

**PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee**  
**May 23, 2005**  
**Minutes**

(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Dave Gallaher, Tom Murphy, Brian Egan, Christine Corl, Jackie Simon, Kirsten Dubbs, Patty Kelly, Jim Sharp, Katie Patrick, and Donna Zang.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Patty Kelly

Patty welcomed newly elected committee members Lori Little, Lori Benner, and Sharon Jodon (not present) and thanked outgoing committee members Dave Gallaher and Tom Murphy.

Moved, seconded, and passed to approve minutes from the March 18, 2005 meeting.

Introduction of committee members. Discussion on open appointed position. Pat has contacted Stephanie Lawson Has not had a response, but will follow up with her again. Will continue to look for an industry representative.

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. It was moved, seconded, and passed to increase the stipend for the treasurer to \$2,500.

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed for review. Still waiting on bill for 2004 ambulance. District reimbursements of \$8,000.00 will be distributed in early June. Jim Sharp, Lori Little, and Ben Nolt audited account and financial records. Jim reported on audit – Duane and Donna are doing an outstanding job with committee's finances and are maintaining accurate, complete financial records. Audit report filed and accepted.

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 2005 contest.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to contribute \$500 to the support of the 2006 AYHC Symposium.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to support travel expenses for committee members doing training for the Horsemanship Skills program.

Discussion on show fees. Some expenses will increase – judges, drapes, etc. Can we increase commercial vendor fees? Show management will look at increases in fees. Also looking at opportunities to increase ad revenue in catalog. Patty is looking at portfolios from different photographers. Considering one that is a former PA 4-H member. Would bring two photographers. Have not yet gotten payment from Childress as agreed for 2004 show.

Kathy Houser and Connie Garman will continue as part-time state 4-H horse program support personnel and show secretaries. It was moved, seconded, and passed to increase fee for both by \$500. \$4,000 for Kathy and \$3,000 for Connie.

Acknowledgement of risk, liability, and insurance issues – Discussion on proposed acknowledgement of risk form and related insurance issues. Attempt to educate public participants of risk. Equine attorneys – properly written form will help. Concern that proposed limitations on open horse shows will have negative impact on program. No open shows. Growth and/or impact on program. Need to address with Christy and university officials. Generally, we agree that general acknowledgement of risk form is acceptable and good direction to go. Oppose open show stipulations. Pat referred to Ohio State info in respect to safety. Consider reviewing OSU materials to purchase and add to curriculum. Pat asked for committee members to work with her. Tom, Donna, Patty, Kirsten, Brian, and Pat will address this issue.

Shared horse, recreational activities – discussion on draft guidelines, good place to start. May expand as needed. Introduces youth to opportunities to experience activities with horse. Add to objectives – entry level activity to introduce youth to horses. Kirsten will revise objectives as needed. Some counties already have a similar program in place. Pat will have YPCC review for approval. If approved, will be distributed to counties in the fall for optional implementation in 2006.

Outstanding Service Award –Do something in memory of Joe Stanco in state show catalog and have a family member participate in awards ceremony w/some memento. Recognize outstanding leaders at 2007 forum. Include those that are not necessarily as active at state level. Additional consideration of others for recognition at state show. Moved, seconded, passed to recognize three others at the state show.

Volunteer Leader Award – keep separate from state Outstanding Service Award. Need to do more volunteer recognition for those active at county, regional or district level. Should we provide “mechanism” for districts to select individuals to be recognized at state forum. Should districts determine own selection procedure. Consider “borrowing” AYHC application format as guideline. Getting nominations for people to be recognized at state show that perhaps are better recognized at county/district level. Consensus to recognize 10 volunteers at 2007 4H Horse Forum. Each district may submit one name.

Strategic Plan/Fund Development – Pat and Patty welcomed Michael Martin, Associate Director for Development and Dr. Terry Etherton, Head, Department of Dairy and Animal Science to the meeting. Michael is currently doing fund development for 4-H programs state-wide. Has had success developing program support endowments – “supplemental support for...” Funding decisions made by committee creating fund. Decisions made locally. Smaller endowments are a share of university endowments. Higher return than most investments. Minimum of \$25,000 to fully fund a support endowment. Plan on 5% of income return on principal. Returns above 5% are returned to principal and go to fund management (less than 1%) Working on case statements by curriculum committee. Donors can specify what funding supports. Development committee would determine how income is spent. Can also do annual funding campaigns or other types of

funding efforts. Next steps – global case statement, bulleted list of costs for specific activities, create a set of draft guidelines for an endowment to be brought back to committee in November, develop list of potential donors. Committee members can help to develop list of potential donors, case statement. Need resources to continue what we are already doing and to advance programs. Endowments can be set-up to support human resources – need 1 to 1.5 million dollars to fund a full-time position. Would like to have a larger endowment of 5 million! What happened to money that was donated in memory of Jim Gallagher?

Terry's comments – evident that program is looking towards growth and volunteer involvement. Need resources. Horse program at university level is growing – resources limited as well. Cannot remain passive regarding funding. Department willing to help. Positive comments. Look to North Carolina as goal. Development is sequential process. Terry's program goal – pursue high excellence – high quality program that touches as many individuals that want to participate. DC best positioned to define path – can be helpful with “bumps”. Dean Steele is supportive of horse program. Aside from embryology – horse program is largest animal science program. Important, move ahead with plan.

Discussion – need to decide what our vision is – big picture – gather money to make it happen – strategic planning committee needs to develop a case statement – then have entire committee review – Tom, Pat, Donna, Patty, Brian, and Kirsten will meet –ask Lori Little to send comments and suggestions prior to meeting.

Horsemanship Skills Program – Regional testing for production shows – Clinton County only one set at this point. Somerset County is almost certain. Need to be sure that counties sponsoring have information sheets for coordinators. All four counties that are planning production clinics have also expressed interest in doing testing. Suggested that driving skill testing be done similar to Level ¾. Look towards 2006 to train examiners or driving skills. Therapeutic Level 1 with accommodations. April 23<sup>rd</sup> – trained approximately 40 new examiners/15 counties. Breakout session with previously trained examiners was very helpful - Suggested that examiners be retrained every 3 to 5 years to stay current.

State Show – judges all hired – quota is done – updates to program have been sent to Vince – Nancy McConnell – Saddle Seat; Kim Meadors – Hunt Seat; Bruce Brown – Western; committee invitation letters will be mailed in June; show schedule revisions are complete moved, seconded, passed to accept schedule as presented. Patty to meet with Jan Martin on revisions to good housekeeping rules – Deb Deitrich will coordinate educational exhibits – model horse/new locations/more signs – Jackie Simon will coordinate dance - Lori Little will come early to help Donna with stalls.

Action on show rule changes follow:

**Action Items From  
PA 4-H Horse Program Advisory Committee held on April 22, 2005 \***

- \* Development and/or Advisory Committees discussion noted in italics. **Development Committee discussion noted in red.**

**Please note:**

- \* Wording of proposed rules IS NOT FINAL. Proposals may be added, changed, accepted, or rejected after review by Development Committee and rules subcommittee.
- \* **Rule changes approved by the PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee will become effective in 2006. Rule changes will be confirmed at November 21 meeting or as soon as possible.**

**General Horse Program Concerns**

1. Recommend that a share a horse program be encouraged. There are many non-horse members that could benefit from this program. *Moved, seconded, and passed that this continue to be explored and developed. **Kirsten will update objectives; Pat will distribute to YPCC and counties in fall or early winter.***
2. Skill levels should be adapted to driving, where the 4-H member can harness, drive and pass skill levels. *This is an ongoing development process. There is concern that there may not be enough individuals qualified to be driving examiners. District X has suggested that driving examiners be trained like Level 3-4 examiners are currently trained and that exams be offered regionally and at the state level. **We will continue to work towards this for future.***
3. Should have a way to check quality of height measuring. Some ponies appear to be over 14.2 hands. *Pony height is not protestable at the state level. This issue needs to be addressed at the county level. There is concern that this may not be done consistently and that some counties may permit animals to go to the regional and state levels that have been measured incorrectly. It was suggested that spot checks be conducted at the state show to determine if there is actually a problem. It was moved, seconded, and passed (6 to 4) to do spot checking after the class is completed at the state show. **Are we opening a can of worms? May cause problems with parents, other exhibitors. If we measure, find a problem and don't do anything about it then we lose credibility as a committee. If we do at state show we need to do as a random draw. Quality control spot check. Should spot checking be done at county roundups? Should not be done at districts – stressful enough. Is this really a significant problem and/or program priority? Problems seem to be limited/sporadic. Moved, seconded, passed to table discussion until November.***
4. Consider adoption of using scores or a Danish system in Reining and Western Riding to determine who moves on to district and state show (where applicable). *These are classes that are commonly scored at stock horse shows. Many stock horse judges are trained to do this. Would be a good starting point. This is the place where it is most needed. Quality of lead changes in Western Riding is declining. It was moved, seconded, and passed to refer this to the Development Committee for further consideration. **Do we want to head in this direction? We have a system but we don't set a standard. Ohio, as an example, does have a***

*standard. We need to set a standard for judges as a starting point. If we start with reining and western riding, we can move towards performance to a standard beginning in 2008. Emphasize at 2006 judge's school. Could add scoring to rule book for 2006. Include scoring for western riding, reining, showmanship, and stock seat equitation. What about hunt seat? Hunt seat riders in hunter world do not do a pattern –AQHA has a pattern in hunt seat equitation. Moved, seconded that we add scoring for reining, western riding, and possibly other classes to 2006 rule book with understanding that in 2008 exhibitors will need to meet a minimum score/standard to advance to the next level in some classes. Passed.*

5. Consider use of a Danish system in addition to standard placing. 4-H members must receive a blue ribbon to advance to the next show regardless of what placing they receive. *Similar system is done in other states. Class participants are scored according to a standard. All participants that meet a minimum standard move on to next level. Consistency from show to show may be a concern. This needs to be discussed at the district level and is something that will need to be developed over time. It was moved, seconded, and passed to have the Development Committee continue to look into the feasibility of items 5 & 6.*
6. Consider revision of current calendar of 4-H horse events to change dates of county, district and state shows to earlier in the year. This would allow more time for program planning, curriculum development, and planning for events in subsequent calendar years. Also consider various options for qualification for state show. *Program year drags on. It is suggested that the show season be shortened to allow time for program planning and curriculum development. Goal is to improve overall program. Good idea considering changes in education system. Becoming more difficult for kids to get excused from school to participate. Current dates also conflict with major breed and industry shows. May be a way to keep some of the more advanced riders involved in the program as examples for other members. Concern that pushing shows too early in season may limit time for members to work with project animals. Need input from counties and districts. It was moved, seconded, and passed to continue to consider various options and get additional input from program participants. Discussion tabled till November.*

### **General Rules**

1. Check with PIAA and adopt similar rules concerning suspension of an event when thunder is heard or lightning is seen at 4-H horse shows. *The Development Committee will follow up on this and explore the use of hand held devices for detecting lightning and imminent danger. \$100 to \$150 per unit approximate cost. Christine will send info to Pat, Brian, and Patty. Committee is still trying to determine what policies of other sports organizations are and will make recommendations. Show committees should determine what policy will be prior to show.*

### **Production Rules**

1. Add a long ears class to production show. *Growing area of interest. Moved, seconded, and passed to refer to DC. Tabled till November 2005 meeting. Jackie and Kirsten are reviewing current list of production classes and will make suggestions for deletions and additions of new classes.*
2. Add an in hand trail class for production horses. *Moved, seconded to add in hand trail to the regional production classes using Ohio rules as a guideline. Motion defeated.*

3. Split all of the futurity classes into Horse and Pony classes. *Moved, seconded, and defeated (4 to 6). Consider running splits of classes as appropriate to address safety concerns. Will be handled by show management.*

### **Open Division**

1. Class 6, Page 24. Open Trail Horse – 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) *Moved ,seconded, passed*
2. Add a Miniature Horse Trail class. *Moved, seconded, defeated – need to define who would be eligible to participate*

### **Western Division**

1. Add a Novice Reining class. *Moved, seconded, to include a novice reining class at county and district level for 2 years. Rules committee will review and finalize rules for distribution and implementation. Passed*

### **English Division (Hunt Seat)**

1. Page 45, Classes 37 and 38, Hunter Hack, Allow the use of boots in inclement weather. Reference AQHA rule 444 2e page 141 of the 2005 AQHA rulebook. *Moved, seconded, and passed.*
2. Clarify the courtesy circle issue, refusal or disqualification? *Referred to DC and rules committee for clarification. Rules committee – consistent with AHSA*
3. Split Hunter Under Saddle Ponies into classes for small ponies (13.0 hands and under) and large ponies (over 13.0 hands and not over 14.2 hands). DC *Moved, seconded, and passed. Moved, seconded, passed*

### **Driving Division**

1. Address clothing requirements for attendants in the Mini Driving class. As it is now only the driver's apparel is addressed. *Referred to DC. Referred to rules committee.*
2. Allow senior mini drivers to drive alone after passing skills levels test (assuming they are adapted for driving). *No, must consider safety. Until we have specific skills for driving we will not consider.*

### **Therapeutic Riding Division**

1. Page 53, Clothing and Equipment, add e, spurs are prohibited. *Referred to rules committee*
2. Page 53, General rules, add to J, or PA Council on Therapeutic Horsemanship (PACTH) at 877-871-4734 or pacth@internet.net *Moved, seconded, and passed. Will add*
3. Page 53, "d" last sentence add: or halter/bridle combination or bridle with leading y. (VI) *Moved, seconded, and passed to add bridle with a leading y. Referred to rules committee. Need more clarification.*
4. Page 55, #6 remove pass between two bales of hay. This may be dangerous. *Safety concern. Will check NAHRA rules and refer to rules committee*
5. Page 55, Equitation on the flat – Walk – Trot: add at the trot, sitting or posting. *Moved, seconded, and passed.*

### **General State Show Concerns** (action items only included)

1. Several draft breed associations have volunteered to obtain a judge for the draft horse driving. We should be using a draft horse person to judge this class. *Looking into this for 2005.*
2. Hire a completely separate driving qualified judge for all driving classes and make sure the rules are adhered to by all judges. *Has been discussed. May not be possible to hire separate judge.*
3. Rotate class schedule so that Western Classes are not always the last classes every year. *Are working on schedule changes; may or may not change western classes.*
4. Have all Production classes judged on Friday and Saturday only, with no Production classes on Sunday. *Has been done*
5. Run the two Maximum Assistance Therapeutic classes back to back and at a set time (Example 8:00 am) due to the extreme difficulty of keeping the riders attention during the down time waiting for the Minimum Assistance class to finish, and also medication timing issues, etc. *Has already been addressed in revised show schedule.*
6. All horses should remain in the ring for the entire showmanship class if they are all called in together. It is not fair to have some contestants excused from the ring before others. *Problem acknowledged and will be addressed.*
7. When a class is to be split, both sections should be worked and then the call back numbers announced instead of taking a fixed number of entries from each section. *Show manager suggests this but does not mandate to judge. This is the judge's decision.*
8. During practice times, pleasure riders should be separated from that need to practice over jumps because of safety concerns. *Concern with outside area - need more lights in outside area –will try to have additional supervision*
9. Need a warm-up time/area for driving classes; the parking lot is not safe or sufficient in size or footing. Could the other arena be used since no other classes are being held? *Have addressed and will continue to work on this.*
10. In and out gates should be closed during practice sessions for production. *In-hand practice times? Limit numbers in arena during in-hand practice times?*
11. Not enough area for lunging and limit time for lunging to 10-15 minutes so everyone has an opportunity. *Will attempt to add an additional lunging area*
12. Entrances to the ring were crowded.
13. Concern: Stalls in some barns were excessively dirty and dangerous (some fell down when a horse leaned on them), others contained needles, latches were broken, metal was rusty, and aisles very narrow. *Will be addressed with stall vendor.*
14. All barns had extra room and open areas, which was greatly appreciated for carts, wheelbarrows, etc, but some aisles between stalls were extremely narrow, while others were generously wide and the same was noted for end aisles where traffic flows through. Since there seems to be extra space in each barn, even allowing room for carts, equipment, etc., we request the personnel setting up the stalls leave a minimum width for all aisles between stalls, and a larger minimum width between stall ends for traffic flow. *Will be addressed with stall vendor.*
15. Sweep the trail bridge and/or apply non-skid texture.
16. Banners should only be removed between classes – spooked horses.
17. We would like some effort made to cut down on cell phone and pager usage during classes.

18. Friday announcements were confusing and not heard; however, improvements were made by Saturday (ex. Jumping starts at 4:30 not 6:00). *Try to improve radio, phone communication if needed.*
19. Kids didn't know that they could walk the jumping pattern. *Add to show catalog.*
20. Acoustics or announcer at the rings was poor.
21. Communication between rings is limited.
22. Need more trash pickup, garbage cans in parking lot/camper area.
23. Food vendors closed early, poor selection.
24. Find a more central location to hold the state horse show.

Judge's School – February 17-19, 2006

Youth Advisory Committee – tabled until November meeting

Other – show etiquette document – Kirsten has reviewed and distributed for comment. Could be included with exhibitor packets.

Date for Rules Committee – Wednesday, July 13.

Next Development Committee meeting – Monday, November 21 at 10:00 at the Ag Arena conference room.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Zang