

PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee

March 22, 2004

Minutes

(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Lori Little, Tammy Clark Eichstadt, Dave Gallaher, Kathy Brown, Linda Tichnell, Tom Murphy, Brian Egan, Patty Kelly, Duane Duncan, Katie Patrick, Larry Weaver, Donna Zang

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairperson, Kathy Brown

The minutes of the November 21, 2003 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved as distributed.

Duane distributed the treasurer's report. A summary of income and expenses for the 2003 show was presented. It was reported that the state reimbursement for the 2003 show has been received. Transportation allotments for the 2003 show have not been distributed. The cost of printing the new rule books will be included in the summary of 2004 expenses. State Farm Show complex expenses are expected to increase significantly for the 2004 show. Expenses for the 2003 regional production shows exceeded income. It was pointed out that there has been an increase in ground rental fees for these shows. After additional discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed that \$8,000.00 be reimbursed to the districts.

Outgoing committee members Lori Little and Linda Tichnell were appointed as the 2004 nominating committee. One extension educator and one volunteer will be elected at the April 16th Advisory Committee Meeting. It was suggested that program areas to consider for representation include therapeutic, draft horses, saddle seat, and driving. No progress has been made on appointment of an industry representative.

The committee to draft a strategic plan met on March 21, 2004 to begin discussion. The committee reviewed what we are currently doing and what we hope to do in the future. The five top priorities were identified. The strategic plan needs to make the case for the need for additional resources. The committee will prepare a draft by April 16th and will provide a written report to the Development Committee on May 7th. It was pointed out that the impact of staff cuts needs to be addressed at the Advisory Committee meeting. Volunteers do not necessarily realize the impact that these cuts have had on the 4-H horse program.

2004 Rule Book – An issue has been raised concerning the change in pleasure pairs. The rule does not specify whether or not 4-H'ers can participate in both classes. **Exhibitors may show in only one pleasure pair class.** Pat will provide a mailing label layout to counties to put a correction into the rule books. Pat will contact Vince Verbecke to have him put a block in the computer entry program to permit entry into only one pleasure pairs class. When Pat sends the e-mail notice with the correction label she will also include a note that classes have been renumbered.

The new bit guidelines were distributed. Pat has a student working on illustrations. A key point of the guidelines is that it tells individuals what to do if they have questions regarding the bit they are using. Judges have discretion on approval of bits and may use bits allowed by respective breed associations. However, we cannot expect judges to be up-to-date on all breed association rules and thus judges have discretion on which bits to allow. There will be different interpretations. What is approved at one show will not necessarily be approved at the next show.

The headgear Q & A information was distributed. Changes in items 10 and 11 were noted. If there is a question that an exhibitor is wearing inappropriate headgear, it must be immediately investigated. If the question occurs during a class, the class must be stopped. If the headgear is determined to be inappropriate, the exhibitor will be disqualified from that class. They may return in another class provided that appropriate headgear is in place. This change is consistent with industry standards.

State Horse Show items were discussed. The Manager/Assistant Manager position needs to be addressed. The selection committee is Pat Comerford, Brian Egan, Tammy Eichstadt, Donna Zang, Dave Gallaher, and Linda Tichnell. A general list of duties is available to develop into a more formal job description. A draft of the job description needs to be completed by April 1. The draft will be circulated to the committee via e-mail for approval prior to the Advisory Committee meeting. The individual selected needs to be familiar with the 4-H program and must have industry experience in management of large shows. Good communication skills are essential. The position was mentioned at the Judge's School and will be announced at the Advisory Committee meeting. It was suggested that the committee consider appointing an interim manager for 2004 with a plan to hire a manager for 2005.

Computer support is working on data for preparation of the 2005 quota. The quota will be based on 2004 participation in the individual classes. Data should be available for discussion at the May 7th Development Committee meeting.

It was noted that any recommendations for changes in the computer entry programs should be sent directly to Vince Verbecke with a cc: to Pat and Connie Garman.

Facility issues for the 2004 State Show were discussed by Larry Weaver. Farm Show has purchased a tan bark "horse carpet" for the spine area in place of tar paper. Farm Show staff will put in and remove for a cost of \$500.00. The bark will be installed in one-half the width of the spine. The cost for camper hook-ups will increase. Larry will e-mail fee increases to Pat as soon as they become available so that we can make participants aware of the increases. Lighting in the outdoor exercise area is a concern. Larry will make arrangements for lighting in that area for 2004. Need to be sure to request that steps to the announcer's area in the new arena are requested. Will also need to look into renting a portable room divider for behind the announcer to keep the walk way open. A question concerning the location of the camper area and the ability to block off the area to prevent people from bringing campers in prior to our starting time was raised. Statement regarding campers will need to be changed to first-come-first-served. A concern was also raised regarding our contract with the Farm Show and early committee arrival. It was suggested that our contract be changed to start at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday to address insurance concerns.

A proposed 2004 State Show schedule was distributed for discussion. Several changes were suggested with the understanding that unforeseen circumstances may have an impact on the actual operation of the show. The show committee will work with exhibitors in individual work classes to adjust working orders as need to permit them to show in classes that may conflict in the schedule.

Judges hired for the 2004 State Show are as follows – Hunt Seat - Sandra Vine, Virginia; Saddle Seat - Steven Allred, North Carolina; and Western - Fain Yearti, Florida. A production show judge has not been hired yet. Kathy is still working on this.

Pat reported that according to Bill Ritzman, ADA coordinator (2/17/04) the show committee is not responsible for providing a mounting block and/or ramp for the therapeutic classes. This would be considered personal equipment, and is access to the individual horse. It is not the same as providing access to a building or facility.

Exhibitors in therapeutic obstacle trail will show individually and will exit from the in-gate. Arrangements will be made to have two gates in place at the entrance to the new arena (parking lot side) to facilitate this. Committee members that are manning the in-gate will need to keep spectators away from this area to allow exhibitors to move in and out of the arena safely.

Production show dates have not yet been finalized. The Southwest show will be held in either Armstrong or Fayette County on Tuesday. Huntington County will host on Thursday. Finding locations has been difficult. In the future we may want to consider having three shows instead of five. The entry process is a concern. Exhibitors are not completing the entry cards correctly and this creates confusion at the show. Alternatives need to be considered.

Advisory Committee recommendations were distributed for Development Committee review.

Patty provided an update on the Horsemanship Skills program. She reported positive feedback from a clinic that she had just conducted for Columbia County. Patty mentioned the demonstration on Level 1 skills that Westmoreland County 4-H'er Shawnee Acosta has presented at the national level on several occasions. A video of the demonstration has been done and will be edited. It was suggested that an estimate of the cost to provide one copy of the video on CD to each county be acquired. The committee will consider distributing the video on CD to all counties.

Dates have not yet been finalized for all of the Horsemanship Clinics to be held across the state. Mercer County will hold a general information clinic on April 18th. An examiner training clinic planned for April 25th in Westmoreland County will most likely be rescheduled. Pat will send out a list of clinic dates as soon as arrangements are finalized.

The need for driving, handling/production and therapeutic skills will be included as part of the strategic plan. Patty will work with a committee to continue development of driving skills. It was suggested that a date be set for a Level 3-4 testing this coming summer as soon as possible. It was moved, seconded, and passed to provide up to \$2,500.00 for Horsemanship Skills expenses.

It was noted that quality assurance/ethics training for horse project members is required every 3 years.

Linda reported on development of guidelines for a shared horse project. She shared a proposed list of requirements. Lori indicated that Lancaster County is doing a similar project but does not have written guidelines. 4-H'ers are able to show "walk-trot" in designated classes at their roundup. What are the liability concerns for this type of project? Pat discussed this situation with Christy Bartley in the past and they have not identified any major concerns. However, it must be *emphasized* that the agreement to share a horse is *entirely* between the horse owner and non-horse owner and their parents/guardian. 4-H is *not* involved in any aspect of that agreement. Lori will contact leaders in her county and will help Linda draft some additional state guidelines with suggested designated classes for participants. The "shared horse" classes are *not* state show qualifying classes, but may be held on a county basis if desired.

The 2005 AYHC conference will be held at Penn State on February 18 to 20, 2005. This will take the place of the PA 4-H Horse Forum in 2005 and is a good opportunity for Pennsylvania leaders and 4-H teens to participate in a national level conference. The planning committee will consider ways to involve PA teens in the symposium.

It was reported that the Judges' School was a success with over 160 people from 5 states participating and very positive evaluations. There was a good turnout of judging teams and coaches. The next Judges' School will be held in 2006.

Pat distributed a calendar of events and a list of program deadlines. There have been no changes since the previous distribution. Pat will update the schedule to include clinics and production shows as soon as possible.

Brian shared copies of the flyers and catalogs for the Penn State Quarter Horse Sale to be held on April 24, 2004.

The Development Committee will meet again on May 7, 2004 and November 19, 2004. The Advisory Committee will meet on April 16, 2004.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna S. Zang
Secretary