

NH 4-H Horse Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda

February 20, 2016

Attendance—please sign in

Call to Order

Approval of prior minutes

Service Description – please sign and return if you have not done so in the prior 2 years

Review of Events 2015 Fall 2015 and 2016 early Winter Events

Animal Science Bonanza

Horse Quiz Bowl

Upcoming Events

Hippology and Judging -- need a county to sponsor the novice events if they will be held

American Youth Horse Council Symposium

UNH Equine Education Day

Farm to Table Trip

State 4-H Horse Show (committee, volunteer roles, discussion of judge)

Funding of grants by 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire

Old Business

New Business

Changes in Regional Horse Contest and NH Teams to Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup

Online Animal Enrollment (Intent to Show)

Review of curriculum

Proposals from Counties

Merrimack: Reasonable accommodations for disabled youth and how that impacts ESE qualification

Cheshire: Stable Management Judging for State Show

NH Rulebook supplement changes – Cheshire County and State Office Proposals

Changes to NH 4-H Horse of the Year

Review of curriculum & formation of working group to evaluate curriculum changes

Voting on cover contest design entries (lunch)

Other Business

Announcements

Proposal from Cheshire County: (note that some of these rule book changes are also included in the State Office Proposal for rule book changes, particularly those pertaining to equine height)

Proposed changes to the NH Supplement to the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules and Guidelines

The purpose of these proposed changes to the NH Supplemental guide serves several purposes. The first is to align the written guidelines for families with the practices we actually abide by. Additionally, the proposed changes will more closely align NH classes and rules with those of Eastern States Exposition. This alignment will allow for easier transition for out participants from state level to regional competition. Finally, the changes will highlight differences between NH classes and ESE classes allowing for participants and their families to plan accordingly.

NH Supplement p. 25-26

4.11 IN HAND DIVISION

4.11.1 General

Add:

- Classes in this division open to all equines regardless of height or age
- Participants showing in this division are allowed to cross enter into the driving division.
- Your equitation choice determines whether you are choosing the In Hand Division or the Driving Division for points.
- Equines must be suitable for handler in size
- Gymkhana classes maybe adapted to accommodate In Hand Classes
- ESE does not recognize an in hand division for animals over 12 hands. Equine 12 hands and over showing in the in hand division are not eligible for ESE.

~~Open to equines 12 hands and under.~~ Rules and Procedures for obstacle course and jumping are in the NE 4-H Horse Show Rules and Guidelines available at-----

4.12 In Hand Fitting and Showing

4.12.1 ~~12 Hands and Under Division~~ In Hand-Fitting and Showmanship

4.13 In Hand Discipline

~~Open to equines 12 hands or under.~~ Keep rest of paragraph

4.14 In Hand Jumping*

~~Open to equines 12 hands or under.~~

Add: Exhibitor may not go over jumps with the animal

REASONING: In NH we allow equine over 12 hands to participate in the in hand division. This encourages more participation from our youth and provides the opportunity for participants to educate young horses to a new environment, new noises, new animals, etc... from the safety of the ground. ESE does not recognize an in hand division but rather has a small equine division which is limited to equine 12 hands and under. These proposed changes will align our written policies without practices and notify families upfront of the differences between NH and ESE.

Recommended divisions:

Junior-8-13 with or without documented disabilities. Individuals 12 and older competing for the State Horse Show are encouraged to have shown in at least one Open or 4-H Show prior to the Qualifying.

REASONING: Practicing by yourself in a comfortable environment is different than showing with stress, strange noises, unfamiliar equines around, etc. Following directions for the trail class can be complicated and focusing can be difficult.

Senior 14 and older---same as the Junior division

REASONING: In the riding division we have broken it down into WT, WTC, Junior and Senior. Each section depends on the individuals riding ability. We have no divisions in the In Hand so that an 8 year old individual is competing against a 19 year old. Is that fair?

NH Supplement p. 19-20

4.5 DRIVING DIVISION

4.5.2 Safety

Add: Equine should be of a size that the driver can easily control.

Recommended divisions:

Junior 8 -13 with or without documented disabilities. Drivers may have a passenger at their option that may also function as a header. If the ring condition or driver/equine is such that a passenger would not be recommended then guidance will be allowed from a spotter within the ring. Individuals 12 and older competing for the State Horse Show are encouraged to have shown in at least one Open or 4-H show prior to the Qualifying Show for experience.

REASONING—The combined weight of the driver and passenger maybe such that it would be very difficult with loose footing in the ring for a mini to pull the cart.

Learning to drive by your self in a ring is entirely different then several carts showing at the same time.

Note: ESE rules state that “All drivers aged 14 and under may have an adult passenger at their option that may also function as a header.” (p.55 # 8). In the event we had a 12-13 year old youth qualify for ESE who needed a passenger we would need to ask for a reasonable accommodation for that participant.

Senior 14 and older ---Same as the Junior division

REASONING: In the riding division we have broken it down into WT, WTC, Junior and Senior. Each section depends on the individuals riding ability. We have no divisions in driving so that an 8 year old individual is competing against a 19 year old. Is that fair?

Horse of Year Award (Peter Stone Model)

Set up parameters beyond what is currently written:

The focus of this award is not on the number of blue ribbons the horse has won, but on how the horse has helped the 4-Her to grow and develop as a person, or how the horse has contributed to improving the life of another person.

Judging will be based on the essay that is written by the nominator (4-H member or alumni). The letter of support from a leader is required, but only taken into consideration if needed as a tie breaker. Photos and fully completed entry forms are required for the model to be made but are not part of the judging process.

The horse helped a 4-H member(s) to grow

The horse helped a 4-H member(s) to develop

The horse contributed to improving the life of a person

The essay includes proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Merrimack request for clarification re: disabilities and accommodations

The M.C. Horse Leaders met and there was discussion around youth with disabilities and their ability to move onto ESE should they qualify. We thought it may be appropriate to have a clarifying discussion state wide at the meeting in February to address just this topic.

The group as far as they are aware felt that if an individual with a physical disability that limited the level or way they could show would not be able to attend ESE because accommodations would not be available. For example a youth in a wheelchair who could not achieve a fast gait like the jog in an in hand class would not receive accommodations at ESE allowing them to show.

The question is, is this correct and if so then should some verbiage be added to the NH Supplement to the New England Rules and Guidelines packet so families would know this?

Cheshire proposal RE: stable management judging at State Horse Show

Cheshire county is proposing having stable management judging done at the State 4-H Horse show, similar to what is done at many county shows (and was previously done at the State show). A proposal will be emailed if available before the meeting.

State Office Proposal: NH Supplement to NE 4-H Horse Show Rule changes – see separate document

Proposed changes to the NH Supplement to the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules from State Office – most changes are proposed to reduce or eliminate duplication between NH Supplement and NE Rules and bring the NH book in compliance with the NE rules. A proposal will be emailed within a week.

