

# Minnesota State FFA Horse Judging Contest

## Official Reasons

Provided by official judges from the University of Minnesota Crookston

Student judges: Amanda Guimont, Hannah Copple, Ashley Bona

Coach: Nicky Overgaard

## Class 1 – Stock Horse Geldings

Placings: 1 – 3 – 4 – 2                      Cuts: 2 – 5 - 5

I placed this class of Stock Horse Geldings 1-3-4-2

In my top pair I placed 1 over 3. 1 was the most balanced individual of the class displaying greater volume of muscle, a shorter, stronger topline, and being more structurally correct in his leg and bone structure. I do grant 3 for having more depth in the heart girth and more spring of rib.

In moving to my middle pair I placed 3 over 4. 3 had a longer, trimmer under line in comparison to his top line and was longer through the hip. 3 also showed more quality through his head and neck being shorter from eye to muzzle and longer and leaner through the neck. 3 also displayed smoother, cleaner joints. I do recognize that 4 had a more desirable expression, however, he had a shorter, thicker neck and was flatter over the withers.

In regards to my bottom pair I placed 4 over 2. 4 was a shorter backed individual and contained thicker muscling throughout. Additionally, 4 moved with more balance and coordination and was a freer mover. I fault 2 for being the most unbalanced individual of the class, displaying a longer weaker topline, walking downhill with a lower wither and higher croup. 2 was the weakest in the loin area making him the last place horse of the class today.

It is for these reasons I placed this class of Stock Horse Geldings 1-3-4-2

## Class 2 – Morgan Geldings

Placings: 3 – 2 – 1 – 4                      Cuts: 5 – 5 – 2

I placed this class of Morgan Geldings 3-2-1-4.

Horse 3 dominates the class today showing the most balance from front to rear and for displaying the highest quality morgan characteristics. In an easily top paired class of 3 over 2, I found 3 to be the most fit individual showing more shine and bloom to his coat. Additionally, he more evenly divided into thirds displaying more fullness through his hindquarters. He was cleaner about the head showing more bulge to his eye and refinement through his muzzle. Horse 3 was the most brilliant mover, showing more animation at both the walk and trot.

My intermediate pair went 2 over 1. 2 had a longer, leaner neck that tied cleaner into a more laid back shoulder. 2 was a bolder mover showing more style on the go. Additionally, 2 was stronger over his back and croup, having a higher, more desirable tail set. I admit that 1 had a more quality head, but lacked the refinement found in 2.

Finally, in the bottom pair of 1 over 4, I found 1 having a cleaner, neater tie in from his neck into his shoulder. He was longer over his crest with a more desirable shape to his neck. 1 was shorter over his back and stronger through the croup which gave him more power on the move. I leave 4 on the bottom of the class today for being the lightest made horse. He was longer in his back and lacked a powerful hindquarter found in the horses above him today.

It is for these reasons I placed this class of Morgan Geldings 3-2-1-4.

### **Class 3 – Stock Horse Mares**

Placings: 3 – 4 – 1 – 2

Cuts: 2 – 3 – 2

I placed this class of Stock Horse Mares 3-4-1-2 .

In my top pair of 3 over 4, I found 3 to be a larger massed individual with straighter legs when viewed from behind and had a deeper, more slanted shoulder angle that was further set back. Additionally, she was deeper through the heart girth and was made heavier especially from the front end. I do realize that 4 more evenly divided into thirds.

In my middle pair I have placed 4 over 1 as 4 had a tighter topline and a shorter back and exhibited the most feminine head, being shorter from eye to muzzle and had larger eyes. 4 had the more elegant, longer neck that displayed more shape. 4's neck tied in higher to her shoulder than 1. I admit that 1 was more structurally correct through her front and hind legs and carried more mass, but she lacked the balance and femininity found in 4.

Moving to my bottom pair, it was 1 over 2, as 1 had greater muscling and had a more accurate heart girth to leg ratio. 1 was wider when viewed from behind having more shape through her stifles than 2. 1 was squarer in her front legs with a straighter column of bone. 2 was my last place horse today due to her short, upright shoulder and long back with a weak topline. She didn't possess the balance or structure to place any higher today.

It is for these reasons, I placed this class of Stock Horse Mares 3-4-1-2.

### **Class 4 – Reining**

Placings: 3 – 1 – 4 – 2

Cuts: 2 – 2 – 6

I placed this class of Reining 3-1-4-2 finding a close top pair, and an easily place able bottom pair. Starting the class we found 3 over 1. 3 was more precise in its lead changes hitting the exact center both times. On its rundowns, 3 accelerated faster to the stop and stopped harder and deeper into the ground than 1. I recognize that 1 had flatter spins, but nonetheless, will stay under 3 as it lacked the precision found in the top horse today.

Moving onto my middle pair, I found 1 placed over 4 as 1's circle work was more precise and required less handling from its rider. 1 had more fluidity through its spins and turned harder and flatter than 4. I realize that 4 ran harder into its stops, but lacked the snappiness found in 1's rollback.

Finally, 4 goes over 2 in the bottom pair as 4 maintained the correct leads during its circle work. In addition, 4 came out of the first rollback with more power and precision maintaining the lope out of the turn. 2 is placed at the bottom of the class today for its lack of control, changing leads two different times on its circle work, and jogging out its first rollback.

It is for these reasons I placed this class of Reining 3-1-4-2.

### **Class 5 – English Pleasure**

Placings: 1 – 4 – 2 – 3

Cuts: 4 – 3 – 5

I placed this English Pleasure class 1-4-2-3.

In my top pair of horses, I found 1 to be snappier and higher moving through his knees, especially at the trot. 1 moved with more impulsion and was rounder in its frame more consistently through the class than 4. 1 performed with more correctness in his transitions, especially when moving into the canter to the right. Furthermore, 1 was quieter in the bridle and wore it with more flexion through the poll than 4.

My middle pair found 4 over 2 with a more consistent performance found in 4. 4 moved straighter through the bridle, especially through its transitions. 4 was quieter in the mouth and was more obedient of its rider. I will allow that 2 performed his canter transition to the right more correctly, but found too much inconsistency in its performance to place above 4 today.

Moving to the bottom pair of 2 over 3. 2 was a more obedient worker in the class performing each gait steadier, straighter and more willing than 3. 2 was softer in the bridle requiring less correction from its rider. 3 is left last today for breaking gait several times throughout the class, being inconsistent in its transitions and displaying the poorest attitude to place any higher today.

For these reasons, I placed this class of English Pleasure 1-4-2-3. bb

### **Class 6 – Western Pleasure**

Placings: 3 – 2 – 4 – 1

Cuts: 5 – 5 – 5

Ma'am, I placed this class of western pleasure horses 3, 2, 4, 1, finding a bottom in 1, whose misbehavior throughout the class initiating the rider to change from one hand to two hands, therefore automatically landing her at the bottom of the class.

The initial pair was the highest quality movers, 3 and 2. 3 places over 2 because 3 was a more responsive and willing performer, moving straighter down the rail while being ridden on a more trusting

rein. 3 also required less checking and fixing and thus presented a more pleasant attitude, whereas 2 lacked elevation in the lope and did not have the flow of horse 3. Horse 3 moved with more drive and impulsion off the hindquarters. I do fault 3 for breaking gait once at the lope.

Moving to the middle pair, it is quality of movement that placed 2 over 4. 2 had a more synchronous two beat jog, with the diagonal pairs hitting the ground more simultaneously. 2 also rounded its back more when asked to lope with forward motion and had a stronger, deeper stride while still maintaining a freer shoulder and a flatter knee. Additionally, 2 exhibited a more stable topline, whereas 4 bobbed the head while loping and consistently needed help from the rider.

In my final pair I placed 4 over 1. 4 simply competed all asked gaits correctly. 1 spooked throughout the class, which initiated the rider to go two handed, which atomically disqualified her in the class.

Therefore, the western pleasure is placed 4, 3, 2, 1.