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## **Penn State University Horse Judging Team Wins Top Five Honors** *Competes at All American Quarter Horse Congress*

**Columbus, Ohio** - The Penn State University Horse Judging Team successfully competed in the national Horse Judging Contest at the All - American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio on October 19<sup>th</sup>, placing in the top five in all divisions. Universities and colleges from across the country were in attendance.

In a very competitive Junior Collegiate team competition, Penn State placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in halter judging, 4<sup>th</sup> in performance judging, 4<sup>th</sup> in oral reasons, and 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

The sophomores representing Penn State in the Junior Collegiate contest were Elizabeth Pope, Danville, PA, animal science, equine science minor; Melissa Wise, Bloomington, IL, animal science, equine science minor; Justene Testa, Latrobe, PA, animal science, equine science minor; Jillian Spector, Woodcliff Lake, NJ, animal science, equine science minor; Lacey Floyd, Benton, PA, animal science, equine science minor; and Laura Killian, Lancaster, PA, marketing, equine science minor.

Students are required to judge 12 classes and then prepare and present oral reasons to designated listeners to justify their placings. Contestants are scored based on the official placing of the class and their performance of oral reasons. Penn State fielded a complete team and one individual in the Junior College division as well as two individuals in the Limited Division. The Horse Judging Team is coached by Brian Egan, Instructor of Equine Science.

Heather Stultz, Hampstead, MD, animal science, equine science minor, and Jodi Letham Clymer, PA, agricultural science, agronomy minor, both competed as individuals in the newly developed (2<sup>nd</sup> year) Limited Division. This division is designed to provide students an opportunity to experience a national judging competition in preparation for future years. Both students represented Penn State well and Heather earned top ten honors in Halter judging.

Egan said, "The contest offers a great opportunity for our students to develop their judging skills and evaluate outstanding horses. All members of the group worked hard and performed well in their first

national level judging competition.”

These students will continue to hone their skills for one more year of eligibility in the Senior College division either during the 2012 or 2013 judging seasons.



Team members from left: Laura Killian, Melissa Wise, Justene Testa, Elizabeth Pope, Jillian Spector, Lacey Floyd, Jodi Letham, and Heather Stultz.