

PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee

November 19, 2007

Minutes

(Approved January 23, 2008)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Duane Duncan, Betsy Ullrich, Dave Gallaher, Lori Little, Christine Corl, Bryan Dickenson, Sharon Jodon, Jim Sharp, Andrea Graeff, and Donna Zang. Patty Kelly participated by phone.

The meeting was called to order by Duane Duncan. It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Pat Comerford as acting chairperson for today's meeting.

Pat circulated the committee membership list for review and correction as needed.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2007 meeting as distributed.

Lori Little and Sharon Jodon were appointed as the nominating committee for 2008. Suggestions for potential nominees for an extension educator and volunteer position were reviewed. Lori and Sharon will contact nominees prior to the April 2008 Advisory Committee. There was also discussion on nominees to be appointed to an industry representative position.

The treasurer's report was distributed for review. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the treasurer's report as presented. It was moved, seconded, and passed to pay the transportation allowance to exhibitors for the state show and an \$800 reimbursement to each district. The amount designated for transportation allowance is based on mileage to Harrisburg. The committee that is working on the establishment of an endowment fund will be meeting early in 2008.

The committee discussed the implementation of the 4-H horse program fee and extension associate positions. Implementation of the fee was discussed at the October 31, 2007 extension educator in-service. The position description has been approved by the College of Agricultural Sciences and efforts will be made to fill the positions as quickly as possible. The positions will be posted internally. If not filled by internal candidates, current Penn State employees, the positions will be advertised externally. Locations for housing the individuals have not yet been determined. Pat Comerford will be the immediate supervisor for the selected individuals. The positions and their role in the program are a work in progress and will continue to evolve as we progress through the hiring and implementation process. The screening and selection committee(s) will include representation from the Development Committee as well as volunteer and extension representation from outside the committee.

It was suggested that the committee needs to review the strategic plan to update program goals based on the implementation of the program fee and endowment goals.

The following committee meeting dates were selected for the 2008 program year.

Advisory Committee	April 21 st	10:00 a.m.	
Development Committee	January 23 rd	3:00 p.m.	conference call
Development Committee	March 28 th	10:00 a.m.	
Development Committee	May 19 th	10:00 a.m.	
Development Committee	November 17 th	10:00 a.m.	

State 4-H Achievement Days will be August 5 to 7, 2008 and the State 4-H Horse Show will be October 24 to 26, 2008. Pat is currently looking at the weeks of July 28th or August 11th for the

regional production shows. Consideration is being given to combining the production shows in light of conflicts with fairs and the availability of counties to host.

The committee discussed topics for the show management workshops to be held during the judging school to be held February 15-17, 2008. Suggestions included required forms; the new class scoring system; designing and setting courses; planning ahead for equipment needs for fence classes, trail, and contest classes; jump course design and safety; judges' scribes; arena and facilities; show personnel for the day of the show; and using computerized show programs. Sharon Jodon, Donna Zang, Patty Kelly, Donna Foulk, and Bryan Dickinson were suggested as possible presenters.

The following rule changes for 2008 were discussed. **Note - wording of rules is not final and is subject to review and clarification by the rules committee.**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to establish May 1st as the deadline for the birth of current year foals for show eligibility.

A warm blood/sport horse division will be added in production. The rules committee is working on the designation of appropriate breed registries.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to add three year olds to be shown in hand and five year olds to be shown in under saddle in the production division provided the production entry cards can be changed and reprinted for 2008. Pat will check on entry cards.

The committee discussed the possibility of including an in-hand trail class for miniature horses. Counties and districts will be encouraged to offer the class in 2008 and 2009. The class will be considered for inclusion as a state show class in 2010. Donna will provide a copy of the rules currently used by district 10 to be posted on the 4-H horse website. Dave and Donna will work on the wording for eligibility for the class.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to eliminate the current rule in the contest classes requiring that riders be acknowledged by the judge before beginning the pattern. The rule will be replaced by the following: Prior to the start of each individual performance, the gate must remain closed until officials determine that conditions in the arena are ready for each animal to begin its performance. Horses must be under control when they enter the gate. Running the gate is not permitted. Once the exhibitor enters the arena they must begin their performance within one minute. The gate must be closed as soon as the exhibitor enters the arena and will remain closed throughout the performance.

No action was taken on the rule regarding appropriate tests in hunt seat equitation. The rule will remain unchanged.

All references to mounting and dismounting as a part of the judging criteria will be deleted from the rule book.

Patty and Scott Kelly are working on the rules and scoring for open trail.

Tammy will review revisions to the driving rules.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to add the following statement to the rules for pleasure horse driving, pleasure pony driving, and miniature horse driving: Breeching or thimbles are recommended as a safety precaution with heavier vehicles, especially in uneven terrain.

The rule that refers to the attendant dismounting from the cart will be changed to include “or” with the option of an attendant to enter from outside the arena when the driving horses are lined up.

Kelly Cole, a representative of the draft horse industry, will be asked to clarify the use of decorative martingales in draft horse driving, specifically how they are to be attached.

A rule will be added to the driving division stating that trace lines are not to be wrapped around the cart shafts.

A question was raised regarding an aide (side walker) in addition to the leader in the therapeutic division. Should a second aide be required? It was recommended that the rule remain unchanged.

It was recommended that consideration be given to eliminating county team and pleasure pairs. The quality of the class has declined and it is not as popular at the county and district levels. There also concerns about the safety of these classes. This will be added to the agenda for the Advisory Committee meeting to be considered for the 2010 rule book.

Dave indicated that he would be willing to serve on the rules committee in the future and would be willing to review the 2008 rule book .

The 2009 4-H Horse Forum was discussed. The forum committee has recommended that we hold four forums – one each in the northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast portions of the state. One educator for each of the four geographic areas will need to be identified to help with coordination of the event. Lori Little and Nancy Kadwill have agreed to help with the southeast and Helene McKernan will help in the northeast. Educators for the northwest and southwest still need to be identified.

Pat reported that the Ohio safety publication has been purchased. A few changes will need to be made to make it appropriate for Pennsylvania. We hope to have it available in early 2008. The book will be recommended for all members and will be especially useful for use with new members. The publication will not be available on the website.

Information on the shared horse program has been distributed to the counties and is available on the website.

Betsy is continuing to work on the recreational horse project. The goal is to add it as a new project after it has been piloted in Chester County and one other county.

Lori will contact Vince Verbecke regarding changes to computer show programs as a result of the changes to the production division and the additional driving project animals.

Andrea reported on a meeting that was held with several representatives of the draft horse industry. They are primarily interested in promoting draft horses and youth. It was a positive, productive meeting. The draft horse industry would like to offer classes for 4-H members at KILE. They would also like to compile a list of judges that would be available to judge district shows free of charge – the draft horse association will pay expenses. They will also continue to provide the judge for the state show. They have also offered to help identify clinicians to conduct draft horse clinics. The draft horse association would also like to consider developing and offering a scholarship for youth involved in the draft horse industry and inquired about the possibility of presenting the award at the state horse show.

Counties need to let Andrea know if individuals need to be removed from Level 1/2 examiners list. Do we need additional training for Level 1/2 examiners? Counties will be asked to submit requests and the development committee will discuss dates for training opportunities as instructor schedules permit. The committee discussed the need for more Level 3/4 examiners. A date for training has been set for March 29, 2008 at the PA Farm Show Complex.

It was mentioned that the Farm Show Complex will be doing a capital improvement project this summer. The committee would like to suggest that a dust control substance be added to the new arena footing in the large (old) arena. It was noted that the Farm Show facility was in really good shape when we arrived for the State Show this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Zang, Secretary