

FFA JUDGING TEAMS COMPETE AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

ATTACHED: PHOTO OF FFA CONTESTANTS

For more information contact: Marilyn Randall
Associate Professor, Equestrian Studies
B.S. Colorado State University
R.P.T. Northwestern University
Phone: (406) 245-3602
Office: Equestrian Center Barn
Email: randallm@rocky.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS -- FFA judging teams from across Montana met Feb. 28, 2009 at the Intermountain Equestrian Center, home of Rocky Mountain College's equine program for the state FFA equine judging contest. Approximately 100 students competed for individual and team awards.

This is the second time RMC has hosted the state FFA equine judging contest. Organizer, Austin Mapston, was pleased with the number of contestants and the quality of the contest. "The RMC equine program puts on a good contest with quality horses and knowledgeable students and staff," one of the FFA coaches said.

Chris Brown and Amy Neuman, riding instructors at Rocky, organized the horses for the halter and performance classes. Rocky students handled the horses and rode for the contestants.

"It was a good opportunity for the Rocky students to put to use some of the skills acquired in class," said Neuman.

During the afternoon competition Rocky students from the equine judging program listened to the reasons portion of the contest. This is where contestants orally defend their placement of a class.

Judging contests involve knowledge of rules for placement of horses for conformation and performance events. Contestants must place three conformation classes and three performance classes. Then they must defend their placing during the reasons portion of the contest. The state contest also involves a written test. Winners will represent Montana at the National Judging Contest.

3/02/09