

4-H Horse Advisory Council 4 November 2009

Meeting called to order via conference call after attendance was taken as each checked in.

Those in attendance were:

Andrea Galliher	Sarah Copplesone	Peggy Sue Greenwood
Pat Stockwell	Rhonda Watts-Hettinger	Steve Moore
Alice Pickett	Holly Gowdy	Judy Forsyth
Stephanie Mallick	Joanne Gelinis	Conrad Moses
Terise Cole	Sue Kelleher	Carolyn Towle
Ramona Chessman	Jolee Chase	
Nancy Evans	Sue Ebner	

Review of 2009 Programs

Quiz/Judging/Hippology:

Sue (Cheshire) reported that Quiz Bowl had gone smoothly this year, no problems reported.

Hippology:

Photocopied items on the written tests (such as arrows or lines to diagrams) were reported as not always clear (same problem had also occurred at Regionals). Maryann said that we would try to check on this before the N.H. contest, but sometimes this is beyond organizers' control, and of course is not something we can solve if N.H. is not hosting the Regional meet.

Judging:

Kids were reported to have enjoyed the driving class, and it was noted that the animals were of particularly good quality.

State Show:

Sue (Cheshire) reported some comments from their last leaders' meeting.

- ◆ Headers are needed for the driving class.
- ◆ The announcer needs to watch the ring a bit more.
- ◆ Barn safety may be an issue; some horses are possibly just not ready for show like State (multi-day, of this size, full-time stabling) but realistically this problem can only be handled via monitoring within each county's stabling, and may not show up until the horse has been there a few hours.
- ◆ The new mounting area (outside the schooling ring) had mixed reviews; certainly worth continuing but may need further thought and work. Merrimack reported that from the youth perspective (Terise Cole) it was not as confusing for those already riding in the warm-up ring. Others noted that if the class involved was quite big, mounting outside the ring (in the mounting area) worked particularly well, although with smaller classes, they could just as safely and easily mounted inside the ring. Another point was that for those entering the warm-up ring, they need to keep moving, not pause or stop just inside the gate.

- ◆ Sullivan noted that the Hunter Over Fences class had some jumps which caused horses to spook – loud colors, shiny paint, non-natural. However, it was noted that we have tried both having each county provide a complete jump, as well as having someone truck in a complete set of jumps, and we pretty much have to use whatever we get, even if the jumps are not what are considered true “hunter” type. Counties were reminded that it would be a good idea to make this problem known to any of their riders who want to enter this class, so they can train accordingly over colored and/or airy fences. Another possible solution could be to allow the entries for this class to ride quietly around the fences for a few minutes before the class begins in order to see the jumps. (I didn’t think of this during the meeting, but we have also, in the past, arranged for warm-up by allowing each entry to choose one or two fences to jump, prior to their judged round.)

Eastern States:

Judy reported that everything went smoothly during the show itself.

- ◆ One participant did not show up, causing considerable worry until it was found that she was not coming; she had apparently broken her shoulder after State Show but had not told anyone she was not going – aside from the worry, this situation resulted in an alternate not being able to fill her place. The consensus was that there needs to be accountability for this problem, as well as repercussions. Possible solutions were to have each ESE participant leave a \$100 check which is only cashed if the participant does not notify of a no-show (as is done with the Louisville kids); another was not to permit the individual to participate the following year (would have to decide if this was just ESE or to include State Show); also asked to find out what other livestock projects do in this case. Maryann suggested that proposals be made for the Feb. meeting regarding this problem; she will also check on what the state office’s policy might be. Questioned: What would be the deadline for someone to notify the State Office they are not going? Maryann said a week ahead would be borderline, but if they had any kind of warning they could call the alternate and ask if they could be ready on short notice. Sue asked if each ESE chaperone could take 4-5 names and call them perhaps 2 weeks before ESE to see if they are still committed to going.
- ◆ There was one reported difficulty with the Fit & Show pattern – the posted pattern showed 3 cones, but when the kids got into the ring there were 4, resulting in some confusion and “wrong” patterns. Since N.H. kids were first for F&S, they got the worst of the situation. It was noted that N.H. is not first to go next year!

Upcoming events

2010 Quiz Bowl:

Date is 30 January, probably at Belmont Middle School.

- ◆ Maryann read off the list of jobs, some of which were filled then. However, some (such as the kids leaving tomorrow for Louisville) may be interested but won’t be able to tell until they get back. Counties were reminded to e-mail Maryann as soon as possible if they have any such volunteers.
- ◆ One past and potential problem has been that particularly when it’s the older kids working the junior quiz rooms, they may have difficulty in pronouncing some words in the questions; also, that in any case, a little time is needed for judges and moderators to preview the question packets before the first teams in that round enter the rooms. It was

noted that this can not really be done before the contest as a whole begins, since it's impossible to predict who will get what packet until each previous round is completed.

- ◆ Registration: It was asked that with worries about flu this year, we might need to be a bit lenient with substitutions to teams. Maryann reminded everyone that **anyone** who might be an alternate should simply be entered and should come to the contest. It is rare that the full 12 teams (juniors or seniors) are filled anyway, so extras there on the day can usually be put on a combined team. There is no maximum number of alternates that a county can list on their entry form.

Judging/Hippology:

Merrimack will probably be this year's hosts. Date is 10 April (not the first week-end due to Easter).

- ◆ It was noted that some schools are now charging a room fee as well as the usual janitorial fee. Maryann suggested strongly that any such be dropped from consideration, since the budget can not take much additional charge. Judging needs a large gathering room (usually cafeteria); a classroom; and two additional reasons rooms (small rooms are fine). Hippology needs a classroom for slide show and written test; a room with tables for stations; smaller rooms for effort problems; probably a total of 5-8 rooms. Additionally, a good-sized room is needed for scoring.
- ◆ Six horse classes are needed, 2 performance and 4 halter. Some farms are OK with extra horses being brought in.

Calendar:

Will be typed up and sent out tomorrow. Maryann read off the list.

State Show Judges 2010:

Camille Pepin is judging ESE.

Maryann will call the following judges as numbered, then (if necessary) just do the rest of the list.

Main judge:

1. Don Tobey
 2. Sherry Thornton
- Bob MacDonald
Rhonda (judged 3 years ago)

- Molly Thornton
Debora Danforth VT
? Dunway IN
Mike Schmidt
Christy Combs Balch

F&S Judge:

1. Cindy Schwieger
2. Bethany Pressman
3. Kathy Mitchell

4. Sara Dellencourt
- Pat Stockwell
Pam Larabee

Call was made for proposals to be discussed at the Feb. workshop – please send to Maryann before the end of the year; proposals will be sent out to counties in January. Several were mentioned tonight. Hippology/Communications are the designated rule-change areas this year in our rotation.

State Show cover contest material was sent out in the meeting packet. Particularly noted was that pencil items can not be considered – must be gone over in ink in order to be considered. Please be sure members are aware of all rules.

It was requested that copies of the attendance list (passed around at regular meetings) be made available to those attending. Maryann said that such sharing would require consent, so the Feb. attendance list will have a check box for those willing to share e-mail, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Watts Hettinger, Secretary