

## NH 4-H Horse Advisory Committee Meeting (Conference Call)

November 10, 2015

Members present:        Jessie Fiefield, Belknap County  
                              Judy Forsyth, Belknap County  
                              Maureen McLaughlin, Belknap County  
                              Jackson Thomas, Belknap County  
                              Rebecca Kennedy, Chairperson, Cheshire County  
                              Maddie Powers, Cheshire County  
                              Ramona Chessman, Coos County  
                              Jolee Chase, Hillsborough County  
                              Danielle Morano, Hillsborough County  
                              Steve Moore, Rockingham County  
                              Conrad Moses, Rockingham County  
                              Pat Stockwell, Sullivan County  
                              Deb Wesoja, Sullivan County  
                              Mary Davis, State Office

Chairperson Rebecca Kennedy began the conference call at 7 pm.

Review of summer and fall horse events:

State Horse Show: Deb Wesoja, show superintendent felt the show went well. There were two injuries to adults – one was due to a root that had the soil erode around it immediately at the gate of the practice ring. Mary will contact Deerfield to make sure that root is covered prior to the 2016 show. The other injury was due to a person leaning on a rail and being kicked by a horse inside the ring. We need to remind people to stay off the ring rail.

Conrad Moses will continue to make improvements to the database used for scoring at the show.

Big E: There were only 12 delegates, due to several last minute withdrawals of NH members. The kids were all great – there were no problems with the youth or chaperones. There was some confusion about departure on Saturday evening. The show ran late but parents and owners wanted to remove the horses from the grounds. In the future leaving on Saturday evening will not be an option, as the show often runs late and traffic is very heavy on Saturday evening.

NE Regional Horse Contest was held at Townsend's Training Farm and Pembroke Academy. All the New England States except Maine were represented and New Jersey attended. There were over 80 youth attendees. The NH Teams all placed well in their events.

Eastern National Horse Roundup – we had four participants in communications, four in Hippology and two in Horse Judging. The Hippology team was 9<sup>th</sup> in the Horse Judging Phase; In Communications, the team was 7<sup>th</sup> overall, with Amber Edmonds placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Public Speaking and Elyse Morano placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Individual Presentation (demo).

Changes in the future for trip to Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup: due to decreasing participation in state events and having fewer teams, we will be sending two teams each year on a rotating basis for the next two years. After that time, the process will be reevaluated. In 2016 the two teams will be Horse Quiz Bowl and Horse Judging. In 2017 the teams will be Hippology and Communications. We will still be picking state teams in the other events, and those teams will be eligible to compete at the Regional contest.

Pat Stockwell asked if we would allow additional teams to go to Kentucky if there was fundraising done. Mary said that is unknown at this time. The main problem is not funding but lack of participation at State level events. For example in 2015 all but two of the youth who qualified in Quiz Bowl top 8 also qualified in another event and chose to go in that other event. There were only 8 participants in the judging and only 9 participants in the Hippology Contest, meaning all Judging participants and 8 of the 9 qualified as finalists for the team.

## Upcoming Equine Events

Animal Science Bonanza: Will be held in Cheshire County January 9<sup>th</sup>. This is an excellent event encompassing many animal species. It is unknown at this point if there will be an Equine Track.

Horse Quiz Bowl: January 16<sup>th</sup> with snow date of January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Pembroke Academy. Anyone available to volunteer, please let Mary know. Please encourage older 4-H members who have attended the contest in Kentucky to volunteer. This is the same date as the interviews for State and National Achievement Awards. We will work around the schedule of members chosen for interviews to allow members to do both activities.

Novice Quiz Bowl: A county or group of volunteers is needed to host this event for 2016. Please contact Mary if you are interested.

Hippology and Judging Contests will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> – location to be announced. Cheshire County has been asked if they want to host again. A suggestion was made to hold the judging at Townsend's in Pembroke if Cheshire can't host it. Other counties that are interested, please let Mary know. We need a location with an indoor arena due to the unpredictable weather in early April.

Intent to Show Form Revisions: The Intent to Show form will be online. This change is being made for all species, not just horses. The horse form will require photos of both sides, front and possibly back of each animal. There is an option for a paper form for those unable to complete the online form, however the photos will still be required. The original photos uploaded will be color; 4-H Staff will be able to access the online form. Members may need to present black and white forms if they do not have color printing capability.

State staff is in the process of finalizing and testing the form; we expect the form to be ready by early 2016 as some species have earlier deadlines. Intent to show forms should be completed by the youth, with age-appropriate help from parent, leader or staff. Signatures will be electronic (similar to what is done now for health and code of conduct forms).

Lease forms will also be online with the option to complete a paper form. Again, the youth should be involved in the completion of the form as age and ability allows.

### Other business:

A discussion was held regarding WT-A, WTC-A, WT-B, and WTC-B. With the In-hand and Driving divisions, this terminology is not applicable. A suggestion was made to eliminate these terms and just have an open ended question asking whether or not the member needs accommodation, and if so what. Some counties use the A designation for their novice riders. The state office is concerned only with what accommodation is needed for a member with a disability.

Counties are asked to evaluate how they use the WT-A or B and WTC-A or B designations and the discussion will be continued at the February meeting.

Next meeting February 20. Location to be announced.

Meeting Adjourned 8:07 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary Davis* for Rhonda Watts-Hettinger