



State 4-H Equine Advisory Council Agenda

Date: Feb. 2, 2024, 1:00-4pm

Location: Orange County VCE
127 Belleview Ave Orange, VA 22960

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Attendance/Roster, Executive Board, Guidelines
Jen Daly, Julie Williamson, Carrie Swanson, Tammy Sparks, Darla Marks, Jocelyn Pearson, Krista Gustafson, Sylvia Hoffman Cole, Della Roberts, Yvonne Miller, Lisa Powers, Rose McDonald, Hannah McDonald, Reanna Willey, Kim Mayo, Leslie Prillaman, Sam Leech
On Zoom : Bertha Durbin, Thomas Agnew

II. Committees & Program Reports

- Reports:
 - District Horse Councils
 - NE –
 - Hippology and Horse Judging, Sat Feb 17th at Frying Pan Park, 4-H and FFA
 - Shows in April, May, June – Open and Dressage
 - SE –
 - Hippology on Sat. Feb 17th, registration is closed
 - Working on a horse bowl qualifier
 - NW –
 - Horse judging was in December
 - Hippology and Horse Bowl on March 2nd in Culpeper
 - Shows
 - May 11 -Frederick
 - May 25 – Free Union
 - June 8 – Lexington
 - Central
 - Horse Bowl on March 16th
 - SW
 - Hippology July 23rd
 - Hippology March 30th in Tazewell
 - Horse Camp July 22-25th
 - Horseless Horse Show March 14th
 - Communications March 15th
 - Qualifying Show either May 18th or 25th

- 4-H Horse Show Steering Update (Julie)
 - Show went well in 2023, coming out with a profit of 35000 and 297 entries.
 - Working on a new fee structure (office fee and fee per class)
 - Hoping to add one judge to eliminate scheduling issues.
- Connie Collier 4-H Scholarship
 - Two winners, Carrie Miller and Dakota Dunlap
 - We will determine how much money/how many scholarships we can give with the help of VA Tech/Virginia Tech Foundation – dependent on the amount in the account/endowment and interest earned
- EquiSmartz
 - Spreadsheet of entries is available in the google drive. Entries are up across the board from 2022, with large increases in junior numbers.
 - Equismarts is April 5-7th, same schedule as last year
 - Hippology Friday
 - Horse Judging Saturday
 - Horse Bowl Sunday
 - Do we still need to qualify to enter Equismartz?
 - Originally qualifying to keep numbers at a manageable level, we do not still have that issue for most contests.
 - Hannah McDonald mentioned that we do not track qualifying for hippology and horse judging to enter. Do not have rules we don't enforce.
 - Horse bowl qualifying needed because of how long the contest takes to run
 - Communications
 - Currently requires a “blue” at a unit or district level contest.
 - Seems to be a barrier to entry, Hunter and Katherine will work to rephrase rules to leave the door open for youth that cannot find a “contest” or maybe are homeschooled,etc. With an option for communication with Katherine and Hunter if you are having trouble qualifying.
 - Current qualifying date is March 18th. Please notify Katherine or Hunter with any issues that arise.
 - Reasons
 - Juniors give 2, seniors give 4
 - For 2024, juniors will give 2 sets and seniors will give 3 sets of reasons. Hoping that this will remove a barrier to entry for seniors.
 - Utilizing the band app for communications in 2024.
- East Coast Aggie Clinic
 - June 7-9, Blacksburg

- Will not be conflicting with the horse bowl/hippology study retreat
 - Julie wants to attend
 - Not the same weekend as the study retreat
 - Feedback on Participation
 - Cost
 - 250 may seem high, but this is a national standard for judging clinics regardless of species.
 - Could there be some scholarships offered? Katherine encouraged district horse councils and clubs to identify youth with cost conflicts and work to raise funds.
 - Level
 - Work to better advertise a “schedule” or idea of what the clinic will be
 - Better advertising on how to sort youth into each category (Novice/Advanced)
- State Educational Teams
 - Hippology/Horse Bowl return as county teams?
 - Yvonne and Lisa showed support for state teams, in interest of youth that may not have a full team.
 - Bertha and Jen were not in support of state team, with practices being difficult due to geographical constraints.
 - Major Issue with coaching, Hunter and Katherine will put together a “job description” with requirements and obligations for coaches with a deadline to apply.
 - Going forward all teams from Virginia will utilize one standard polo shirt for contests.
 - Group parent meeting for all state teams, so that rules/regulations for youth/parents will be the same across the board.
- Southern Regionals
 - July 31 – August 1st in Perry, GA
 - Why is participation down? – Katherine
 - Designed for the all- around horse. Jen noted that this is a long way to travel to compete in one class.
 - Jen also noted the schedule is making it hard on horses. All hunter classes being on one day is making for tired horses.
 - No mini classes – Lisa
 - Looking to increase promotion of this event as well as our volunteer presence at the show
- Horse Ambassador
 - Attended 4-H Day at the Capitol
 - Visit with Cliff Williamson at Virginia Agribusiness Council was very popular

- Numbers are down in this program with 4 ambassadors and 3 collegiate mentors this year
 - Promotion at Equismartz with talks/powerpoint/video
 - Utilizing the leadership aspect of this program more
 - Team building
 - Mary Cole 50 Mile Horsemaster
 - Participation also down
 - Gaited vs. Non-Gaited Horses
 - Can we tap into youth that are participating in trail riding or endurance organizations and get them involved?
 - This is a hard, intimidating ride
 - Jen, Carrie, Della, and Hunter will form committee to work on a 1 day “Introductory Ride”, where we can practice, condition, and educate more youth on opportunities with the 50-mile ride.
- Discussions
 - Horsemanship Skills Committee (Hannah)
 - Going well this year
 - Hosting a skills evaluator training in Doswell in June
 - Possibility for Hunter and Katherine to work on a measurer’s certification clinic in conjunction with Block and Bridle next weekend?
 - Membership barriers
 - Resources to club leaders/agents about the horse program
 - Lisa is working on a Mini-manual for our horse show vs breed standard shows
 - Leader’s manual updated 4 years. We have no copy, Katherine working to locate this
 - What do you need from us?
 - Volunteer enrollment problem – too much work, videos, clicking. Unfortunately, this is a VA 4-H problem, and is working to ensure all volunteers receive adequate training.

III. Additional Business:

- Website
 - i. Jessica Dotson will be teaching Hunter and Katherine to update website information.
- AYHC –SYMPOSIUM 45th Annual Symposium – Texas, March 2024
- VHC Annual Meeting – March 23, 2024 at PVCC