

State 4-H Horse Advisory Board Meeting

April 1, 2025

PRESENT:

Area	4-H Agent	Volunteer
North	Jessica Emmerson (Levy)	Kellie Anderson Terry Stout Courtney Toelle (non-voting, St. Johns)
East	Shane Michael (Seminole)	Tracey Clement Liz Jett Barbara Nagle Stephanie Kline (Non-voting, Lake)
South	Alexandra Draper (Manatee)	Monica Arbuz Sierra Coward Kelsey Irvine (Non-voting, St. Lucie) Martha Spotts (Non-voting, St. Lucie) Terri Zuidema (Non-voting, St. Lucie)
West	Shree Ghosh (Polk)	Dorothy Blair Bobbi Barnes
UF/4-H	Dr. Saundra TenBroeck, Alyssa Ohmstede	

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

The Board Member list was reviewed:

- Brittany Justesen is no longer on the Board as East Agent so this position remains TBD.
- The breakout of the area representatives will be revised next year to reflect the re-drawn areas.

General Program Information

- The American Youth Horse Council is being held April 11-13 in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. TenBroeck, Shane Michael and Orin Owen will be attending.
 - Orin Owen (Lake County) is our “Adult Leader of the Year” nominee
- Dr. TenBroeck is officially retiring December 31, 2025. Her role providing leadership to the State 4H Horse Program will no longer be staffed by a tenure track faculty from the UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department. The department will continue to provide leadership through the position currently held by Alyssa Ohmstede. The vacated position will not be filled for at least 1 year at which time the department may request a position from IFAS administration. Although the equine faculty have put forward a position description for consideration that will carry a 60% Extension assignment, it is unclear whether the department chair/department will request an equine position.
- State Horse Judging contest April 5; 5 4-H teams registered; 15 FFA teams qualified
- Hippology contest April 5 (w/ Horse Judging) and April 6, at the *Straughn Center/Animal Sciences
 - 4 Senior teams are registered and 13 Intermediate teams
- State events – Public speaking, individual and team demonstrations, Quiz Bowl – June 21; – need at least 2 senior teams for Quiz Bowl to hold the contest (a team consists of 4 to 5 members)
- The following policy is relative to team educational events (Horse Judging, Hippology, Horse Bowl)

- Top two teams at the state contest will qualify for the Southern Regional 4-H Championships
- Top four individuals at the state contest will qualify for the Eastern National 4-H Roundup which will be held November 9 in Louisville, KY
- It was noted that this policy makes it difficult to train youth and organize travel; UF resources may be able to help with these efforts with advance planning
- Please note that a single individual that is on the winning team at the State level but is not on the “all star” team that goes to Nationals can compete again in the same educational contest at the State level in subsequent years.
- Horsemanship School is confirmed for 2025
 - Western week: June 8 – 13
 - English week: June 15 – 20
 - 20 youth maximum per week so everyone is in the front barn; selection process will be developed (it will not be first come, first serve); registration through 4-H online
 - Youth \$625; Chaperone \$350
 - Sunday arrival, Friday departure after breakfast
- State Horse Show, July 10 – 12; three exemptions were submitted (allowance to proceed to State without participation at Area)
- Regional Horse Show, July 30 – August 3
 - There will be changes in the Ranch, Speed and Hunter Divisions. Revised rule book and schedule have not yet been posted. <https://sites.google.com/view/sr4hhorse/home>
 - Schooling over fences will be 6:00 – 9:30 am Friday with assigned order of go; 3 minutes per rider
 - Working hunter, Equitation over fences and Hunter Hack classes will offer 3 heights (A = 2’-2’3”; B=2’3”-2’6”, C = 2’6”-2’9”)/ All height divisions will be evaluated and placed as one class; must enter the same height for all three classes.
 - Ranch division will drop Breakaway Roping and add Working Western Rail
 - Speed division will add goat tying

2025 Area Horse Shows

- 1 point earned at an Area show qualifies for participation in the State show
- Area show dates and locations:
 - Area North, Clay Co. Fairgrounds, May 2 – 3; around 110 entries; concerns about show facility have been addressed
 - Area East, Clarcona Horseman’s Park, May 2 – 4; 87 approved to date with another 30 incomplete
 - Area West, Sumter Eq. Center, April 25 – 26: around 80 to date
- Reminder to host counties to make sure UF gets the judge’s agreements and encourage Judges to fill out supplier information if necessary
 - Supplier information must be complete at least 2 weeks prior to show date to ensure timely payment
- Area ribbons should be here any time – requested by April 1
 - First place prizes will be recycled from previous year awards
 - Polos, brushes, grooming totes

2025 State Horse Show and Regional Plans

- T-shirts for Regional delegates - Nancy Moores previously mentioned that she would secure a sponsor (~ \$1000). If that is not an option, then delegates will need to purchase t-shirts in advance.
- Regional qualification – Qualifying 10 Juniors and up to 70 Seniors based on points earned.
- Clarification – Per the state rules, “Intermediates may qualify for Regionals with the Seniors provided they compete and qualify in the Senior Division in both the Area and State shows.”
 - Because the rules do not state otherwise, an Intermediate who competes as a Senior at the Area show, may compete as a Junior at the State show.
 - In order for an intermediate to show as a senior at the state show, they must show as a senior at the area show.
- State t-shirts will be pre-ordered only.
- Awards for State Show
 - Ribbon costs have increased by \$0.90/ribbon
 - Medals cost \$500 for just 2nd and 3rd and costs keep going up each year
 - ~\$80 per 1st place trophy with shipping/ordering associated (horse head); the Board felt that the horse head trophies are a state “signature” and would like to keep giving them
 - *The board approved the following:*
 - *Eliminate medals entirely and give a larger ribbon for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place*
- State Show facility price increased again from ~\$13,800 to \$14,500. Stalls are currently \$65 and have been this price for a couple of years.
 - *The Board approved raising the stall fee to \$75 for both horse and tack stalls.*
- Planning to keep similar schedule as last year. Will flip Ranch Division and Western Division riding classes on Friday to reduce conflicts.
- Over fences schooling will stay the same with 3-minute warmups at \$25 a class.
- State Show decoration theme - "Patriotic" celebrates love for country through creative stall decorations that showcase national spirit, symbols, and colors. Entries can reflect historical themes, military appreciation, or classic red, white, and blue designs that honor the spirit of the nation.
- Area North is responsible for the Social. Plans will be solidified in May. Budget is \$300.

2026 Rules/Protocols to Consider at the Fall Meeting

Clarify in rulebook that an Intermediate who competes as a Senior at the Area show, may compete as a Junior at the State show.

Next meeting – Friday, September 19, 10 am Eastern Time, Horse Teaching Unit

Zoom option will be available.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Nagle