

## **PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee**

**May 7, 2007**

### **Minutes**

(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Patty Kelly, Duane Duncan, Dave Gallaher, Kirsten Dubbs, Lori Little, Jim Sharp, Christine Corl, Andrea Graeff, and Donna Zang. Jackie Simon and Bryan Dickinson joined the meeting via conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Patty Kelly.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the March 28, 2007 meeting as distributed.

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

It was moved, seconded, and passed to retain the current committee officers. Patty Kelly, chairperson; Tammy Eichstadt, vice-chairperson; Donna Zang, secretary; and Duane Duncan, treasurer.

The treasurer's report was distributed for review. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the treasurer's report as presented. There was a discussion on anticipated increases in expenses for the 2007 state show and the impact on the committee's budget. It was suggested that the show needs to invite the secretary of agriculture, Farm Show officials, and other key state officials to attend the show, perhaps to help with awards presentations on Saturday evening, so that they can see how state funds are utilized. It was suggested that we plan a special VIP function to encourage them to attend and learn more about the 4-H horse program. Duane is working with Roger Martell for a review of financial accounts in response to the request from extension administration. Recent audits and financial records are in order and were provided to Roger. In the future, the annual audit reports will be forwarded to Roger to be reviewed and kept on file. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the audit committee will follow the same procedures as in previous years pending any further recommendations from Roger Martell.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to support up to \$2,000.00 to State Achievement Days contest winners for travel and expenses to participate in the Quarter Horse Congress and the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

The committee discussed reimbursing Westmoreland County for expenses for Jodi Lenhart's participation in the AYHC conference as the National Youth Leader of the Year. It was moved, seconded, and passed to reimburse Westmoreland County \$250.00 towards Jodi's expenses. Patty will personally deliver the check to Westmoreland County on behalf of the Development Committee.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to provide sponsorships of \$500.00 to the 2008 AYHC National Conference, \$500.00 to the 2007 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, and \$2,000.00 to the 2008 Judges' School.

The endowment committee will be meeting to initiate discussion on starting a campaign to raise funds in support of a 4-H Horse Program endowment. The committee felt that it was important to keep the recognition for Jim Gallagher associated in some way with the endowment. It was moved and seconded to contribute \$3,500.00 as a match to the approximate amount currently held in memory of Jim Gallagher. The Development Committee's support is important to the message we

send to potential donors. Motion defeated. It was moved, seconded, and passed to donate \$2,500 to the endowment fund. The endowment committee will follow up on establishing an account and transfer of funds. It was recommended that the goal should be to reach the \$25,000 level in the first year. The long-term goal is to raise \$3 to \$5 million dollars.

The option of a video conferencing alternative for some Development Committee meetings was discussed. Scheduling and logistics can be problematic but the system does have possibilities. May be especially useful for smaller committee meetings. It was agreed to give it a try for a future winter meeting.

Pat distributed an updated calendar of events. A couple of Horsemanship Skills clinics and a testing date for Level 3/4 have been added. Also, several driving clinic dates have been finalized along with production show dates. Additional details are available through the website.

The horse forum committee will be sending a short survey to counties for input on what leaders would like to see in future forums. The survey response will be used for planning purposes. The survey will be distributed electronically and also at the state show.

Dave Whitaker will be the primary clinician for the 2008 Judges' School. There is still a need for a hunt seat clinician. Pat and Patty will make contacts to secure an individual.

Patty will work with the Horsemanship Skills sub-committee to set a date to review the skills and make recommendations. Betsy Ullrich has submitted recommendations for the committee to consider.

Betsy shared a draft of the recreational program guidelines and asked for suggestions from the committee. It was agreed that we should develop a new recreational project targeted primarily for youth who are not involved in shows or competition. The project includes goal setting for recreational riders along with recognition for completing set levels of recreational or riding hours. It was recommended that Betsy pilot the guidelines with 4-H members. Betsy will work on further formatting, including educational objectives. Pat will share the curriculum guidelines with Betsy to help her in this effort.

Terry Etherton joined the meeting to discuss the 4-H horse program assistant position. Terry encouraged committee members to discuss the proposal with regional directors to communicate the need for additional human resources to maintain and expand programs for the 4-H horse program. The 4-H horse program is at a point where we are in a position to grow but additional human resources are needed. The individual will provide support to county educators and will also help to empower volunteers to assume more responsibility within the program. One concern that the committee has is determining an accurate count of 4-H horse project members. This needs to be addressed with the RD's. Pat and Lori will discuss this with Vince Verbeke to determine if changes can be made to the Clover Counter program to more accurately capture the number of 4-H members enrolled in the horse program. Plans for establishment of the endowment fund were also discussed. Terry will look into steps to be taken to access the funds currently held as a memorial for Jim Gallagher as a start-up for the endowment fund.

Tammy, Bryan, Lori, and Patty will discuss recommendations for a plan to initiate a youth advisory committee.

Any recommendations for changes to the computer program should be forwarded to Vince Verbeke immediately.

A draft of the quota for 2007 was distributed for review. Dave and Lori will review the list for possible errors. Pat will distribute the quota after it has been checked and corrected if needed.

Patty will be sending letters of invitation to state show committee members for the 2007 show.

It was moved, seconded and passed to hire Cliff Pitzer to sell catalog ads with the sales commission to be determined on a sliding scale based on total sales. Patty and Pat will review ad prices and adjust as needed to cover increases in printing costs.

Patty discussed changes to the state show class schedule. She is considering changing days of the schedule for trail, western riding, and reining. If anyone has additional suggestions they should e-mail them to Patty. The exercise schedule will be determined after the show schedule is finalized.

A number of classes are in need of sponsorship. Patty will talk with Cliff Pitzer to see if he would be willing to sell class sponsorships in addition to catalog ads.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to increase entry fees to \$20.00 per class. All other show fees will remain the same. Show costs continue to rise significantly. Hotel costs will be greater this year due to the early show date and car show in the Harrisburg area.

Model horse show continues to grow. The show will start 30 minutes earlier at 9:30 a.m. Kirstin will continue to coordinate the model horse show.

The dance will continue to be held on Friday evening. Jackie Simon will be asked to coordinate.

***See next page for actions on Recommendations for Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program and 2008 State 4-H Horse Show Rule Changes.***

## Recommendations for Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program and 2008 State 4-H Horse Show Rule Changes

Approved or Referred by  
PA 4-H Horse Program Advisory Committee  
On April 23, 2007

### Please note:

- \* These are **PROPOSALS ONLY**.
- \* Wording of proposed rules **IS NOT FINAL**. Proposals may be changed, accepted, or rejected after review by Advisory and Development Committees.
- \* **IF approved by the PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee, rules will become effective in 2008. Rulebook supplements will NOT be printed in 2009 and beyond, unless there is an extenuating circumstance or safety issue.**
- \* Items in parenthesis indicate the district or committee proposing rule change.  
DC = Development Committee; YPCC = Youth Program Coordinating Council  
Items in italics indicate discussion/action by Advisory Committee.

### **General Horse Program Concerns**

1. Develop guidelines for a shared horse program. The Development Committee has developed guidelines and is awaiting administrative/insurance approval. *Previously addressed.*
2. Will shared horse classes be permitted in 2007? (V) *Individual counties and districts are already doing this. State-wide guidelines are not yet approved. It was suggested that no new initiatives in this area be started until a decision about the state-wide guidelines has been reached. DC – no further action taken.*
3. Develop recreational activities/project to include riding recognition/saddlelog program, trail riding, non-show activities, etc. Report from committee. (DC) *Betsy Ullrich presented a draft of a recreational riding program. Suggestions are welcome. A committee is being formed to continue development of this program. DC – no further action taken.*
4. Horsemanship Skills need to have a description for each skill. Hold level 3-4 clinics for leaders so they know what the examiners are looking for. Make a video or DVD of the skills. Levels are unbalanced. Revise skills in levels. (VI) *Being addressed thru sub-committee. DC – date for discussion of revisions to be determined.*
5. Revise risk form procedure for open horse shows. Suggest participants at 4-H open horse shows would be provided a copy of the risk form and then be asked to sign a form showing they have read and received the risk form and acknowledge all the risks involved. Acknowledgement list would be retained on file at the extension office. (VI) *Previously addressed. Risk forms for open shows are in the 4-H policy manual. The 4-H member form is located on the website with the project enrollment information. DC – It was suggested that revisions be made to the form to facilitate having one form for multiple signatures. Pat has referred this to Christy Bartley and it will be discussed with a representative of the insurance company.*
6. Revise the dress code/code of conduct - female exhibitors wearing revealing attire. (IX) *Moved and seconded to revise the dress code for the state show code of conduct in regards to female exhibitors wearing revealing attire. Concerns with attire in ring and in practice areas. Two separate issues. The 4-H code of conduct may already address the issue. How will this be enforced? Motion defeated. May include reference to dress code in exhibitor information or state show code of conduct. DC – no further action taken.*

7. 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. (DC) *Moved and seconded. This idea has also been discussed at the 2006 PA 4-H Horse Advisory Committee meeting and also at the 2007 4-H Horse Forum. May not have much of a say unless we move to another facility. To a large extent we have to fit into the farm show complex schedule. Concern was expressed that there would not be enough time to conduct county and district shows. The demands on educators' time and their summer schedules would also need to be considered. Currently, there are conflicts with Quarter Horse Congress and indoor hunter shows. Members are forced to make a decision between shows and also 4-H contests at the Congress and it was suggested that we are losing role models that opt for larger shows. More information needs to be shared at the county and district level. Counties and districts do not have all of the facts to make informed decisions. Members may not have an opportunity to work with horses early enough in the year because of weather and no access to indoor riding facilities. It was noted that many northern and western states have their state show in July or August. Only a few states have their state show in the fall. Patty discussed some of the reasoning for initiating the discussion. The idea goes beyond just moving the show. An earlier time frame may provide opportunities for a different type of show, with more participation and more educational opportunities. The current program year does not permit sufficient time for planning and preparing for next year. What, ultimately, is in the best interest of the entire program and membership? The DC is currently seeking input. There is no set timetable for implementation if it is determined that we need to pursue a change. Everyone is encouraged to go back to counties and districts to initiate discussion and forward suggestions to DC. DC - We need to have a shared vision of where a change will lead us or we can continue as we have with a state horse show. Need to see the value of change, not just the problems associated with change. Do we want to explore further? It was moved, seconded, and passed to form an exploratory committee to look at expanding the show and moving it to July or August. The committee is to include members of the Development Committee and Advisory Committee. Jim, Dave, Pat, Betsy, Bryan, and Patty will serve on the committee. In addition, three individuals to represent the western, central, and eastern portions of the state to work on this committee. Betsy, Kirstin, and Donna will look for volunteers.*
8. Continue exploring options for funding new position to work with 4-H Horse Program and develop endowment to support the program for the future. (DC) *Previously addressed and supported by Advisory Committee. DC – no further action take; will continue to address as noted.*

### **General Rules**

1. 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. (DC) **DC – discussion tabled**
2. Consider use of Danish system in classes with 4 or fewer horses. In classes with 4 or fewer horses the judge will place the class, but must ALSO assign a Danish rating to each entry. In order to advance to the next show, the entry MUST receive an Excellent (Blue) or Very Good (Red) rating. (Good is Yellow ribbon; Needs Improvement/Does Not Meet Acceptable Standard is White ribbon) (suggestion to DC) **DC – discussion tabled**

### **Protests**

1. Page 10, Protests; Raise the protest fee from \$25 to \$50. (X) *Moved and seconded. Motion defeated. Referred to DC for further discussion. DC - It was moved, seconded, and passed to raise the protest fee to \$50.00.*

## Production Rules

1. Page 12, Rule 5; Change minimum age/birth date for showing foals of current year shown at regional shows. Foals must be born by April 1 in order to show in current year. There are a significant number of foals shown at very young ages (less than 3 or 4 months of age). Concern that this is a humane issue and may adversely affect the health and welfare of the foal. (DC; Horse Forum). *Moved and seconded that foals must be born by April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to show in the current year. Rule to become effective for 2009. What are industry norms? Members can still carry a late weanling as a project. This is a safety and humane issue. Motion passed. DC - It was moved, seconded, and passed to leave it at April 1<sup>st</sup> unless the rules committee has a strong recommendation otherwise from a veterinary perspective. Rules committee to discuss.*
2. Page 12, Rule 6 – or add new rule; Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is not under control by the handler will be disqualified and excused. If the initial horse exhibiting poor mannerisms (i.e. rearing, backing, falling into others, etc.) causes other exhibitor(s) to lose their horse(s), only the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused. Add rule to showmanship or General Rules? (question to DC from judge) *Moved, seconded and passed. DC - Tabled pending further research of industry rules. Andrea will research other breed associations.*
3. Page 13, rule 10; No stallions older than weanlings should be allowed in production classes. Most major breed associations do not allow youth to show stallions. (DC) *Moved and seconded. Motion passed. DC - Moved, seconded, and passed that no stallions older than weanlings will be shown in production classes. Rules committee to clarify final wording.*
4. Should production project become a junior horse project for horses 5 years of age and under? Consider revision of production project, objectives and guidelines. Are we promoting animal welfare or contributing to problems with unwanted horses? (questions to DC; Forum) *Referred to DC. DC - Tabled until November meeting.*
5. Add 3 year olds to production in-hand classes. (VIII) *Moved and seconded. Motion passed. DC - Tabled until November meeting.*
6. Add driving futurity for 3 year old minis. (VIII) *Moved and seconded. Motion passed. DC - It was moved and seconded to add. Motion defeated.*

## Performance Rules

1. Change Page 18, Rule 8; Allow a performance animal and an additional pony project for driving. (I and IV) Change rule to read: In non-driving classes of the Performance Division, a 4-H member is permitted to show only one horse. However, an additional **pony**, draft, or miniature horse may be shown in class 42, 44 or 45 (*class #'s corrected from district's submission*) respectively. Only one of the following combinations is permissible: light horse performance and miniature horse driving; **light horse performance and pony driving**; light horse performance and draft horse driving; or draft horse driving and miniature horse driving. A draft or miniature horse may be used as the member's performance horse in non-driving classes if the member does not have a light performance horse **or pony**. A production project animal may also be used as a performance project animal. (I) *Moved and seconded. Should a pony as a second project be another option beyond driving? The motion is consistent with allowing a draft or mini as a second driving project. Motion passed. . Development Committee to clarify wording. DC - It was moved and seconded to allow members to designate a light horse performance project and a second animal as a designated driving project only. Motion passed. Enrollment forms will be revised.*
2. Page 19, Rule 10; Clarify/change age of stallions to be consistent with rule for production. (DC) *Referred to DC. DC - will be done.*

3. Page 20, Add new rule after Rule 18 or elsewhere; A 4-H member may not show the same animal in *both* pony and horse classes. (question to DC; potentially a problem for *both* Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle classes) *No action taken, but DC should clarify. DC - It was moved, seconded, and passed to include a rule stating that an animal may not be shown as both a horse and a pony.*
4. *In-hand trail for miniatures will be discussed at the November Development Committee meeting.*

### **Open Division**

1. Page 24, 25, Classes 5, 6 and 7, Open Trail; Recommend judging this on the point system similar to reining and jumping, possibly with a minimum of 60 points (10 obstacles or similar % thereof) to proceed to the next level. (I) *Moved and seconded. Similar to Novice Reining. Would encourage kids to work with horses on negotiating the obstacles so that they are adequately prepared to move on to the next level. There is no standard for trail class obstacles and maneuvers. Some have simple classes, some more difficult. Motion passed. DC - It was moved, seconded, and passed to introduce scoring to judges in 2008 and implement in 2010.*
2. *Wording in open trail will be clarified to include "easiest gait" for breeds that do not trot.*

### **Western Division**

1. Page 42, Class 19; Remove Reining Class 19 from the State 4-H horse show rule book since it is no longer a state level class. (X) *No action taken. Referred to DC. Clarify wording on page 42. DC - It was moved, seconded, and passed to clarify wording saying that districts MAY offer open reining.*

### **Contest Classes**

1. Contest Classes, page 42, item g; Recommend that acknowledgement from the judge be eliminated in the contest classes. Recommend that exhibitors be allowed to begin their pattern as soon as they have entered the ring. (Eliminate whistle, but no running the gate) (recommendation to DC from judge) *Moved and seconded. Safety issue? Does gate have to be shut? Motion defeated. Referred to DC for further discussion. DC - There are safety issues on both sides. It was moved and seconded. Tabled for further discussion.*
2. Page 44, Classes 22 and 23, Clover leaf Barrel Race; Revise distances to be consistent with AQHA rules; shorter distances more suitable for many arenas. (suggestion to DC from judge) *Moved and seconded. Motion passed. DC - Change to be made*

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

1. Add scoring information to rulebook and develop score sheet for over fences classes; clarify wording in box at top of page 48; clarify first sentence to refer only to Working Hunter and Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences classes. *DC - Referred to rules committee.*
2. Page 53, Classes 40 and 41, Hunter Hack; Change 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph to: All exhibitors will be asked to jump two fences. Refusal by the horse to jump and/or knocking down a jump is not cause for disqualification, but is considered major faults. One courtesy circle... (I) *Moved and seconded. Add "considered major faults". Clarification to judges. Motion passed. DC - No changes to be made to the rule. Show committees need to be sure that judges are aware of this rule.*

## **Therapeutic Riding Division**

1. Page 61; Is there a way to determine or better define minimum versus maximum, as well where those members with disabilities that don't necessarily affect the riding ability should be categorized? (III) *Moved and seconded. Hard to define. Need more education at the county level. Motion defeated. Refer to DC for clarification. DC - Referred to rules committee. Will consider general statement to encourage placement in class that is most appropriate for rider's ability.*
2. Page 62, 63, d. Tack; Question that the lead rope be attached vs. unattached at the rider/handler discretion. It has been noted that the kids off-lead place higher than those on-lead seemingly without cause. Some parents/trainers feel that although the rider may not actually need the lead line attached, they do so for safety reasons and feel that they may be being discriminated against. (III) *Motion to refer to DC to revise or clarify wording. Seconded. Motion passed. DC - Referred to rules committee for clarifying statement.*
3. Page 62, h. Aides; Question of side walkers in addition to the leader citing safety, should the horse act unexpectedly, thus covering the horse and rider in an emergency. (III) *No action taken. DC – Tabled for further discussion. Is clarification needed?*

## **General State Show Concerns**

**The following items were referred to the Development Committee for further discussion or action:**

1. Concern with large number of items submitted that may reflect the opinion of only one or a few individuals and not approved by the district. *It was moved and seconded that all units, districts, etc. be limited to submission of their top five concerns regarding the state show for future advisory committee meetings. Need to prioritize and address factors that we are able to control! Motion passed.*
2. Classes should place/pin to 10 placings regardless of class size. Example: This year pairs class was only pinned to 5<sup>th</sup> place instead of 6<sup>th</sup>. (I), (IX) *Historically, placings have been made to one half the quota. Moved and seconded to place to 10 in performance classes. Motion passed. DC – It was moved, seconded, and passed to place to 10 in all performance classes.*
3. Security personnel seemed short, aggressive and discourteous to people loading and unloading. Perhaps they need to be more sensitive to the fact that most of these people do this once or twice a year and may be a bit unfamiliar to the procedures. (III) *DC - Show management will address.*
4. Concerns with hay vendor and hours open at show. (I) *Show management will address.*
5. Leave directional signs posted until late in the day Sunday. Signs were removed while the show was still going on in the new arena, and those coming in for their classes or coming to watch the show Sunday afternoon couldn't find seating, etc. (V) *DC- Show management will address.*
6. No hosing of seats during practice (or at least not near the arena rail). (IV) *DC- Will try to resolve or post signs of when hosing will occur.*
7. Not enough food vendors. (XI) *Farm Show controls vendors.*
8. Entry and Exit gates should be closed while class is in progress. Excited exhibitors (sometimes with their animals) were seen rushing the gates, probably to watch a class, but spooking participants in the class. (III) *Referred to DC*
9. State classes should be rotated to different days. (VII) *Moved and seconded to rotate state show schedule. Currently, the schedule is blocked to accommodate judges, exhibitor requests and efficient show operations. Needs to be a show management decision. Motion defeated.*

10. Therapeutic Riding classes: The minimum assistance classes should be run back to back and the maximums be run back to back in an attempt to minimize the pressure on these kids. It was felt that there was plenty of room in the arena to leave the trail apparatus in the arena as was done this year without causing a safety issue (III) ***DC – Referred to show manager. Classes to be scheduled back-to-back.***
11. Post signs in the lunging pens limiting the time that each person may lunge. Need more lunge pens. Some people waited several hours to use the pens while the same horses were worked down. (V, VII, IX) ***DC - Time limits will be posted to encourage exhibitors to take turns.***
12. Scheduling issues for the warm-up areas, particularly when the over-fences participants needed the room for practice—scheduling for the warm up areas needs to be looked at more closely as this is a safety issue. (IX) ***DC- This is already done; Exercise areas and times are limited.***
13. Need to do a better job of making sure the indoor practice times are monitored. There was a time when entirely too many horses were permitted in to practice, creating a safety hazard. (I), (IX) ***Referred to DC. Show management has arranged for monitors at all sessions. Sometimes people do not show up as agreed.***

The next meeting of the Development Committee will be held on November 19, 2007.

The rules committee will set a date to meet in early to mid-summer. Committee members are Pat, Patty, Tammy, Donna, and Andrea.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Zang, Secretary