

**You be the Judge of the 2019 ALHFAM Plowing Match Entries**

Read the “How to Judge Plowing” & then score each contestant on a 1-10 scale. Compare your results to those of our judges.

Novices & Apprentices are judged in the first 5 categories.

Experts (those who drive the team while operating the plow) are judged in all categories.

**How to Judge Plowing**

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**Straightness:** How straight are the furrows? Are there hooks or skips in the plowing?

**Depth:** How uniform is the depth? Today plowing should be 5” or 6” deep.

**Width:** The width of the furrow varies with the size of the plow, so look for uniformity of width.

**Coverage:** One of the functions of plowing is to turn under stubble and other organic material lying on the surface. How well did the farmer “turn in” or cover these materials?

**Evenness of Ends:** When the plower comes to the end of the furrow, does he/she take the plow out of the ground at the same point as the previous furrows, or is the end of the plowed land zig-zagged and uneven?

**Draft:** Do the animals in the team pull evenly, or does one do more work than the other? A good team pulls together.

**Penetration:** At the beginning of each furrow, the plow should reach working depth quickly and evenly.

**Steadiness:** The team should walk at an even pace without the driver having to spend much effort holding them back or urging them on. At a steady pace, a good team will plow about an acre a day.

**Control:** How well do the animals respond to the farmer’s voice commands and driving lines?

**Adjustment of Plow:** The plow should be adjusted and hooked so that, basically, it works by itself. The plow needs adjustment if the farmer must constantly lift or push on the handles to maintain proper depth, or lean down on a handle to keep the right width.

**Appearance of Hitch:** Do the animals seem to be sound, well muscled and fit? Is the equipment, including the plow and eveners, well maintained? Is the harness or yoke clean, in good condition, and properly adjusted?

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