Columbia County 4-H Horse Leaders Committee Meeting
October 19, 2010 Minutes

Present: Janice Gonzales, June Brady, Laurie Mapes, Kristi Crape, Tiffiny Halverson, Tommie Hansen, Kevin Hansen, Katrina Katterman, Christine Miller, Sierra Paxton, Kate Olson, Frances Brownell, Rhonda McDaniel, Stephanie Gates

President Janice Gonzales called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. There was no treasurer’s report, but Janice noted that she will have one soon and that the horse committee’s budget is part of the general leaders’ association budget. The minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting were approved with the deletion of the word “net” before “deposit” in the poker ride report.

Committee Reports:
Presentations: June Brady noted county Horse Classic will be February 19, 2011 and 4-H members can give presentations which may qualify them for state Horse Classic. Last year, three went to state and two received third-place awards.

Horse Classic: Again, the date is February 19. June will conduct horse bowl practices in the OSU Extension building 11/8/10, 12/7/10 and 1/10/11 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. All levels, juniors through seniors, are welcome.

[There were no reports for other committees.]

Old Business
Janice brought prices on tarps to cover shavings at the fairgrounds: 40x60 $165; 30x15 $119; 20x30 $62.93

New Business
Election of Officers: The following people were nominated: Janice Gonzales for President; Kate Olson for Vice President; Laurie Mapes for Secretary. This slate was elected by acclamation.

Donations to 4-H: Kevin Hansen asked whether donations to 4-H are tax deductible. Kate suggested checking with Woody Davis because the donation may need to be to state or at least county 4-H, not directly to a club.

Judge Selection: Rhonda McDaniel suggested using a different dressage judge next year; we rotate judges at least every other year for other disciplines, which provides different perspectives. An option is to make sure one of the two main judges is carded for dressage. Although cost is an issue, the OHSET rate for 4 hours or less is $75 ($150 for 4-8 hours) so we might secure a different dressage judge for a rate comparable to the $100 we have paid for dressage. A committee might be formed to assist Woody in judge selection and making sure our pay scale is competitive. There are rumors some judges are not willing to serve in Columbia County because the skill level of contestants does not meet their standards; we can respond to this by raising the level of horsemanship, e.g. with:

Clinics: Sierra Paxton asked for topic suggestions for clinics she is willing to conduct. Suggestions included patterns, English, gaming (Kate willing to conduct in spring with Janice’s help), showmanship, and jumping. Sierra asked if a just-leaders clinic would be desirable, and the response was positive! Possible topics are review of written materials like the contest guide and conducting effective meetings. A “leaders” class at fair was suggested.

E-mails to Horse Leaders: Kristi Crape questioned e-mailing minutes to leaders because they might be less likely to attend meetings knowing they will get the information afterward. It was moved, seconded, and approved by vote that meeting agenda but not minutes be e-mailed; the agenda should go out on the Wednesday before the meeting. Discussion ensued about who should create the agenda and whether every committee needs to report each time.

Class for Minis: June Brady suggested adding a class for minis at fair for showmanship, driving or in-hand trail. Using the trail course that is already set up for a separate mini class is a possibility. June will work on a proposal.

Announcements
Dessert night is November 6 in the St. Helens High School Cafeteria. Please RSVP.
Final opportunities for premium pick-up are October 26 from 4-7 p.m. and right before the dessert November 6. The 4-H member or a family member must sign for the premium money. If not picked up, premium money reverts to the premium committee.

Meeting adjourned  8:45 p.m.