



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

# 2025 State 4-H Horse Show Judges Bios



## **Kelsey Ebke**

Kelsey Ebke will be the judge for the 2025 State Horse Show in the following events: Beginner Showmanship, Junior and Senior Horsemanship, Junior and Senior Reining, Senior Hunt Seat Equitation, and Junior and Senior Equitation Over Fences. Kelsey is the owner and trainer of Ebke Performance Horses located near Lincoln, NE. Kelsey has been involved in the Equine Industry her entire life and strives to share her knowledge and passion with others. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she served as the Equestrian Team President and was a member of the Reserve Congress Champion Horse Judging Team. She runs a large training program at her facility in Nebraska, that specializes in Reining and Ranch Horses, and she is known for her successful youth lesson and training program at both the local, state, and national levels. She trained and showed the Reserve High Point Open Ranch Horse at the 2024 PtHA World championships, and several of her youth won multiple world titles under her guidance.

Kelsey is an AQHA Level 1 Judge, ABRA Judge, and has been a teacher at the University of Nebraska judges' school for the last two years. She is also the head Western IEA coach for the Big Red Elite Equestrian Team and has coached youth to both a National and Reserve National Championship in her first 5 years of founding the team. She serves on the IEA Western National Committee and strives to be involved in many facets in the Equestrian community. Kelsey possesses a deep understanding of equine evaluation and competition standards and is honored to serve as your 2025 Judge.



## **Lainie Kringen-Scholtz**

Dr. Lainie Kringen-Scholtz, from Madison, SD, will serve as a speed event judge at the 2025 State Horse Show. She earned her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from South Dakota State University, followed by a doctorate from Iowa State University. After completing vet school, she pursued chiropractic training through Options for Animals and acupuncture training through CuraCore. Lainie owns and operates True North Veterinary Health, PLLC. Her husband, Andy, is an agronomist with CHS and hails from Springfield, MN. Together, they enjoy working on their acreage, attending cattle shows, barrel racing, driving their team, and spending quality time with family.



### **Brooke Parrish**

Brooke Parrish will serve as a judge at the 2025 State Horse Show for Junior and Senior Showmanship, Beginner Horsemanship, Junior and Senior Ranch Riding, and Beginner and Junior Hunt Seat Equitation.

Brooke is a lifelong horse enthusiast and experienced evaluator who brings a strong academic and competitive background to her role as a judge. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Animal Science at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), where her research focuses on investigating physiological and behavioral changes during acute heat stress in feedlot cattle, and utilizing the NUTrack Livestock Monitoring System to determine early signs of sickness behavior in commercial swine. Brooke holds a Master of Science in Animal Science from UNL, a Bachelor of Science in Equine Industry and Business from West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), and an Associate of Science from Black Hawk College– East Campus (BHE).

While at BHE, Brooke was a key member of the nationally competitive horse judging and IHSA equestrian teams, earning top honors such as High Individual at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress Judging Contest and Reserve National Champion Team with the IHSA Horse Show Team. She continued her competitive career at WTAMU as a member of both the horse judging and livestock judging teams, further broadening her evaluation skills and industry involvement. With over a decade of experience judging and showing in 4-H, open, and breed shows across the Midwest, Brooke is a seasoned presenter at horse judging clinics and educational events. Her academic work also includes creating horse judging education through digital platforms. She is a long-standing member of the American Quarter Horse Association and the Equine Science Society, among other professional organizations.

Brooke is proud to support exhibitors and youth through her role as a judge and is committed to providing a fair, educational, and encouraging environment in the arena.



### **Darrel Vik**

Darrel Vik of Beresford will serve as the judge for Draft Showmanship, Reinsmanship, and Draft Driving at the 2025 State Horse Show. He began his horse career at the age of 5 and is known throughout the state and nationally as a horseman, trainer, and businessman. Some of Darrell's accomplishments include owning and operating a training stable for over 40 years where he trained horses for riding and driving for clients from 9 states and Canada. He has also exhibited a six-horse hitch of Percheron geldings across the upper Midwest at shows and provided entertainment at numerous fairs, parades, and rodeos. In 1976, Darrell travelled to Washington D.C. as the featured horse trainer representing South Dakota for the nation's Bicentennial celebration. Driving a team of horses down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House is an honor of which Darrell is extremely proud. In 2017, Darrell was named the South Dakota Horse Council Horse Person of the Year. Darrell's greatest impact can be seen in the love and knowledge of horses he has passed along to his two children, Danelle and Dillon.



## Vicki Radtek

Vicki Radtke will be the trail judge for the 2025 State Horse Show. Vicki Radtke began her life-long pursuit for anything equine in 4-H in Indianola, Iowa. She moved into AQHA's youth program, and after aging out of youth, she went into training. Vicki won the prestigious two-year-old mare class at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress and fitted the winner of that same class the following year.

In 1980 Vicki decided to either become an amateur or a judge. She is now in her 44th year of judging quarter horses! Vicki also judged APHA horses for 35 years and NRHA for ten years. She continues to judge NRCHA, NSBA, PHBA, and ABRA events. Vicki has judged the Black Hills' Stock Show four times in the past eleven years.

Vicki did not want to be a judge that couldn't ride. She took dressage lessons with an amazing teacher for 18 years. In the middle of that time period (1991), she won the Senior Trail class at the AQHA World on a homebred she trained. She continues to train and show her own horses. Vicki's events are western riding and trail. Her current mount is a mare she raised from her previous show mare.

Equally important to Vicki are kids. She earned a Master's Degree from Drake University in Des Moines and taught secondary English. Substitute teaching allows Vicki to travel to horse shows and still be in the classroom. She has substituted in the Nebraska City Public Schools for twelve years.

"Young people are uplifting and enlightening. They inspire and keep me young. I am fortunate to have kids and horses in my life. I appreciate the knowledge and advice I have gathered over the years, and I am always happy to share with anyone willing to listen."



## Sandy Highland

Sandy is from Irene, SD, she will be serving as a speed event judge for the 2025 State Horse Show. Sandy has a lifelong passion for showing horses. Some of her fondest childhood memories are of attending the State 4-H Horse Show with her mom. With over 30 years of experience as a horse trainer, she specializes in barrel horses. Throughout her career, Sandy has won numerous Futurity competitions, jackpots, and enjoys competing in Pro Rodeos as well.



## Stella Postma

Stella Postma is our 2025 State Horse Show photographer. Flow Photography is based in Bridgewater South Dakota, and photographs anything from Equine, Livestock and people. At Flow, our goal is to preserve all of life's precious memories in a way you can cherish them forever.

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