

State 4-H Horse Advisory Board Meeting

September 13, 2024

PRESENT:

Area	4-H Agent/Program Assistant	Volunteer
North	Claire Davis (Calhoun) Jessica Emmerson (Levy)	Kellie Anderson Terry Stout Holly Shenk Mae Whitehurst (Non-voting) Suzy Wise (Non-voting, Alachua) Kelsey Irvine (non-voting, Nassau)
East	Shane Michael (Seminole) Brittany Justesen (Osceola)	Tracey Clement Liz Jett Barbara Nagle Stephanie Klein (Non-voting, Lake)
South	Sheri Trent (Seminole Tribe) Alexandra Draper (Manatee)	Monica Arbuz Jennifer Forthman Sierra Coward John Ferguson (Non-voting, St. Lucie) Martha Spotts (Non-voting, St. Lucie) Cheryl Daggy (Non-voting, DeSoto)
West	Shree Ghosh (Polk) Shayla Tillett (Pasco)	Dorothy Blair Amy Wade Bobbi Barnes Nancy Moores (Non-voting, Hernando)
UF/4-H	Dr. Sandra TenBroeck, Alyssa Ohmstede, Joel McQuagge, Stacey Ellison	

Meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Advisory Board members were reviewed. The updated list will be posted on the website www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/youth/horse.

Dr. TenBroeck would be happy to work with new Agents to familiarize them with the horse program details. One suggestion was for UF to create bitesize videos on how to manage a horse show such as how to set up for the cattle classes, how to check game bits, etc. UF staff are willing to conduct Zoom educational opportunities for Agents, leaders and youth to review rules, show protocol, expectations, etc. If county Agents will let Dr. TenBroeck know specifically what they would like to see relative to education/training, she will work with Equine faculty and staff to meet those requests.

Announcements

Shane Michael is working on his dissertation for his Doctorate Degree. His research topic is “What are the motivating factors for youth to join the Florida 4-H Horse Project?” and “What are the perceived benefits and impacts from their participation?”. His research group will be limited to youth ages 13- 18 who are currently enrolled in the Florida 4-H Horse Project. He will use 4H Online to contact youth to request their participation in the research group. Ideally, he would like to identify 4 participants from each area. He may need assistance from this advisory committee to help encourage youth to participate in this study.

Horse Program Financial Information

A rough estimate of financial data was shared with the Advisory Committee relative to profit/loss across the four Horse Show Areas for the last 5 years (2019-2024), the 2024 State Horse Show, and the 2024 Regional Horse Show.

In general:

- Area South has consistently shown a loss.
- Area North operated one year (2021) in the red but the other years realized a small profit.
- Area East operated one year (2019) in the black but the other years realized a loss.
- Area West has consistently shown a profit.
- State Show – we had some significant savings this year (dressage judge didn't charge us, recycled metals) so we showed 11,446 profit
- Regional Show – 3099 loss

Here are some points to consider when reviewing this rough data:

- 2021 was a rough year across the board as we were recovering from the non-event covid year.
- This financial data only looked at show related expenses alone to put in perspective which shows were making money/breaking even, and those that were not.
- Other expenses not reflected in profit/loss such as rulebook printing/shipping, fuel for event travel, event supplies, awards for educational events, student labor, and insurance to name just a few. The shows that operate in the black help offset these other expenses.
- Overall, the program operated at a loss in 2024 of approximately \$2,000.
- The Horsemanship Schools were not conducted in 2024 due to ongoing construction at the HTU. The schools typically realize a net profit for the program.

General Program Information

There are resources available for Hippology, Horse Judging and Quiz Bowl. Alyssa and Dr. TenBroeck will post lists of resources on the contest pages of the ANS/Extension/youth/horse website.

- Horse Judging School: December 14 at HTU. \$10 per person for pre-registration, \$15 per person for day of registration. Lunch is on your own. Registration will be through 4H online.
- State Horse Judging: April 5 at HTU (Seniors – give 4 sets of reasons)
- Hippology: April 5 (w/ Horse Judging) and April 6, for the other contest categories (Interm. & Senior)
- State Events (Public speaking, individual and team demonstrations, Quiz Bowl): June 21
- Horsemanship Schools: June 8-13 Western week; June 15 – 20 English week
- UF is considering conducting a Horse Judging Camp to be scheduled between the State Horse Show and the Southern Regional Championships.
- UF is considering initiating a 4-H Ambassador Program: There are several Land Grant Universities who have implemented such a program which could serve as a model. Ambassadors would be current 4-H Members who serve as advocates for the 4-H Horse Program. Program could be implemented in baby steps:
 - maybe two youth from each area
 - maybe produce video spotlights from past 4-Hers that could be posted on various social media platforms.
- New Horseless (Love-a-Horse) Achievement Books, Horsemanship Advancement Books and a new

Jr/Int Horse Project Record Book are in the works.

2025 Area Horse Show

There was lively discussion regarding the status and future of Area Horse Shows, as well as qualifications for attending State and Regional shows. It was pointed out that Agents are responsible for a wide variety of programs, and some have expressed concern over their own qualifications to participate in horse program/show management. In addition, some don't have a broad base of reliable volunteers. Approaches that were considered included:

- Eliminate the Area Horse Shows as a requirement for State Horse Show participation. Create some other criteria for State Horse Show participation; "other criteria" might be proof of participation in 3 other shows of some flavor and participation on at least one educational contest
- Offer "discipline" 4-H Horse Shows as a requirement for State Horse Show participation
- Reduce number of Area Horse Shows (rezone)

Data was shared regarding 2024 participation at the four Area Shows and the State Horse Show as well as a map showing the counties that participated in the 2024 State Horse Show. This data illustrated that the bulk of participation is in the current East and West Areas. These two Areas also seem to have a broad Agent and volunteer base to execute multi day and multi ring shows.

The conclusion of the discussion was as follows:

- Area Shows need to remain a State Horse Show qualification criterion with the potential for a hardship waiver.
- The current Area South is not sustainable for reasons including low participation numbers, agent turnover, and financial challenges.
- Area North spans a large geographic area which has deterred participation from many counties in the panhandle.

The Advisory Committee moved, seconded, and approved the following:

- The state will be divided into three (3) Horse Show Areas (see 2025 Horse Show Area Map):
 - Area North – Current Area North counties plus Marion County
 - Current Area South will be eliminated by splitting it vertically to distribute counties into new East and West areas as follows:
 - (New) Area East – Current Area East counties plus Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Seminole Tribe
 - (New) Area West – Current Area West counties minus Marion, plus Manatee, Hardee, Highland, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, Collier, and Monroe
- The new Area East and West zones will each conduct an Area Horse Show with a full complement of classes as outlined in the Rulebook with the exception that Area East will not offer cattle classes.
- Area North has the option of holding one Area Horse Show with a full complement of classes or two Area Discipline Horse Shows held in two different locations with the complement of classes for the two discipline shows to be determined by the Area Agents.

The Advisory Committee moved, seconded, and approved the following State Horse Show qualification criteria:

- Horse/Rider combination may show in any Area Horse Show. Out of area participation will require county agent approval. Showing in multiple Area Horse Shows will be discussed at the spring advisory meeting.
- Horse/Rider combination must show in at least one Area Horse Show. Points required to qualify for

state will be determined at the spring advisory committee meeting.

- Hardship Waiver Declaration - Provisional qualification for State Show may be requested by filing a Hardship Waiver with the State Specialist and meeting all of the criteria below:
 - County approval
 - Proof of participation for the horse/rider combination in at least 2 other horse shows during current 4H year
 - Horse show participation verified by County Agent and Horse Show Judge or Horse Show Manager/Secretary
 - Youth must participate in at least one educational contest, verified by County Agent
 - Youth must participation in a Zoom meeting reviewing the 4-H Horse Show Rules

Area Horse Show locations and dates are tentative and will require further discussion with Agents in the rezoned Areas. Current advisory committee membership will remain intact with Area South representatives working in their new respective Areas based on their county.

Assuming 2024 locations and relative dates the following would apply:

Area North:	Clay County Fairgrounds, Green Cove Springs	May 2-3
Area West:	Sumter Equestrian Center, Bushnell	April 25-26
Area East:	Clarcona Horse Park, Apopka	May 2-4

Entry procedure for Area Horse Shows will continue to be 4H-Online.

UF gave updated list of judges. If Area/County shows have negative experiences with judges, please share the information with the State advisory committee and or State Specialist. Similarly, notify us of excellent judges and judges new to Florida so we can add them to our lists. This list will be shared with the Area committees.

2025 State Horse Show

Class Schedule

For the most part, the 2024 schedule of classes worked well. Potential entries and new classes will be considered at the spring meeting where we will discuss the schedule in detail with potential for a “soft” start on Wednesday to reduce conflicts.

Procedure for Over Fences Schooling will be continued in 2025. This procedure encompasses 3 Schooling Classes (2’3”, 2’6”, and 2’9”) run as follows:

- The class fee of (\$25) is charged for each class but the class is not counted in their limit of 5 classes
- One exhibitor plus a trainer/coach is allowed in the ring for a fixed time of 3 minutes.
- Coach/trainer may raise/lower a fence as long as the fences are returned to their starting height and configuration.
- The exhibitor is given a 1-minute remaining warning and the announcer/gate crew ensure that the 3-minute time limit is strictly enforced.
- All three schooling classes run before the over fences judged classes.

June versus July Show Date

Pros for June show:

- More time between State and Regionals to work on horse/rider issues revealed at the State Show
- More time for families to augment finances to support the expense of the Regional Horse Show

- More reasonable time frame for requesting time off from work.

Cons for June show:

- Limited opportunity to schedule Horsemanship Schools before the State Horse Show
- No opportunity to hold Horsemanship Schools in July due to dormitory availability

In the final analysis, the Advisory Committee felt that offering Horsemanship Schools in June with a July Show was preferable to not offering Horsemanship Schools at all. State Show dates are July 10th – 12th.

Class Awards

UF/ANS will look at options to reduce the cost of class awards. Options:

- 1st place trophy and ribbons for 1st through 10th
- 1st place trophy, medal for 2nd place, and ribbons for 1st through 10th
- 1st place trophy, some small prize for 2nd and 3rd place and ribbons for 1st through 10th
- 1st place trophy, Champion and Reserve Ribbon for 1st and 2nd place, and 3rd through 10th place ribbons.

Regional Horse Show

- Qualification requirements for FL will be the following:
 - Top 70 point earning Seniors (and Intermediates riding as Seniors) invited to Regionals
 - Top 10 point earning Juniors (and Intermediates riding as Juniors) invited to Regionals
 - Invitations not filled by top 70 point earning Seniors will be extended to “next in the list” of qualified seniors until the 70 spots are filled or we have no more qualified seniors wishing to go
 - Invitations not filled by top 10 point earning Juniors will be extended to “next in the list” of qualified juniors.
 - Florida will send up to 70 qualified Seniors and 10 qualified Juniors to Regionals
- Seeking sponsorship for exhibitor t-shirts or pass cost on to exhibitors
 - Nancy Moores (Hernando) said she will take on identifying a sponsor
 - Approximately \$1000 commitment needed for all regional qualifiers (show and educational contests)

Florida Rules, Procedures, and Classes

It was noted the 2024 Regional Horse Show rules for Showmanship and Horsemanship/Equitation changed to a “clean slate” for scoring the final go. The Advisory Committee chose to not following suite. Florida Rules for “cumulative total” for scored classes with a preliminary and final pattern will remain.

The Regional Horse Show is considering adding Working Western Rail (“Ranch” rail class) and Goat-tying to their class list. Riders may not show in both Western Pleasure AND Working Western Rail. The Advisory Committee approved following whatever the Regional Horse Show decides relative to Working Western Rail but we would call it Ranch Rail and it would be a Ranch Division class. There was no interest in adding Goat-tying at this time.

Discussion on allowing in hand only competitors (miniature/young horse) to enter more than one showmanship and/or ground handling class. The proposal failed for lack of support. The current rules stand: one halter class, one showmanship class, and one ground handling for in-hand only projects animals.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to create a Dressage Division and move all dressage classes into this new Dressage Division. This creates another division to be counted toward the Versatility Award. Versatility

award will go to the highest point earner across 3 of the 5 divisions. Suzy Wise and Tracey Clement are confident they can find sponsors to cover the high point award for this new Dressage Division. The current Dressage sponsors will be asked if they would like to support this division's high point.

The Advisory Committee discussed posting scoresheets at the show or scanning and posting on-line the Monday after the show. Posting at the show presents the following issues:

- Requires additional office staff to scan the score sheets, post and answer questions/explain
- Promotes potential for inquiries relative to what symbols mean and why a particular score was given
- Increases the risk of protests

The Advisory Committee concluded that posting on-line after the show was the best policy.

Ground Handling Tack (see page 16, #3. B. (3)) – Add: “Rawhide nosebands are not allowed.” (Post pictures of illegal nosebands on show website).

Western Trail Scoring (see page 26, #5) – Add to E. (5) “or failure to complete an obstacle.”

Entry Requirements (see page 4, #5) - Clarify that an exhibitor may show more than one horse in a scored/timed class in which exhibitor/horse work individually, AND there is no potential for call backs for finalists to work in a group (such as rail work). A list of classes that will qualify under this description will be in the rulebook.

The Areas responsible for the “social” and the “Emerald Award” judging will be redefined for future rotations since we have downsized to 3 Horse Show Areas. For 2025: Social – Area North; Emerald Judging – Area East.

Miscellaneous

A request was brought forward to develop a “Grand Slam” award targeting younger 4Hers that can't apply for Horseman of the Year. A potential sponsor has been identified. The criteria would include horse showing and educational contests. A scoring rubric would need to be developed as well as the application form and deadline for application. The Advisory Committee thought this was a great idea. UF/ANS will investigate and work on details.

Next meeting – Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 10 am via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Nagle