

PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee
May 7, 2004
Minutes

(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Jim Sharp, Katie Patrick, Lori Little, Dave Gallaher, Linda Tichnell, Tom Murphy, Brian Egan, Duane Duncan, Christine Corl, Jackie Simon, Patty Kelly, and Donna Zang.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Patty Kelly

Patty welcomed newly elected committee members Jackie Simon and Kirsten Dubbs (not present) and thanked outgoing committee members Linda Tichnell and Lori Little.

Information on the PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee and PA 4-H Horse Program Advisory Committee members was circulated.

Minutes were reviewed for the March 22, 2004 meeting. Minutes approved as presented.

Election of officers: It was moved and seconded to nominate Patty Kelly as chairperson. Nominations were closed. Motion passed. It was moved and seconded to nominate Tammy Eichstadt as vice-chairperson. Nominations were closed. Motion passed. It was moved and seconded to reappoint Donna Zang as secretary and Duane Duncan as treasurer. Motion passed. There was discussion on the stipend for Duane Duncan. It was moved, seconded, and passed to provide a stipend of \$1,750 for the treasurer.

The treasurer's report was distributed. There was an update on the state reimbursement along with an update on expenses, including ambulance service for the 2003 show, rent, security, transportation checks, and printing of rulebooks. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

The Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup is a national level contest held in Louisville. In past years, PA 4-H members have qualified to participate in horse judging, horse bowl, hippology, demonstration contest, and public speaking. It was moved, seconded, and passed to donate a \$500 sponsorship in support of the 2004 contest.

In the past, the development committee has supported both the PA 4-H Horse Forum and the AYHC Symposium. It was suggested that we sponsor the 2005 AYHC Symposium at a level equal to previous AYHC and PA 4-H Horse Forum combined contributions. It was moved, seconded, and passed to provide up to \$900 to cover registration and travel expenses for development committee members to participate in the 2005 AYHC Symposium. Development committee members should let Pat know by the November meeting if they will need financial support to attend the 2005 AYHC Symposium. It was moved, seconded, and passed to contribute \$2,250 to the support of the 2005 AYHC Symposium.

Kathy Houser and Connie Garman will continue as part-time state 4-H horse program support personnel.

Pat has had difficulty scheduling regional production shows for 2004. It is expected that expenses for regional production shows will continue to increase as charges for facility rental, etc. increase. Generally, there are between 650 and 800 regional production entries annually. It was suggested that the number of production shows may need to be decreased in future years. It was moved, seconded, and passed to increase the regional production entry fee to \$10.00 per class for 2004.

A draft of the strategic plan for the state 4-H horse program was distributed to the committee for review and comment. Suggestions are requested by June 1, 2004. The strategic plan will include goals for programs to be developed as resources permit. There is also a goal to establish a 4-H horse program endowment fund to help provide funding for the 4-H horse program.

Patty Kelly will serve as interim state show manager for 2004. A draft of the job description for the show manager position was distributed. Dave Gallaher, Donna Zang, Tammy Eichstadt, Linda Tichnell, Pat Comerford, and Brian Egan will serve as the committee to review and finalize the job description. It was suggested that the job description be available for distribution immediately after the 2004 state show.

There was a discussion on possible increases in state show fees. Service fees for the Farm Show facility will not increase for 2004. There will be no increase in exhibitor fees for this year.

Commercial exhibitor fees were also discussed. Currently commercial exhibitors are charged \$250 for a 10x10 space and \$310 for a 10x20 space. There will be no increase in commercial vendor fees for 2004.

Patty and Pat will work on committee lists for the state show. Development committee members not planning to help with the state show need to let Patty know immediately.

The draft of the district quota for the state show presented to the committee was calculated using the same method as in previous years. The numbers presented to the committee also provided a breakdown of numbers for hunter under saddle ponies by height and a breakdown for open trail horses by junior and senior riders. It was pointed out that entry numbers are down from previous years. This could be a result of counties reporting more accurately. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the presented draft as the quota for 2004.

Pat is meeting with Vince Verbecke to review the computer program for horse show entries. Counties will be reminded that class numbers have changed.

The state show schedule was distributed. Corrections to class numbers were noted.

There was a discussion of general show operations. The Farm Show commission will be meeting to review the fee schedule for future operations. There are approximately 550 Farm Show stalls available. Patty and Pat will meet with the Farm Show to go over the facility layout for the state show. There is a continued concern with the food service and the hours of operation during the state show. It was noted that Farm Show is rebidding the food service contract and changes are anticipated. Can we publicize hours of operation in advance? Outside lighting for

the schooling area is a concern and will be addressed with the Farm Show. Portable generators may be an option but the noise may be a concern. Posting signs in the Farm Show complex is difficult. Easels are available as needed from Farm Show. There are no anticipated changes in the format for the educational exhibits or the dance. It was suggested that the model horse show be moved to the VIP room.

Additional pictures have been added to the bit guidelines. The rules committee will review prior to distribution to the counties.

Testing for Level 3/4 Horsemanship Skills will be scheduled as needed. Additional clinics to demonstrate skills and/or train examiners will be scheduled as requested.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to distribute one copy of the video (2 CD's) of Shawnee Acosta's Horsemanship Skills demonstration to counties after a review of the video. Tom Murphy, Donna Zang, Pat Comerford, and Brian Egan will review the video.

A committee will be appointed to look into the development of driving skills for the Horsemanship Skills program. Betsy Ulrich and Lore Homer were suggested as resource people for this effort. Westmoreland County will work with Fayette County to develop skills for therapeutic riders. Westmoreland County is currently using Level 1 skills and adapting them to individual needs. Counties will be encouraged to list members that have completed Level 1 handling skills with production projects for recognition in the State 4-H Horse Show catalog.

Pat distributed a set of draft guidelines for shared horse activities. She will check to make sure that there are no liability restrictions. Will consider including examples of classes that can be held during county roundups. Participation in shared horse activities will be the decision of the county and district.

The AYHC National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium planning committee is looking into the possibility of a pre-symposium clinic to be held at the Ag Arena instead of tour. The committee hopes to finalize the list of speakers/seminars to publicize at the state show.

Action on Items From
PA 4-H Horse Program Advisory Committee meeting held April 16, 2004

Rule changes approved by the PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee will become effective in 2005.

General Horse Program Concerns

1. Consider eliminating Rulebook Supplement and only make rule changes every two years, except in the case of a safety issue or other extenuating circumstance.

It was moved and seconded to eliminate rule book supplements except in the case of a safety issue or other extenuating circumstance effective with the 2006 rule book. Motion passed, with two opposed.

2. Consider suspending the State Competitive Trail Ride and suggest development of regional rides to further develop interest in the project.

It was pointed out that it would be difficult to conduct regional rides because of the time and volunteer commitment needed for the number of participants. Since the Advisory Committee meeting it was noted that there have been offers of additional financial support and volunteer help. It was moved, seconded, and passed to continue to hold the State Competitive Trail Ride.

3. Continue working on development of riding recognition (saddle log) program.

Donna Zang will work on development of a riding recognition program.

Production Rules

1. Consider rewording the proposed production rule to read; 4-H members must be at least 12 years of age or have passed level 1 *handling skills* (Horsemanship Skills Program) with their production animal(s) to show at the county, regional, or state 4-H production shows.

The committee recognizes the merit of the proposal but there are two primary concerns. First, the Horsemanship Skills program is not a required part of the horse project. Second, the proposed change would put pressure on counties to rush to implement the program, increasing the need for examiner trainings and testing. Too many counties are not ready to implement the Horsemanship Skills program and we are concerned that this proposal would compromise the effectiveness of the program. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the production rule will continue to read that 4-H members must be at least 12 years of age to show at the county, regional, or state 4-H production shows.

2. Add a donkey class (“long ear” division) to the production shows. (XI)

See item number 3

3. Review and consider additions/deletions to the breeds and breed types included in production shows.

Jackie Simon and Kirsten Dubbs will be appointed to look at numbers in each breed from the regional shows and will be asked to report at the November Development Committee meeting for further discussion.

Open Division

1. Class 6, Page 24. Open Trail Horse – we would like to see this class split by age of rider (Jr./Sr.) as the ability to maneuver this course is judged on the ability of the rider. By splitting this class, all juniors will be riding against juniors and seniors will be riding against seniors. (I)

It was moved, seconded, and passed that Open Trail Horse will not be split by age of rider.

2. Add a Miniature Horse Trail class (in hand). It’s an opportunity for youth who don’t ride but want to exhibit. They can do it with very few modifications to the trail class already set up. We had eleven entries for this class at our district level last year. (VII)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to not add a Miniature Horse Trail class.

Western Division

1. Reinstate Reining as a state show class. (IV, VI, VIII) Motion defeated 4 to 6, *however, it was suggested that we consider having a short demonstration of a good reiner at the state show. It was also suggested that we look at novice patterns for use at county and district levels.*

It was moved, seconded, and passed to have a demonstration at the state 4-H horse show IF an appropriate individual is available and the show schedule will permit. Jackie Simon will look into this. It was moved, seconded, and passed to provide at least one pattern for novice riders. Dave Gallaher will look into finding patterns that are more in line with our members' skills.

Contest Classes

1. Use a whistle for gaming classes. (VIII)

No action taken.

Driving Division

1. Change miniature horse measurement to be the last hair of the mane, which is according to the National Miniature Horse Association rules. (IX)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to change the height limit to 40 inches and under and continue to measure according to our current pony measurement standards.

2. Consider changing class name of miniature horse driving to VSE (very small equine) driving.

Referred to rules committee for wording of suggested name change.

3. Change draft horse driving rules so that passing is not allowed. This would correspond with ADHA rules and addresses the safety concern. (VII)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to research the industry standard and appropriately incorporate into our rules for safety considerations. Christine Korl, Brian Egan, and Pat Comerford will check into this and report back to the Development Committee.

4. Page 52, B – 2, Change tack and equipment for Draft Horse Driving to be consistent with industry standards and make overchecks mandatory, not optional. (VII)

It was moved, seconded, and passed to change the rule to read “check rein required” provided this is consistent with the industry standard. Wording will be researched.

Therapeutic Riding Division

1. Hire an ASPIRE trained judge for the therapeutic classes. There is information available thru NARHA. (IX)

The Development Committee will consider this.

General State Show Concerns

(Number items in bold may require committee attention)

The following items are management decisions and will be taken into consideration by the State 4-H Horse Show manager and committee.

1. Show was generally smooth in 2003 and well organized. (V)
2. The state show was very good, the two rings made it much nicer. (IX)
3. Need to eliminate dead time on Saturday afternoon. (V)
4. Rearrange the schedule (now that you have the extra ring) so there is less down time. We had members come up to see the show and because everything was running so efficiently, there were no classes to watch. (I)
5. Rearrange class schedule. Lori Little has a proposed class schedule for 2004. (VI)
6. Arrange the schedule so that the crowd is not moving, from one ring to another, at the same time as the horses. (I)
7. Move County Team to an earlier day at the state show. It involves a lot of kids that have to stay longer. They wouldn't have to be there as many days. (III)
8. Try to make better use of scheduling, such as not putting two pony classes back to back (Pony Trail following Pony Driving), as some individuals were worried/hurried through tack changes. (IX)
9. Move Grooming and Showmanship before therapeutic classes. (X) *In previous years, the show committee was asked to provide a specific starting time for these classes. The only way to accommodate this request is to start the show day with the therapeutic classes.*
10. Should not have hunter performance classes last on Friday and hunt type production classes first on Saturday morning. (X)
11. Police kids riding in sneakers. (V)
12. More lighting in parking lot and plug outlets for campers if possible. (V) *Have addressed need for more lighting in outdoor exercise area with the Farm Show.*
13. Enforce the parking and loading zone areas. Don't allow ANY campers into the lot before noon. (IX) *Can only encourage people to not arrive before 11:00 a.m. The only way this can be enforced is to rent the facility for a longer period of time and hire additional security. Show committee can not afford this.*
14. Have two judges judge the driving classes. (VI)
15. During class warm ups, judges should not be allowed to watch the ring. (IX) *Primarily an issue with futurity classes and their warm-up period.*
16. Announcer did a good job in the old arena asking the applause to be held (i.e. grooming and showmanship class, etc.) but the announcer in the new arena didn't do as well and some horses were spooked, etc. (VII)
17. Recommend that people be asked to turn cell phones off in inappropriate places (show arenas, etc.). (VII)
18. Keep on foot and on horseback spectators away from the entrance and exit gates during individually run classes, especially the contest classes. This area was very crowded and could be an accident waiting to happen. (IX) *Have attempted to address this issue with Farm Show. Will try to keep the situation as safe as possible.*

19. Fix the out gate in the new arena so it will stay still, they thought it just needed a rod put down through it or something. It moves when people push on it and at one point almost ran into the back end of some horses in the ring. (VII)
20. Needs to be a way for the public to go from one side to the other in the new arena, suggested putting curtains up around the announcer so public does not have to go down steps then back up again through the “maze” to get up to the other side. (VII) *This concern has been addressed for 2004.*
21. Change the holding area for the new arena so it is not in the stall area or the wash rack area for safety reasons. (VII) *This is a problem with the design of the facility. Will consider removing some of the stalls in the equine barn and putting them in the new exhibit building.*
22. Rotate the classes (so same judge commitment can be maintained) to different days for different classes from year to year. i.e., flip-flop Friday schedule with Sunday or Saturday and Sunday. This allows people who always ride in one type of class to have a chance to attend on a different day, might make it nicer for some to not always be hauling home late on Sunday, parents to get off work to watch their kids, etc. (VII, VIII) *This suggestion would require rewriting the entire schedule in consideration of the amount of time it takes to run the individual classes.*
23. Driving practice time and area is needed. (VII) *This may not be physically possible and we cannot afford to set up an additional practice area. Concern will be referred to the person in charge of the exercise area and will attempt to provide more time for driving.*
24. Therapeutic Rules should be discussed with the judge hired for the job. There are judges who have not been involved with Therapeutic riders and do not have a full understanding (VIII). *This is the responsibility of the show committee at all levels.*
25. The Show Committee should be commended on a running a good show last year since it was the first time using the new facility.

Additional State Show comments:

Visible badges or other form of identification are needed for all barn stewards and volunteers helping to manage the outside exercise areas.

Lawrence County volunteered to help with the contest classes at the state show.

Meeting dates – Nov 19th/10:00 a.m. Ag Arena

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Zang