Teaching Youth an Equine Conformation Judging System

Dr. Bob Mowrey
Extension Horse Commodity Coordinator
North Carolina State University
Learn the Basics

• Parts of the horse
• Unsoundnesses
• Blemishes
Parts of the Horse
Unsoundnesses, Blemishes, & Conformation Faults

COMMON UNSOUNDNESSES, BLEMISHES AND CONFORMATION FAULTS

1. Shoe Boil
2. Poli Lyll
3. Fistula
4. Parrot Mouth
5. Pig Eyed
6. Over In the Knee (Buck Kneel)
7. Mutton Withered
8. Capped Hock
9. Thoroughpin
10. Curb
11. Hernia
12. Side Bone
13. Bowed Tendon
14. Splints
15. Wind Puff
16. Dog Spavin
17. Bone Spavin
18. Quarter Crack
19. Ring Bone
20. Sand (Tee) Crack
21. Sweenev
“Ideal Horse”

• Learn the ideal for each of the major breeds
  – Stock Type
  – Hunter Type
  – English Type
  – Non-Trotting
Judging Evaluation System
Judging Evaluation System

Side View
Front & Rear View of the Horse

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Front View

Movement

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Rear View
Judging Priorities

• Breeding Classes
  – Stallions & Mares
    • Balance
    • Breed Character
    • Structural Correctness
    • Refinement
    • Muscling

• Non-Breeding Classes
  – Geldings
    • Balance
    • Structural Correctness
    • Muscling
    • Refinement
    • Breed Character
Head + Throatlatch = Breed Character
Neck = Balance / Breed Character
Shoulder

Angle

Length

Angle
Front Column of Bones

viewed from the side
Top Line = Balance
Determining the Center of Gravity
Determining Balance
Determining Balance

- **Short, Strong Back** (Desirable)
- **Long Back** (Undesirable)
- **Steep Hip** (Undesirable)
- **Low Back** (Undesirable)
Balance-- Toplines

Trapezoid
Hip + Barrel = Volume & Capacity / Frame

1. Heart girth
2. Ribcage
3. Rear Flank
1. Hip
Structure of the Hind Quarter

*(Stock-Type) Croup/Hip*

(A) Ideal

(B) Steep

(C) Level
Muscling = Quality & Refinement

1. Shoulder
2. Arm
3. Forearm
4. Stifle
5. Thigh
6. Buttock
7. Inner/Outer Gaskin
Lower Legs = Structural Correctness / Refinement
Front Legs
viewed from the side
Front Legs
viewed from the side

(A)

(B)

Camped Under

Camped Out
Structure of the Hind Limb

viewed from the side

Ideal

Sickle-hocked

Post-legged
Front View of Muscle

1. Arm
2. Forearm
3. Pectorial
Front View of Structural Correctness

1. Knee
2. Cannon
3. Fetlock
Structural Correctness

Front View

[Diagram showing leg arrangements: Ideal, Splay-footed, Pigeon-toed]
Foot Fall Patterns

(A) Ideal

(B) Splay Foot

(C) Pigeon Toed
Front Leg Structural Faults

(A) Bow-legged
(B) Knocked-Kneed
(C) Bench-Kneed
Views of the Front Leg

Front leg view:
Base-narrow

Front leg view:
Base-wide
Rear View Muscling

1. Thigh
2. Buttock
3. Stifle
4. Inner Gaskin
5. Outer Gaskin
Rear View of Structural Correctness

1. Point of Buttock
2. Hock
3. Cannon
4. Fetlock
5. Pastern
Structure of the Hind Limb
viewed from the rear
Movement

Front/Rear View = Trueness of Stride

Side View = Length of Stride, Animation, etc.
Special Thanks

Gene Parker Quarter Horses

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Extension Horse Program