

STATE 4H HORSE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Saturday, November 21, 2009
Hardin County Extension Office
Elizabethtown, KY

The November 21, 2009 meeting of the State 4-H Horse Advisory Board was called to order at 10:25 EST by President Tina Snelling.

Present at the meeting were Kathie Robertson (D4AV), William Robertson (D4YV), Barbara Dowell (D5AV), Dawn Cummings (D5AN), Keith Rogers (4-H Foundation), Brian Williams (D5AV), Jean Jenkins (D3AV), Amanda Snelling (D3YV), Tina Snelling (D3AV), Michelle Robinson (D1AV), Kim Martin (D1AV), Chad Martin (D1YV), Bobby Mays (D6AV), Sandi Mays (D6AN), Cory Mays (D6YV), Pat Moore (D6AV), Robyn Moore (D6YN), Kendra Cunningham (D7AV), Melanie Kelley (D7AV), Clayton Jerrell (D7YV), Paula Jerrell (D7 Contact Agent), Lisa Gilkerson (D1AN), Felicia Ferrell (Fleming County Agent), Jeff Gilkerson (D1AN), Daniel Wilson (D2 Contact Agent), Donna Dean (D2AN), Regina Hicks (D2AV), Kendra Hicks (D2YV), Charity Dean (D2YV), Eric Smith (D4AN), Fernanda Camargo, Extension Specialist, and Kristen Harvey Extension Associate.

The American and 4-H Flag Pledges were led by Robyn Moore.

Introductions were made. Everyone was thrilled that for the first time we have ALL Districts represented at this meeting.

The Minutes from the February 14, 2009 meeting were presented. A **MOTION** was made by Pat Moore, seconded by Michelle Robinson, **That “The Minutes be approved as presented”**. There being no further discussion following the Question, the Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the Agenda was a presentation by Keith Rogers, Executive Director of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation. He passed out the letter from Richie Farmer, Commissioner of Agriculture, stating that the State 4-H Horse Program would no longer be receiving any financial support from the Department of Agriculture. He also passed out a Facts Sheet and Action Requests sheet. We have received \$50,000 from the Department of Agriculture each year (fiscal year is June 31, July 1) since at least 1998. Because this funding has been cut, the program needs to raise funds to continue to function. The effort to raise funds needs to be a grass roots effort. He shared his three-prong approach.

First, Mr. Rogers is requesting the Council members and their counterparts to provide them with names, lists and addresses of folks for, first, a mailing campaign, and, second, to help identify and solicit major donors. Mr. Rogers reminded us all that no donation is too small!! There are wonderful and plentiful 4-H Horse alumnus out there, and he anticipates that those folks will be willing to help this effort. The Foundation needs our help finding these people for their records, etc.

With regard to finding sources for major donations, we were reminded that we are the Horse Capital of the World. Therefore, we have a pool of folks who can easily make a large donation. A large donation is considered to be \$1,000.00 or more. The requests for these types of donations will be made mostly by “face to face” contacts. In identifying the sources to contact for major donations, we should remember horse farms, alumnus who have been very successful, feed stores, national businesses, implement places, etc. Mr. Rogers needs

help identifying these folks to be contacted by the Foundation. We were reminded that there are a lot of folks who would donate, but they do need to be asked.

A question was raised wondering about how folks should donate in order to make sure all their donation gets credited to the Horse Program. Mr. Rogers stated that anyone who wishes to donate should specify on their check, verbally if by phone and credit card, or a written note that this is to be earmarked for the Horse Program. They are set up to accept checks AND credit cards. In their general solicitation mailing, folks are given three options for how they wish their donation to be earmarked – the Annual Fund is for all operations; folks may give to a specific program or county as designated; or they may request their donation go to the program or situation where it is most needed. This particular solicitation will be specifically for the Horse Program and will go directly back to the Horse Program. These donations are 501C3 tax deductible and a letter to that effect will be given. It was wondered if there will be “designated” levels such as bronze, gold, silver, etc.. Mr. Rogers stated that has not yet been decided. They normally identify at least four levels. He did state that they do try to keep the reply sheet simple in order to minimize confusion. Dr. Camargo stated they are planning to recognize folks who donate at the State Show Dedication. A question was raised about whether or not they want the adults and youth to actively help solicit funds. Mr. Rogers stated that while he would never turn down help, he does recognize that we all have to do fundraising for our local clubs, and therefore, he is more than willing to spearhead this effort. Dr. Camargo did state that they would love to have youth participation in writing thank you notes.

Mr. Rogers’ third effort is for all of us, and these folks we know of, to contact our elected official. He believes that this cut was out of Commissioner Farmer’s control. The issue really is that the State is broke. By the same token, most programs were reduced, not “zeroed out”. Therefore, we do have a “beef” about this cut. There are NO discretionary funds at the State level at this point. They are reducing back to 1998 – 2005 spending levels. But, he stated, the squeaky wheel does get the grease. January is the budget session. A lot of our elected officials are familiar with the Ag Development Fund. On state side of this Fund since its creation in 2000, the money came from bonding. The projections are currently \$12,000,000 short of being able to make the debt service. Mr. Rogers does think, however, it is well worth us make the point to our elected officials that we didn’t deserve to get this zeroed out. The key for our success is not to work over Commissioner Farmer. The key is to get the General Assembly to put the funds into place and earmark it for 4-H Horse so it is law and Farmer HAS to, by law, fund the program.

Mr. Rogers stated that it is crucial that these letters get sent no later than January! The window that the elected officials will be thinking about this is from about Christmas through about the end of January. He reminded us that 4-H Agents and our State-level personnel are very limited in what they can and cannot do with regard to contact with politicians. Mr. Rogers stated that he is NOT an employee of the University of Kentucky, and therefore, he can spearhead this effort without worrying about political backlash. Therefore, we were reminded that our networking is very important. He will send us an email on Monday with the electronic version of the letter for us to send this forward. Again, we were reminded that WE, as volunteers, must do this. Our Agents CANNOT help with this without risking political backlash. They can assist us with help in finding names and contact information, but we must be the ones sending out the requests for money and help with the letter-writing campaigns.

Mr. Rogers has prepared for us a little cheat sheet about tips on how to deal with elected officials. Letters ideally should be kept to one page. It is important that the address be correct. Also, it is important to make sure the salutation is correct. He stated that hand-

written notes are much more effective than email campaigns. That better represents that those behind the issues are people who are committed to progress. Mr. Rogers encouraged us NOT to do a form letter. A personal note is much better – include topics such as what does this program mean to me, what does loss of funding mean to the program, etc.

Mr. Rogers shared that a lot of counties and cities will host representative meetings. He shared that this is an excellent opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with the representatives. He suggested that this forum would be a great place for the 4-Hers to be present. He stated that more attention is given to folks who attend these meetings. He also suggested that if anyone has a personal connection with any legislators, he would like to talk to those folks to give them suggestions and to help with the connection. He stated that Tom McKee from Cynthiana, and David Givens from Greensboro are two key legislators in this cause. If at all possible, people are encouraged to make a visit to Frankfort during the Session.

Mr. Rogers encouraged us to keep on plugging, stating that a lot of times these types of issues are added onto key bills at the very last minute, as late as the morning of a vote. Throughout the General Assembly time frame, Mr. Rogers will be actively working on campaigning for funding for camp and the Horse Program. He reiterated that face-to-face contact is important, as well as phone calls. He stated that the elected officials DO CARE what their constituents think. When they get more than eight, nine or ten contacts on one issue, they do begin to take notice.

Mr. Rogers is going to continue to push us by email reminding us to keep on plugging. He will have a distribution list to us, and it would be helpful for us all to have a distribution list of our own to keep this going forward. He requested that if we haven't received an email from him by Tuesday or Wednesday, to then email him because he either typed an address in wrong or missed getting our contact information.

Mr. Rogers stated that it does not hurt to get a little media coverage, especially in January. We are all encouraged to attempt to get an article in our local papers about this issue. It would be very effective to focus on how this affects our local clubs.

We were reminded that Richie Farmer does not have the money, that General Assembly has it, and they also have the power and control to force Mr. Farmer to put those funds back in his budget and earmarked for the Horse Program.

A question was raised about whether or not organizations such as KEEP and/or The Kentucky Horse Council can help us. Mr. Rogers suggested that talking to the local representatives for these groups to see if they can help us with our cause.

Kristen stated that she has an accounting of how the money is spent. The budget is at an average per year of about \$112,000. The \$50,000 from the Department of Agriculture is a portion of that total funding, and those funds are mostly used for awards.

Mr. Rogers stated that the 4-H Foundation has started a quarterly newsletter, and beginning now they are going to focus on the Horse Program and its funding in those newsletters.

The Council extended its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Rogers for his efforts on our behalf, as well as taking time to attend our meeting and give us some concrete and very helpful suggestions as to how we can help the program and its funding ourselves.

Next on the Agenda was the Treasurer's report. Kristen presented this on Tom Curry's behalf. We actually gained \$4,813.94 with our investment account, so Tom has gone an awesome job with our investments. There were three horses that were sold through the sale in Western Kentucky. They raised a total of \$966.39. This was mostly due to the market being down at horse sales. Kristen also shared that Tom believes that AQHA and the Kentucky Horse Council will once again sponsor scholarships. Because this report was given for informational purposes only, no vote to approve was entertained.

Kristen shared that she has not talked with Mary Kolb about whether or not she is still interested in doing the tee-shirt program for us. She did share that the guideline and requirements for the tee-shirt design are posted on the web. She thought it might be nice to try to tie our program's shirt in somehow with WEG – "The World Comes to Kentucky", or some similar theme. She shared that all designs need to be submitted to her no later than February 1, 2010.

Next on the Agenda was Officer election. The Council was reminded that the By-Laws state that an officer can only serve for four years. It is NOT specified that if no one else volunteers for a position whether or not a person can then continue to serve in the same position.

Nominations for Secretary were held first. Since no one nominated any person, Kathie Robertson stated that she would be willing to serve in this position. A **MOTION** was made by Melanie Kelley, seconded by Amanda Snelling, **THAT Kathie Robertson be nominated to the position of Secretary, THAT Nominations cease, and she be approved by acclimation.** There being no further discussion following the Question, the Motion passed unanimously.

Next were nominations for Vice President. Kendra Cunningham's name was placed in nomination. A **MOTION** was made by Jean Smith, seconded by Michelle Robinson, **THAT nominations cease, THAT Kendra Cunningham be nominated to the position of Vice President, THAT Nominations cease, and she be approved by acclimation.** There being no further discussion following the Question, the Motion passed unanimously.

Next were nominations for President. Jean Smith was nominated by Melanie Kelley, seconded by William Robertson. Tina Snelling was nominated by Jean Jenkins, seconded by Pat Moore. Voting was done by paper ballot. After a tally, Jean Smith was voted in as President.

Next were nominations for Youth Representative. William Robertson was nominated by Kathie Robertson, seconded by Jean Smith. Clayton Jerrell was nominated by Melanie Kelley, seconded by Kendra Cunningham. Charity Dean was nominated by Chad Martin, seconded by Regina Hicks. Each youth gave a speech about their involvement in 4-H. Voting was done by paper ballot. After a tally, Clayton Jerrell was voted in as Youth Representative.

The Council was reminded that the Treasurer position is an appointed position, appointed by the Executive Committee. Kristen stated that Tom Curry is willing to serve in this position again. The Council, while not having a vote, did voice their approval for Tom to once again serve in this position.

At this point in the meeting, the Council adjourned for lunch.

There being no further business to come before the group, a **MOTION** was made by , seconded by , **That “The meeting be adjourned.”** There being no further discussion following the Question, the Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Smith, Secretary
(To the Adjournment for Lunch)

Attachments:

Treasurer’s Report
Show and Contest Numbers
2009 National Team Results
2009 Recommendation and Suggestions Votes

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Following lunch, Jean Smith, call the meeting to order.

Program Report – Kristen reviewed the classes that are in jeopardy. She stated that the hunter division is strong, W/R/M and miniature horse division numbers are increasing, contest and western judged were down.

Kristen reported that State 4-H Horse Contest has been moved so not to conflict with Teen Conference and that the Judging Contest will be held at a separate time, allowing youth avoid previous conflicts. Concern was expressed by District 4 as this move potentially conflicted with their show schedule.

Kristen congratulated all competitors, teams and coaches that went on to national level competitions. Kentucky was very well represented at Southern Regionals, Quarter Horse Congress and Eastern Nationals.

AYHC Symposium and WEG 2010 Update - Kentucky will be hosting this event March 19-21, 2010 with a youth festival to be held on March 19th at the Kentucky Horse Park. The youth festival will be held at the new indoor and will feature demonstrations from all eight disciplines that will be represented at WEG as well as educational activities and booths. All youth are invited to attend with an invitation going out to schools to bring students for the day. The Youth Festival is being sponsored by 4-H, USEF, USPC, KEEP, KYHC and the Kentucky Department of Education. The cost is \$25 per school or club.

District Recommendations

Kristen discussed the conflicts that arose with the Drill Team Competition and the Contest practice time. Kristen apologized for the conflicts that occurred and stated they were not intentional. Following a meeting that was held with the officials involved, it was decided to move the Drill Team competition and Dedication to Friday. Several other concerns were raised regarding other potential conflicts, but it was stated this was a show management

decision and it felt this schedule change was in the best interest of all involved and would be tried for one year.

District 1 – All three of items were suggestions and not voted on.

District 2 – First item was a suggestion – no vote

Second item – ***Have 2 project horses per 4-Her up to a certain date, then with proper paperwork from a veterinarian if the horse gets sick or injured that child can bring the backup horse and show*** was combined with ***District 6 item #1***. Kristen pointed out this was not approved by the Animal Science Committee last year but would be considered when certification was started. A motion was made by Pat Moore and seconded by Tine Snelling to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 16, no – 2.

Third item – ***Band on Walking Horse Classes. 4H says go by Breed Guidelines, but Walking Horse Association allows bands***

-At the Regionals you can have bands, why not be consistent with everyone else.

It was noted that we follow NHSC (National Horse Show Commission) rules – not any breed or National Walking Horse show rules. Discussion was raised concerning the safety in the use of bands and how easy it was to ‘pressure sore’ a horse with their use. A motion was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion defeated; yes – 6, no – 11.

District 3

Change the pattern in Western Versatility to read a minimum of 30 ft. between cones in stead of a minimum of 21 ft. It was stated that in most cases, 21 feet is used when setting the patterns and it is to close for lead changes. A was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes-18, no – 0.

Allow one adult per exhibit in the holding pens at State 4-H Horse Show for safety purposes. This is not currently a rule, but is at the discretion of show management. A motion was move and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 18, no – 0

Item 3 - Discussion regarding the change from ‘Plantation Horse’ to ‘Park Horse’ was tabled until the changes for that discipline are done.

Add the rule once you have shown in a canter class you may not go back to a walk/trot class in any division. This would be added to the general rules. A motion was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 18, no – 0.

District 4

Item 1 was tabled as sent to Hunter rule change group.

Item 2; Recommendation

- ***Remove age restriction on Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences Jr./Sr. Rider.***
- ***Rename classes Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences 2’3” and Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences 2’6” – open to horses and ponies, exhibitors age 9-18 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.***

Justification:

- ***Allows exhibitors the opportunity to jump at a height more suitable to the level of the horse and/or rider.***
 - ***Ponies and horses may jump at appropriate height, making things a bit easier for show management:***
 - ***Don’t have to identify ponies within the class.***

- **Decreases the number of overall course changes.**

Discussion indicated this change would make these classes more in line with the other performance classes. A motion was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 18, no – 0.

Item 3; Add Open Jumper class as Open Invitational Class

- **Obstacles must be a minimum of 2'9" to a maximum of 3'0".**

Justification:

- **Allows exhibitors who are going on to Southern Regionals the opportunity to jump fences at a height appropriate to be better prepared this competition.**
- **Allows exhibitors the opportunity for further progression. Currently all classes over fences, except for Low Hunter, 3'0", are only a maximum for 2'6" in height. This includes the current Jumper Class.**

A motion was moved and seconded to approve recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 15, no – 0, abstained – 3.

Item 4; Add language to better define General Rule #14 regarding "horses/ponies suspected of being under the influence of any drug, chemical and caustic agents".

Language should include, but should not be limited to the following:

- **Be clear that Rules and Regulations regarding drugs and medications apply to Showmanship Classes as well as Performance Classes.**
- **Use of drugs and medications for therapeutic purposes.**
- **Definition of performance enhancing drugs.**
- **Clarify definition of 'disqualified'. Is that from the class or from the show?**
 - **If a horse/pony tests positive for an illegal substance (example; at the District level), are they disqualified from subsequent competitions (State or Southern Regionals) and do they forfeit winnings and prize money?**

Justification:

- **Parents of members have observed performance enhancing drugs (tranquilizers) being administered to exhibitors horses following performance classes in an effort to 'settle them down' for showmanship.**

Discussion revolved around the monitoring, implementation and 'accusations'. A motion was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 13, no – 0, abstain – 5.

Item 5; Horse Stable Management Competition-better definition of actual days being judged.

Justification: Counties may only have members in the barn for one to two days, while other counties may have members being judged over three days, placing them at a disadvantage. They may choose to stay an additional day if they know the actual days the judging is taking place.

Item was withdrawn after clarification was made regarding the rule.

All other item submitted were suggestions – no vote was taken.

District 5

Item #1 – Contest; rules for Flag Race – A motion was made to recommend a rule change but no second was made – motion dies.

Item #2 – amendment to General regarding stallions under 1 year old – a motion was made to approve this recommendation. No second was made, motion dies.

Item #3 – this was a suggestion – no vote taken

Item #4 – ***In addition to the large numbers during the Walking Horse Division we would also like to see included in the general rules “Only one (1) class in the show ring at anytime”. This would apply to all divisions.***

Discussion cited safety for those in the ring as well as recognition for those who are receiving their ribbons as areas of concern. A motion was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried; yes – 18, no – 0.

Item #5 – ***change barrel racing classes to 3D Barrels.*** A motion was made to approve this recommendation, but no second was made – motion dies.

Item #6 – already being done.

All other items were suggestions – no vote.

District 6

Item #1 – combined with District 2 discussion on same topic

Item #2 – *Allow the youth with their project horse to compete in more than one horse show discipline. Ex. – no over fences classes in western performance/judged but members can not cross over into hunter division to jump.* Concerns regarding scheduling were raised. A motion was moved and seconded to approve this recommendation. The motion was defeated; yes – 5, no – 13.

Item #3 – *Sub-divide the Hi-Point awards further. Ponies are not horses. They do not move like horses. You distinguish between ponies and horses in hunter and contest divisions, yet you penalize the smaller animal in the western performance/judged and contest divisions. There aren’t large numbers of Miniature Horses, yet they have their own High Point Award.*

Discussion included concerns about cost and how point could be awarded in a consistent manner. A motion was made to approve this recommendation, but no second was made. The motion dies.

Item #4 – *Offer Trail Class for all disciplines instead of Versatility Class that is currently offered for western performance/judged. This would better prepare Kentucky exhibitors for the Southern Regional Horse Show.* A motion was made to approve this recommendation. There was no second – motion dies.

All other items were suggestions – no vote taken.

District 7

All items were recommendations – no vote taken

Other items discussed:

- Following the discussion on rule recommendations, Dr. Carmargo indicated that all horse at district and state shows would be subject to a body condition score. The minimum score would be 4 and could be done at anything while the horses are on the show grounds. All show management should be trained on body scoring. There will a training session during the Volunteer Workshop in February. **This will be effective for 2010.** Dr. Carmargo indicated the objective is for the humane treatment of the horse. This is also for public relations purposes.
- It was indicated the fair grounds security was a problem this year. They seemed to be 'tougher' than in the past. Currently there are no bikes allowed on site and there is not parking close to Broadbent for competitor and their horses.
- It was suggested to move the state horse show sign outside the arena or make a second one to allow for photo opportunities without delaying the class schedule.

Dates to Remember

Volunteer Forum – February 13-14, 2010

AYHS – March 19-21, 2010 in Lexington

Youth Festival – March 19, 2010 in Lexington

State 4-H Horse Contest – June 10-11, 2010 in Lexington

State 4-H Horse Show – July 3-10, 2010 in Louisville

The next meeting will either be February 6th or 20th with a 'rain date' of February 27th.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine L. Robertson
Secretary