Meeting Minutes
State Horse Advisory Committee
Corvallis, Oregon
October 24, 2009

The comments and recommendations in these minutes are for your information and study. It must be understood that recommendations are not official at this time. Counties have sixty days in which to provide reactions. Final decisions will be made by the State 4-H Faculty in concert with the State 4-H Advisory Council. Comments, reactions and suggestions are sought on all recommendations, program items and contents.

Proposed changes to PNW 4-H Horse publications must be approved by the PNW Management Team.

Committee members present:
Carol Harris, Madison Mills, Amy Derby, Jan Harer, Katie Schrock, Amanda Smallenberg, Sharon Zucker

Resource members present:
Roberta Lundeberg, Candi Bothum, Joyce Stride, Peggy Ashford

Guests present: Carolyn Jones, Allyson Harer

State 4-H website: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu
State 4-H Horse Project website: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/horse-project-0

Spring Horse Classic

The 2009 Spring Horse Classic was held April 24-26 in Linn County (Albany). No major problems were reported. Because the facility was double-booked, we received a price break which helped a lot. Numbers of Hippology and horse bowl teams were up.

Our teams going to Nationals in January are:
- Horse Bowl: Deschutes County
- Judging: Coos County
- Hippology: Deschutes County
- Public Speaking: Washington County
- Individual Presentation: Baker County
- Team Presentation: Washington County

The 2010 contest will be held in Redmond. Dates are April 23-25, 2010 and all events will be held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.
Roberta reported that she has had many questions about adding Impromptu Speaking to Spring Horse Classic. The problem is that there is not an equine-specific impromptu speaking contest at Nationals. The current schedule is also rather tight, so adding this might mean getting a second judge for presentations. Impromptu speaking is popular with seniors in particular as they are usually very busy and this doesn’t require preparation time. The question was raised if kids would opt out of doing other presentations to do this, but it was felt this wouldn’t happen since they could qualify for nationals in the other events. A motion was made to add Impromptu Speaking this year and see how it goes. Members would still have to qualify at their county contest with the top blue-ribbon winner eligible to compete at SHC. Motion passed.

Roberta then reported that at the recent Judges Training, she talked to people from Washington and Idaho about Nationals. Both those states send their teams to Louisville, not Denver. They felt the contest there was better and was a lot less expensive. We decided that we would do some research and find out more about the Louisville Eastern Regional Contest. The comment was also made, again, that it would be really nice if there could be a 4-H Foundation account that could supply some funds to help teams going to National competitions.

**State Fair**

The horse state fair was held August 21-25, 2009. Numbers were very similar to last year’s: 120 senior performance, 130 intermediate performance, 53 senior gaming, 53 intermediate gaming.

Roberta shared the comments and suggestions that were received. Major positives were allowing kids to ride multiple seats and assigning jobs by county. We will continue both of these next year. However, we will schedule one extra volunteer each session to have as a backup.

Several concerns were expressed about lame horses showing and demonstrating. It was agreed that people need to let the judges make the decision as to whether or not horses are too lame to show. The show office might have vet certificates on horses and some horses just move like they are lame. Also, what is considered lame to one person may not be to other people.

Had the fewest complaints ever about the judging of Trail. Judge was very consistent over both days. Some concern was expressed over backing through a gate, but that maneuver is described in the project book.

Gaming comments were contradictory. Many people felt the gaming judge was very consistent while others felt the opposite. Some people liked the no-nonsense approach of the gaming chair and others were very upset by it. Most concerns were over the style of acknowledgement because the judge was waiting until the gates were fully closed before letting kids start their runs as per the rules in the Contest Guide. We decided that we would have a flag for the judge to drop when the rider can start the course. The overall opinion of the Advisory was that the judge did a good job.

Gaming showmanship will continue next year. Most comments were positive, but some kids didn’t seem to take it seriously. The suggestion was made to require a minimum score in showmanship to qualify for gaming, and this provoked a lot of discussion. Most people felt that requiring a red ribbon score was a good idea, but a major concern was the impact this would have on county fairs. Some of the questions were 1) would there have to be a separate showmanship class that all gamers would have to enter? 2) How much time would this add to shows? 3) Would we require a score of 80 like for performance? We finally decided to leave things as they are for this year.
Roberta will poll the counties to see what the impact would be if we change in the future. Mainly, we want the gaming members to understand that we take showmanship seriously and to act accordingly.

The biggest facility issue was the sawdust. There was a lot of confusion using the baled shavings, mainly because this was unexpected. We would like to have bulk sawdust again, but at least need to know what we are getting before we get there so we can let people know.

We then discussed several of the suggestions that were made:

1. Have a different pattern for saddle seat from hunt seat. Yes, we will do this.
2. Set times for each class. Everyone was opposed to this. Judges said they spend way too much time sitting around waiting for classes. Makes the day go longer. People get mad when you set a time and then something happens and you run late. The office doesn’t know how many classes there will be until the day before. Felt this was physically harder on everyone. Counties that had done this have stopped because of problems. Overwhelming decision: we will not set times for classes.
3. Can we give something besides medallions like halters or belt buckles with year, etc. No. We never know how many we will be giving for any class and might not give any at all. Also, there simply is no money for that many expensive items.
4. Can we assign parking areas? No. We don’t know how many trailers will be coming from each county. For some counties, we don’t even know how many kids are coming until state fair begins. We will try to coordinate better with the fairgrounds about where people can park. There were some changes this year that we didn’t know about ahead of time.
5. Can we list on the website and post at the fairgrounds the names and counties of all the qualifiers and what they qualified in? No, this is virtually impossible. Again, we don’t get some entries until the day of the show. There are also restrictions on what we can legally and safely post.
6. When announcing kids names during gaming, can we announce their county as well? We only announce counties for medallion ribbon and medallion winners. The judges do not want to know what county kids are from. In fact, they said they prefer not to have names announced either during regular classes, including gaming. We will tell the gaming announcer to just say numbers, not names.
7. Can county chaperones have a pattern book? Yes, we will make 1 extra copy for each county next year.
8. Can county chaperones get a detailed schedule for their county? The fair schedule is posted on the website. The show office has no way to run schedules by county. Information like this needs to be provided by the county to their chaperones.
9. Switch intermediate and senior judges on the second equitation day so different judges do English and Western. After some discussion of pros and cons, we decided to try this for next year and see what comments we get.
10. Move driving classes to first thing in the morning before Hunt Seat Equitation. Yes, we will try this.
11. Run both arenas for gaming. We can’t do this. The footing in the outside arena is not acceptable for gaming. Also, we don’t have two timing systems or all the equipment needed, nor enough volunteers to run two arenas. We also don’t have the money to hire a second judge.

Roberta is starting work on hiring judges for next year’s state fair. If you have suggestions, let her know.
Contest Guide Changes

The new PNW Contest Guide went into effect October 1, 2009. The new guide has the effective date on the cover. It is important that people use the most current Contest Guide.

Some of the changes that should be noted are:
1. Only split or romal reins are allowed in western equitation, trail, and bareback. Single piece closed reins or “roping reins” are required in western gaming.
2. English equipment: Sidepulls and bit converters are not allowed.
3. Entirely new Driving section.
4. Major change in the way Ground Training is scored and what items/maneuvers may be attempted.
5. In gaming, using rubber bands or anything else to anchor the rider to the horse or saddle is a disqualification.

There is an error on page 23. In the scoring for Pleasure Driving, the sections are misnamed. The first section should be named “Performance” and is the “manners, performance, condition, style, and way of going” and is worth 60%. The last section should be “Driver” and is the “handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and neatness of driver attire” worth 30%.

New Driving Manual

The new Driving Manual is in effect and is available online. There are new classes for Oregon and new scoresheets. The class Oregon has been doing is now called “Reinsmanship.” There are also classes for Pleasure Driving and Precision Driving. For next year at State Fair, we will just do Reinsmanship. May possibly add other classes in the future.

Gloves are now required in driving and reins are required to be buckled.

If people find errors in the new Driving Manual, let Roberta know. The PNW group will be able to make changes as needed.

Ranch Horse Update

The manual is still in progress. We are having to divide it into two sections: the educational piece and the contest guide piece. Counties that asked for it have the current draft. The final draft is now due October 1, 2010.

Judges Training

The PNW Judges Training was held October 1-4 in Redmond. Overall, the training went very well. The facilities were wonderful, the notebook well-received, and we covered all our expenses. Organization was very smooth.

Lots of new apprentices at the training. Wish there had been more on the show management track.
There was concern expressed about using 4-H members as demonstrators as the instructors don’t want to humiliate them and feel bad nitpicking everything. We explained that these kids were hand-picked, knew what was coming, and were often “set up” to do things wrong. We would prefer them to dress as if they were showing and to wear helmets.

Judges are having an issue with counties not turning in evaluations on them. We urge counties to make sure you send in an evaluation after every 4-H show.

**PNW Equine Research Project**

Mary Arnold’s research project is going very well and the input has been fascinating. The final report will be published next fall.

**Advancement Program**

Working on revising the Horse Advancements was pushed behind the new Driving Manual and Ranch Horse Manuals. Roberta will begin working on it again this winter.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Saturday, March 13, 2010 at OSU.