

**State 4-H Horse Program Announces 2012  
State Horse Bowl, Hippology, and Communications Contests Champions**

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The 2012 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Bowl, Hippology, and Communications Contests were held February 17-18 at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year for the event, which has grown annually since its inception. This year's contest was held in memory of the late Steve McNeil, Sumner County Extension Agent. Steve's impact on the 4-H horse program is evident by the success of the teams from Sumner County over the years. The Steve McNeil Achievement Award was established to recognize the high overall individual for Senior Hippology this year. A perpetual plaque will be awarded to the winner and kept in the County office.

The Communications Contests (Public Speaking, Individual Presentation, and Team Presentation) allow Senior (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) 4-H members to demonstrate their equine knowledge and skills while also developing public speaking skills. The Horse Bowl contest challenges youth to learn scientific information about horse nutrition, reproduction, genetics, behavior, health, and management. The Hippology contest allows 4-H youth to demonstrate skills they have learned in equine science, horse judging, and identification of horse related tack and equipment.

The top four teams from each division of each regional competition, held earlier in the year, were eligible to compete in the State Championships in Horse Bowl and Hippology. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers in all Senior level events will be eligible to represent Tennessee at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships in Perry, GA later this year. First place Senior level winners will also be eligible to compete at the Eastern National 4-H Roundup in Louisville, KY in November.

The event was kicked off on Friday night with the communications contests. In the Public Speaking competition, Sara Cody of Putnam County was named Champion. Reserve Champion in Public Speaking went to Shannon Granger of Monroe County. Catherine Albert of Knox County was the Individual Presentation Champion. Reserve Champion in Individual Presentation went to Morgan Cox from Loudon County. The Team Presentation Champion went to the team of Kaitlin Payne and Anna Ingleburger from Franklin County. Reserve Champion went to Sara Whitson and Cara Coleman of Blount County.

The Senior Hippology teams competed in team stations and team problems on Friday night, followed by a written exam, ID exam and a judging contest on Saturday, alongside the Junior and Junior High teams. In the Hippology contest, the Champion Senior Division team was the Blount County A team, with members Dylan Hill, Maddy McDevitt, Megan Rogers and Delaney Rostad. Reserve Champion went to the Williamson County A team with members Olivia Cesnik, Allie Robertson, Sarah Wingo, and Savannah Yonge. The Knox County team, consisting of Catherine Albert, Sophie Antol, Moriah Brothers, and Rachael Millard, placed third. Fourth place went to the Blount County B team with team members Amy Berger Tiffany Bryant, Cara Coleman, and Sarah Whitson. Fifth place went to Montgomery County with team members Carly Ford, Helena Hattendorf, Alyssa Kela, and Cody Parker. Other senior teams that competed include Cocke, Decatur, Dickson, Smith, Sumner, Tipton, and Williamson B counties. The Champion Senior individual and recipient of the Steve McNeil Achievement Award was Megan Rogers of Blount County. Cara Coleman of Blount County was the Reserve Champion Senior individual in Hippology.

The Champion Junior High Division team in the Hippology contest was the Blount County A team, consisting of Haley Best, Catherine Crabtree, Aidan Galloway, and Lily Turaski.

The Reserve Champion Junior High Hippology team was the Sumner County A team. Third place went to Williamson County, the Cocke County team finished fourth, and fifth place went to Sumner County B team. Other teams that competed in Junior High Hippology include Blount B, Crockett, Decatur, Henderson, Montgomery, Putnam, and Sullivan Counties. The Champion Junior High individual was Lily Turaski of Blount County. Reserve Champion Junior High individual went to Carson Floyd of Montgomery County.

The Champion Junior Division Hippology team was the Rutherford County team, with team members Charity Chandler, Judith Flowers, Chloe Snyder, and Rebecca Grace Stone. The Reserve Champion Junior Hippology team was the Williamson County team. Sumner County A finished third, fourth place went to Cocke County and fifth place went to Montgomery County. Other teams that competed in Junior Hippology include the counties of Anderson, Blount, Carroll, Henderson, Knox, Madison, Sumner B. The Champion Junior individual was Trinity Shutlz of Cocke County. The Reserve Champion Junior individual was Charity Chandler of Rutherford County.

The Horse Bowl contest kicked off on Saturday afternoon with excitement in the air. The Senior Division of the Horse Bowl competition was won by the Crockett County Team. Team members were Will Futrell, Houston Haynes, Bethany Jones and Bailee Mayfield. Reserve Champion went to Dylan Hill, Maddy McDevitt, Megan Rogers, and Delaney Rostad of Blount County. The Knox County team, consisting of Catherine Albert, Sophie Antol, Moriah Brothers, and Rachael Millard finished in third place. Fourth place went to the Hardeman County team, consisting of Rose Black, Amber Trainum, Ashley Trianum, and Elizabeth Vincent. Other teams that competed in Senior Horse Bowl include the counties of Cocke, Dickson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Putnam, Tipton, Williamson A, and Williamson B.

The Junior High Division Champion Horse Bowl team was Sumner County A with team members Kassidy Beasley, Haley Brazel, Cailyn Simonis, and Hanna Grace Steva. The Reserve Champion Junior High Division Horse Bowl team was Sumner County B. The Blount County team finished in third place, and the Sumner C County team finished fourth. Other Junior High Horse Bowl teams that competed include Cocke, Crockett, Decatur, Fentress, Henderson, McMinn, Montgomery, and Putnam counties.

The Junior Division Champion Horse Bowl team was the Sumner County A team and the Reserve Champion Junior Division Horse Bowl team was the Sumner County B team. Third place went to Cocke County, and Coffee County finished in fourth place. Other Junior Horse Bowl Teams that competed include Blount, Carroll, Dickson, Henderson, Knox, Loudon, Montgomery, and Williamson counties.

Nearly 300 youth competed in the 2012 contests. This event would not be possible without the support of the many Extension Agents, volunteer leaders, and parents from throughout the state who coach 4-H members and assist with running both Regional and State level contests. Students from the University of Tennessee and Middle Tennessee State University were among the dedicated volunteers that helped run the contests this year. Thank you to everyone who made this year's event possible and congratulations to all of our competitors and winners!