

STATE 4-H HORSE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday, December 6, 2014
Nelson County Extension Office
Bardstown, Kentucky

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Jean Smith, President. Eli Cushenberry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chassity Warner led the 4-H pledge.

Members Present:

Eric Smith (D4), Jean Smith (President and D4 voting member), Amy Lawyer (4-H Equine Extension Associate), Kendra Cunningham (D7 voting member), Elizabeth Brown (D7 voting member), Kathie Jane Regan (D4 voting member), Rebecca Cushenberry (D6 voting member), Eli Cushenberry (D6 voting member), Kainala Embry (D6 voting member), Kelsey Woodrum (D5 voting member), Samantha Clark (D5 voting member), Tana Wells (D5), Renee Cooksey (D5), Andrea Cooksey (D5), Chassity Warner (D5), Melanie Kelley (D7 voting member), Barry Gordon (D5), Dustin Gordon (D5), Jackson Embry (D6), Lenn Grubbs (D5), Linda Starnes (D6), Laura Nobles (D6), Angel Filiatreau (D5), Tommy Warner (D5)

Approval of Minutes:

The last meeting of this Advisory Council was the 2013 fall meeting, held November 3, 2013 at the Hardin County Extension Office. The spring meeting was cancelled due to weather. The minutes from the November 3, 2013 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. The motion was made by Kathie Regan and seconded by Elizabeth Brown.

Officers:

The youth representative was the only officer position up for vote this year. Per the by-laws, this position is up for election each year. Elizabeth Brown is the current youth representative for this council the past year. Nominees for the youth representative office were Elizabeth Brown (D7) and Kelsey Woodrum (D5). A secret, written ballot was taken, and Elizabeth Brown was elected to be the youth representative for the 2014-2015 program year.

Program Report:

Amy Lawyer communicated the "state of the program" report. Our numbers continue to decline, although the rate of decline has slowed. Our financial position is much improved over past years, largely due to diligence in carefully watching the expense side of the ledger, while continuing to do our best to keep fees consistent with past years. Amy and Dr. Camargo are working on creating instructional videos that can be used in the program. These videos will begin production in the spring, and should be available across the state shortly thereafter.

Class numbers overall are down again. This seems to be a trend across the country. Want to work on a more concerted effort to market the program. Amy volunteered herself and Dr. Camargo to come to the District or local levels to do programs, lectures, etc. at request. There were not as many dual entries (multiple horses/Divisions) as expected. This still remains an excellent opportunity, as it leads to well-rounded horse knowledge and skills in our youth.

There are no classes in risk of being eliminated due to low participation, with the exception of some Saddleseat classes. Although the numbers are low, we will not yet pursue the elimination of the entire Division. The numbers have been improving slightly year over year. A concerted effort needs to be made to improve numbers in the Saddleseat Division.

The dates for the State Horse Contest have been moved to a Thursday-Saturday schedule for 2015. Hopefully this will help increase numbers by making it easier for people to attend. Amy encouraged the group to attend and participate in the event, citing many benefits (educational hours, increase in knowledge, opportunity to compete in the regional and national competitions, etc.). Amy recited all the accomplishments of the teams that competed in both the Southern Regional and the Quarter Horse Congress competitions. The list of accomplishments was very impressive and congratulations are extended to all as follows:

2014 SOUTHERN REGIONALS

Horse Judging

- Performance Division – Kaylee Russell (6th place)
- Overall Individual – Kaylee Russell (10th place)
- Team Halter – Kentucky B (Deana Curran, Maria Hyrcza, Noah Carter, Shelby Martin – 8th place)
Kentucky A (Kaylee Russell, Braden Young, Casey Mesersmith, Holly Darnall – 9th place)
- Team Performance – Kentucky A (3rd place)
- Team Reasons – Kentucky A (9th place)
- Team Overall – Kentucky A (8th place)
Kentucky B (10th place)

Hippology

- Identification Individual – Emily Adams (7th place)
- Identification Team – Kentucky A (Emily Adams, Jack Monroe, Joanna Tidel, Katie Shouse – 7th place)
Kentucky B (Holly Harris, Rachel Chute, Maria Hyrcza – 10th place)
- Judging Individual – Holly Harris (1st place)
- Judging Team – Kentucky B (8th place)
Kentucky A (10th place)
- Team Problem – Kentucky A (7th place)
- Team Overall – Kentucky A (9th place)

Individual Demonstration

- Morgan Askins (1st place)
- Aspen Hennessey (2nd place)

Public Speaking

- Aspen Hennessey (2nd place)
- Holly Harris (4th place)

Team Demonstration

- Morgan Askins and Rachel Chute (6th place)

Horse Bowl

- Individual – Hannah White (1st place)
Alison Guzicki (8th place)
- Team – Kentucky (Alison Adams, Alison Guzicki, Hannah White (1st place)

2014 QUARTER HORSE CONGRESS

Horse Bowl

- Team – Kentucky (4th place)
- Individual – Hannah White (1st place)
Alison Guzicki (8th place)

Team Presentation

- Morgan Askins and Rachel Chute (1st place)

Public Speaking

- Aspen Hennessey (1st place)

Judging

- Team Halter – Kentucky (10th place)

By-Laws:

Some revisions need to take place in the by-law language. This meeting is technically out of order, as the current by-laws state that the fall meeting will take place in either October or November. Melanie Kelley stated that any changes would need to be published 10 days prior to any meeting in which a vote would take place. It was decided that we would recommend a change in the by-law to state that the date of the fall meeting be held "in the last 3 months of the calendar year" and the spring meeting terminology be changed to state "in the first 3 months of the calendar year". A motion was made by Melanie Kelley and seconded by Kendra Cunningham. The motion passed unanimously.

There was still the fact that this current meeting was out of order due to reasons stated above. Kathie Regan stated again that there was nothing to be done regarding this current meeting. This means that anyone who wanted to challenge any decisions at this meeting could do so, and that any decisions made at this meeting could technically be declared null and void, and any decision of the meeting would need to be reconsidered.

District Recommendations and Suggestions

See comments in red font following the recommendations/suggestions on the "2014 District Recommendations and Suggestions" pages that follow.

Miscellaneous:

None

2011 Division Revisions:

WRM Division rules will be revised for 2015. A committee was convened to address the rule revisions. Linda Starnes has volunteered to chair this committee. Other committee members who volunteered to be on this committee are Tana Wells (D5), Renee Cooksey (D5), Kelsey Woodrum (D5), Chassity Warner (D5). Linda Starnes anticipates beginning the rules revision discussion with the team immediately. She states she would like to have one face to face meeting with the committee, then handle all subsequent discussion via electronic media.

Important Dates:

Important upcoming dates were reviewed per the list on the agenda. See specific dates on agenda.

- Next meeting of this council will be held February 7, 2015, at the Hardin County Extension Office, at 10:00am EST.
- Amy briefly explained the benefits of the American Youth Horse Council Symposium, to be held March 27-29 in Oregon
- June 18 (Thursday). State Judging Contest. Venue to be determined. Awaiting word from KY Horse Park. Contest is still at the Clarion for 2015 (contract is signed), but Amy stated that they would like feedback on pricing/different venues/ alternate options in future years.
- July 5-12 – State Horse Show at Broadbent Arena at KFEC in Louisville.

A motion to adjourn was entertained by Melanie Kelley, and was seconded by Kathie Regan. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Smith
District 4

Recommendations & Suggestions
State Horse Advisory Council Meeting
Saturday, December 6, 2014

District 1

No recommendations or suggestions submitted

District 2

No recommendations or suggestions submitted

District 3

Recommendation #1

With the ability to cross disciplines with the same animal, we feel the pony measurement should be consistent across all disciplines using 14.2 hands. As it stands now, a pony in Hunter may be a horse in Contesting. This is confusing to those involved and may bring up a question of fairness. **Motion died for lack of a second**

Recommendation #2

Currently in the Saddle Seat division, the only classes offered for Walk-Trot riders are the Green Rider Classes, which can only be entered one year. In the Saddle Seat divisions at USEF Shows, riders may show three years in Walk-Trot classes.

We recommend, in all disciplines, to either change all Green Rider classes to Walk-Trot or to keep the Green Rider classes and add Walk-Trot classes as a step up from Green Rider. **Motion died for lack of a second**

Suggestion #1

The 2nd day of the Hunter Division Show ran exceptionally long, so much so that the patterns were deleted from the Equitation Classes in an effort to wrap the show up at a reasonable hour. Moving the Hunter Under Saddle classes to immediately follow the Showmanship classes would help to shorten the length of the show on the second day. Because they are strictly rail classes, they would move quickly without delaying the jump set up too much. With exhibitors being in hunt attire for showmanship already, only saddle, pad, girth and spurs would need to be brought to the makeup area, which are relatively manageable. **No discussion.**

Suggestion #2

The footing in the warm-up area outside of the outside, covered arena is very poor. It is not acceptable for warming up the entries for the Dressage classes or any other discipline prior to the show due to rocks and gravel, and there is no other area available to the exhibitors prior to the tests.

Proposal # 1: Have sand or other material brought in for better footing.

Proposal # 2: When setting up the dressage arena, move it closer to the entrance into the covered arena. This would allow some room at the far end of the arena where entries could warm up prior to performing their tests. **No discussion**

District 4

Recommendation #1

State office will create a showmanship pattern book. Each level will have 3 patterns. This book will be made public April 1 when the rules are officially announced. Judges must select a pattern from the book. The patterns will be posted in accordance with rules. **Motion seconded by Samantha Clark (D5). Motion defeated. For 0. Against 7. Abstain 2.**

Recommendation #2

Eliminate pony classes in the Contest Division.

Justification: Class sizes are consistency small. Because the classes are small, youth who want to be 'in the running for highpoint are competing in the 'horse' classes **Motion died for lack of a second**

Recommendation #3

Ranch horse classes follow AQHA rules. **Amy stated that the current Ranch rules are a hybrid of AQHA and AHRA rules. This was done to bolster the tenets of the 4-H principles (not being disqualified for using hoof polish, for having silver on the tack were 2 of the examples given). Motion died for lack of a second.**

Recommendation #4

Horses cannot cross enter western pleasure and ranch riding. **Amy reported that the Ranch classes will be made performance classes and not OI classes. Given this, the Ranch Division will be its own Division. Given this information, Kathie Regan withdrew the motion.**

Suggestion #1

Add a harness/driving class in Saddleseat division as OI class. **No discussion**

District 5

Recommendation #1

General Rules, WRM, Page 2

Given the WRM class explanations on page 2 in reference to what they **can and cannot** cross enter into and due to the fact that there was (1) cross entry at the state show that should have been caught at the district level the following recommendation is made:

There needs to be some way to catch errors in advance of the state show regarding cross entry for the WRM Divisions. A couple of recommendations might be:

If entry forms are filled out using the excel spread sheet there should be a way to prevent putting in the wrong class # if a particular division is listed on the form.

Need to consider color coding the entry forms to match the divisions or some way that they can be separated by division at a glance. **Deferred to the 2015 WRM rules revision committee**

Recommendation #2

Additional points of interest in the WRM Division:

2014 saw an increase in numbers in the country pleasure class. Therefore we recommend splitting them into Jr. & Sr. classes. **Deferred to the 2015 WRM rules revision committee**

What happened to the DQP for the WRM division? **Suggestion**

Also when faced with large classes having to split into heats – judges need to rank those accordingly in each respective heat, bring back those with highest scores from the 2 heats for a final ranking & class placement. All exhibitors should receive a score and called back based on how they ranked highest to lowest. This would include both the WRM & Western Judged Divisions. **Seconded by Kelsey Woodrum. Motion carries For 6. Against 2. Abstained 1.**

Suggestion #1

The 2014 Contest division did not seem to run as smooth as in previous years. It is suggested to let **assigned superintendents** be responsible for lining up their work crew, etc. such as they have always done in the past and not bring in additional help without them knowing in advance. **xxx**

Suggestion #2

To ensure safety of horse & rider it is suggested that additional mulch be used to create a walkway as you leave Stopher Walk over to Broadbent arena. **xxx**

Suggestion #3

With the increase in numbers it is suggested to bring back the OI yearling class at state show. **xxx**

Suggestion #4

In an effort to increase participation it is suggested that State Horse Contest be moved prior to April 1st to avoid conflicts with other 4-H events, vacations, horse shows etc

District 6

Recommendation #1

Book Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse **Section:** Mountain Horse **Page:** 19

Current rule: “4-H will not recognize the cross-entry rule”

The Mountain Horse classes are for those horses known as: Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses, Mountain Pleasure Horses, Spotted Mountain Horses, and all other horses recognized as a smooth-gaited Mountain Pleasure-type horse. **4-H will not recognize the cross-entry rule,** nor the limitation on classes in which spotted mountain horses may shown.

Wording of rule change: Mountain horses *cannot* cross-enter in the following classes: Country Trail Pleasure, Trail Pleasure, Classic Pleasure.

Reason for change: Horses that enter in these classes all have a different way of going. It is a disadvantage for the *true* Country Trail Pleasure Horse and *true* Classic Pleasure Horse to allow other horses to be in these classes. There are four other performance classes to enter without a clothing/tack change. To keep these classes separate it will allow for the trail pleasure horse and classic pleasure horse to be judged on their true gait performance. **Deferred to the 2015 WRM rules revision committee**

Recommendation #2

Book: Walking/Racking/Mountain **Section:** Walking Horse **Page:** 4-5

Current Rule: Page 2: Walking Horses may not cross enter into Plantation and Country Pleasure Walking classes.

Wording of rule change: Add the verbiage about not allowing cross-entering within the specific class descriptions on plantation and country pleasure classes.

Reason for change: This gives more blatant clarification about the no crossing over rule. **Deferred to the 2015 WRM rules revision committee**

Recommendation #3

Book: Western Judged

Section: Open Invitational

Page: 10

Current Rule: Open Invitational Class: Ranch Riding and Ranch Pleasure

Wording of rule change: Add these classes to the Western Judged Division as regular classes instead of open invitational.

Reason for the change: Numbers were well attended for the classes at the state horse show. In fact they had as many or more horses than regular classes. These classes are very popular now and this should warrant the change. **Motion withdrawn. Already addressed by the Ranch Horse Division change for 2015.**

Recommendation #4

Book: Western Judged

Section: Open Invitational

Page: not listed

Current Rule: Not listed

Wording of rule change: Add Yearling Halter and 2 and 3 year old snaffle bit classes back to the state horse show.

Reason for the change: There is an increased interest in having these classes added back to the show. **Seconded by Kelsey Woodrum. Amy says she and Dr. Camargo would like to see this class added as an OI class at the District level, to judge interest, before adding this as a class to the State show. Motion was amended to state "add a yearling halter and a 2/3 yr old snaffle bit OI class to the District horse shows and report participation numbers back to the state office". Amended motion seconded by Kathie Regan. Motion carried. For 8. Against 0. Abstained 1.**

Suggestion #1

Set announcer stand further from mid-ring side (move further down away from entry gate):

Explanation: The location of the announcer stand sits right at the 2nd barrel during the contest classes. Many of the horses spook at this barrel. **No discussion**

Suggestion #2

Bring back plaques for state horse contests awards. Explanation: The fee's to compete are very high. 4-H members would like to receive some type of extrinsic award besides a ribbon and certificate. If needed, change facility to reduce costs. Or cut the awards banquet to include awards recognition only. **No discussion**

Suggestion #3

Recruit well-rounded judges that are capable of correctly judging all three of the English Horse classes: Walking, Racking, Mountain. **No discussion**

Suggestion #4

State 4-H Horse Show- stay away from the American Ranch Horse Association World Show (it conflicted in 2014 and conflicts again for 2015. **No discussion**

District 7

Recommendation #1

Recommend using ARHA rules for classes Ranch Riding and Ranch Horsemanship (not AQHA Ranch Pleasure – we have versatility which is similar) **Motion amended to state, “Ranch Pleasure class be re-named “Ranch Riding”, and be the style of the class to follow the ARHA style”. The intent was to provide one rail class and one pattern class. Seconded by Rebecca Cushenberry. Motion carried. For 8. Against 0. Abstained 1.**

Recommendation #2

Recommend being able to show in Showmanship plus 4 performance classes, rather than just 3. **Motion seconded by Elizabeth Brown. Motion carried. For 9. Against 0.**

Recommendation #3

Recommend having one “Paid” warm up round for hunters by height as you go through the classes. Keep the morning option in case someone doesn’t want to pay or can’t pay. **Suggestion. No discussion.**

Recommendation #4

Recommend statewide bidding for a new photographer for state show. Let agents and leaders know about this opportunity so they can help get the word out. OR find a talented youth and/or leader and make it a fundraiser for the state. Note: the last three years have not been good quality. **Suggestion. No discussion.**

Recommendation #5

Recommend Judging on Thursday, then contests on Friday and Saturday, to save one day off work for leaders/parents. **Has already been addressed and will be changed as stated above.**