

Multiple choice format questions based on the age-appropriate resources. Please note, for exams, stations, and slides, participants are responsible for the content areas in their age group and all younger age groups.

### **Stations (100 points)**

Junior: Contestants will match pictures with the most correct answer.

Intermediate and Senior: Contestants will identify 10 items (2.5 pts each) from 4 of the categories listed below. The items in each category may be actual or pictured.

- a) Various types of saddles and parts of saddles
- b) Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes and parts of shoes.
- c) Tools and Equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.
- d) Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms and methods of preparation
- e) Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle chart and/or damage caused
- f) Blemishes and unsoundnesses
- g) Parts and terms of the horse
- h) Breeds, colors, markings

### **Slides (100 points)**

Contestants will answer a multiple-choice question from a picture on the screen.

### **Judging (100 points)**

Two classes will be judged on video. Classes may be halter or performance. Must correctly indicate placing on a scantron sheet.

### **Team Problem (Senior/Intermediate: 100 points) (Junior: No team problem)**

Each team will be asked to solve a practical horse question with an answer or an explanation as a solution to a judge. Team problems may be either impromptu or prepared.

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Instead of divisions being responsible for certain resources, they are now responsible for specific content areas. Those content areas are below. Questions about these content areas will be specifically drawn from the references that follow the content areas. It should be clearly understood that this listing does not constitute an official endorsement of these materials. The resource with the most recent publication date will be accepted as the most correct, in cases of conflicting information.

**Junior:**

- Colors and Markings
- Parts of the Horse
- Horse Breeds
- Tack and Equipment
- Gaits
- Conformation and Selection
- Horse Senses
- Horse Behavior
- Disciplines

**Intermediate:**

- All Junior content areas
- Anatomy: Skeleton
- Nutrition: Feedstuffs and Forages
- Health: Assessment of Horse Health
- Blemishes and Unsoundnesses
- Horse Shoes and Parts of Shoes
- Facilities and Fencing
- Horse History
- Organizations

**Senior:**

- All division content areas
- Anatomy: Muscles, Nerves and Organ Systems
- Nutrition: Nutrient Requirements and Toxic Plants
- Health: Parasites, Infectious and Non-infectious Diseases and Vaccinations
- Reproduction: Anatomy and Physiology of Mare/Stallion; Breeding Management and Gestation
- Exercise Physiology
- Business Management

**Resources:**

- Dover Saddlery - Apparel, tack and horse care items for the English rider: To request a free catalog please visit [www.DoverSaddlery.com](http://www.DoverSaddlery.com) or call 1-888-234-6942
- Equine Science: Basic Horse Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages. Jean T. Griffiths.
- [www.horsebooksetc.com](http://www.horsebooksetc.com) or Purdue Media Distribution Center
- Horse Industry Handbook (includes all current updates)- [www.ayhc.com](http://www.ayhc.com)
- Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms- New Horizon Equine Education Center ISBN 0-931866-88-x
- The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy, Robert Kainer and Thomas McCracken, Alpine Publications, Inc., PO Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537, 1-800-777-7257.

- HorseSmarts <http://www.ayhc.com/product-page/horse-smarts>
- Schneider's Saddlery
- Nutrition and Feeding of the Horse- Lewis (toxic plant & forage identification)
- Recommended Resource: The Horse – Evans – third edition (published 2021)
- Others: Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in the contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.