



2009 CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR EQUINE CHAMPION CHALLENGE

The Mission of the Equine Champion Challenge is to expand and enhance the educational element of the youth equine program and to reward those outstanding exhibitors who possess the skills and knowledge essential for the efficient and humane care and management of horses in California.

The **Objectives of the Equine Champion Challenge** are to:

- Evaluate the youth participant's knowledge and skills of his/her project and related industry.
- Expand on the exhibitor's communication skills.
- Provide a learning laboratory which will enhance the exhibitor's knowledge of their equine project and related industry.
- Develop the youth's problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- Recognize outstanding youth exhibitors who possess the skills and knowledge essential for the efficient and humane care and management of horses within the California equine industry.
- Promote additional educational opportunities through the awarding of college scholarships and/or savings bonds to event champions.
- Emphasize the exhibitor's involvement and success in the educational program and focus on the youth exhibitor rather than the animal.

Requirements for exhibitors:

- Champions of the following division in the County Fair Best of Show Youth Horse Show are required to participate:
 - 4-H Juniors
 - 4-H Seniors
 - Pony
 - FFA/Grange/Independent
 - Walk/Jog
- 2009 State Fair Exhibitors not qualifying by winning a division belt buckle who have qualified by testing on September 4, 2009.
- Any youth in California not exhibiting in the State Fair by paying \$10.00 entry fee, submitting entry by deadline, and testing on September 4, 2009.

Areas evaluating performance in practical exercises and exams:

1. Conformation and physiology
2. Equine health management
3. Nutrition
4. Breeds and breed characteristics
5. Disciplines and horsemanship skill
6. Tack and proper usage
7. Reproduction practices

Schedule of events: *(subject to change)*

- Written Exam—Friday September 4, 2009, 8:00
- Mandatory meeting—Friday, September 4, 2009 3:00 PM
- Round 1—Friday, September 4, 2009, 3:30 PM
- Round 2—Friday, September 4, 2009, following Round 1
- Final Interview—Friday, September 4, 2009, following Round 2
- Awards Presentation—Friday, September 4, 2009, at conclusion of testing

Awards:

- Supreme Champion Equine Exhibitor.....\$ 2,000.00 Savings Bond
- Supreme Reserve Champion Exhibitor.....\$ 1,000.00 Savings Bond
- Champion 4-H Junior Exhibitor.....\$ 250.00 Savings Bond
- Champion 4-H Senior Exhibitor.....\$ 250.00 Savings Bond
- Champion Pony Exhibitor.....\$ 250.00 Savings Bond
- Champion FFA/Grange/Independent.....\$ 250.00 Savings Bond
- Champion Walk/Jog Exhibitor.....\$ 250.00 Savings Bond