FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM OCTOBER 2013 REGIONAL MEETINGS

NORTHWEST

Is the helmet rule a requirement for insurance or a dictated rule?

The helmet policy is a policy that has been adopted by the University of Minnesota Extension Service Youth Development. The policy is in place to ensure that we are providing a safe environment for the youth who participate in the 4-H horse program. 4-H values your child and their safety and we are obligated to adhere to the policy to provide every opportunity we can to ensure the safety of your child. This is a non-negotiable rule. Insurance does not dictate this rule. We acknowledge that many organizations do not require helmets and you may or may not require them for your child at home. We as a youth development organization feel strongly that while youth are participating in our program that we protect them. Two examples that enforce this policy: In Olmsted County a few years ago a 4-H'er was thrown into a gate head first during a horse show. Doctors believe that she may not have survived had she not had a helmet on. A 4-H'er in Mille Lacs County was riding horse at home and the mother was inside with the windows open and heard a commotion. Her daughter had been riding horse. When she got outside there were some broken branches and the horse running with no rider. She found her daughter laying on the ground unconscious with her head laying on rocks. She did not survive this accident and her death was ruled trauma caused by the fall and her head hitting the rocks.

How are notifications being done for meetings?

There is a mass email that is sent out to all 4-H'ers enrolled in the horse project as well as to all 4-H screened leaders who have marked horse as a project. These come to all via email with the sending as 4-HOnline. So look for these notices. We can track which were delivered, if they were opened or if they were deleted. We are also in the process of developing a regional list serve. As you sign in to the regional meetings we are asking for an email to start compiling a direct email list for notifications etc.

SOUTHWEST

Will there be a policy on game penalties so it's the same for everyone?

The state horse pdc voted in November to make all game penalties across the state for county qualifying shows a 5 second penalty.
SOUTHEAST

Is there a set coggins deadline like before May 15 or by the first clinic?

The state does not issue a specific deadline. Counties dictate that deadline. Sometimes counties have them due with the horse ID’s and some have them due by the first clinic. We follow the board of animal health regulations for exhibitions in that proof of a negative coggins test within 12 months of exhibition and many counties require that proof prior to the first get together of horses for example at clinics etc to ensure safety.

Training program has requirements such as achievement book. Will this still be ok?
Yes if there are project specific requirements those will remain in place as a part of the project requirements.

Will records still be judged?
Records are a county specific decision on whether and when they are judged. You just ask your specific county for details.

Project leaders must sign achievement books is this at county fair or just at state in order to be placed?
If it is in the training and achievement project they must be completed and signed off on in order to compete or signed off on as part of the competition at the county level to be placed to earn a state trip.

Drill team and challenged riders have an automatic trip?
Drill team is in the process of growing and as a part of growing the project they have been allowed automatic trips until they grow to a specified level at the state where they will be dictated to have a qualifying show. Challenged riders were a demonstration at the state fair this year. This is not a guarantee every year at this point. It will need to be discussed at the state pdc level for the coming years.

Saddleseat. Blue ribbon gets a trip?
This is on a year by year discussion and decision. This discussion happens each year to determine if this will be done at the state level again. This discussion will happen at one of the next state pdc meetings.

If a county has nobody that accepts a pleasure trip can 4 games trips be given?
How trips are allocated in each county is a county decision. The state assigns the number of horse and riders that can be sent and the county determines how these are distributed. The only limitations that the state puts on are for trail and training.

Ties – there is no ruling in the state rulebook how to handle ties only two examples. Is there more clarification such as the method used for the state show high point? The state highpoint tie breaker is listed on page 7 of the horse show rulebook. [http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/events/docs/2013-show-premium-book.pdf](http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/events/docs/2013-show-premium-book.pdf)

Can safety checks bring on liability?
For example… you checked my saddle and it broke, is it your liability as a PDC? Currently we do not safety check equipment on a state level and are not looking at doing safety checks for equipment.

What about the requirements to stall at county fair. State Horse Show doesn't have a requirement so can this continue to be required?
State Horse Show does not have a requirement for a number of reasons, one being the opportunity to not miss school. We strategically schedule the state horse show so youth participating in games classes don't miss school on both ends of the horse show and youth who are primarily pleasure don't miss school on both ends of the state horse show. We also do not have a large outside spectator crowd who may come to see the horses. Many counties require stalling due to the fact that horses are a major part of county fairs and their presence is important to the success of the fairs. Also this requirement in many counties is dictated by county fairboards because the fair is “owned by them”. 4-H is just a participant in their fair and must follow their rules.

Show requirements: Ethics video has come as a county requirement in the past 3 years. Will this still be the case?
This is a county decision as to whether they require this. Counties will need to determine impacts of this requirement. Each county was provided a video at one point but many counties don’t have them currently. Renee Kostick has a copy that she is willing to loan out as well as the horse library has one that is available for check out. The 4-H horse library can be accessed at the following website: [http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/projects/animal-science/horse/library.html](http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/projects/animal-science/horse/library.html)

Some counties include trail in points and some do not. How should this be allocated?
This is a county decision at this time. Each county is given the freedom to determine which classes count for points. There is discussion on the state level to determine if this should be more consistent with guidelines from the state level.

Is there a rule for 2 horses at county level?

For example...a county fair has room for 50 horses. Can a 4-Her show a second horse if they trailer it in? Some counties cannot trailer in since fair is going on. Others trailer in and take home their training horses and they leave early? These are county decisions as to the number of horses allowed to show. Factors that influence this decision are space at county fairs, fairness and equity of who stays and who goes, fairboard rules that 4-H must follow as well as awards. Most fairboards pay the premiums for ribbons for their county. The premiums do not come from 4-H, therefore the fairboards help to control the number of horses/premiums. This is a county decision that the state cannot dictate due to differences in fairs and fairboards.

What about counties with a LOT of qualified riders in a discipline and other counties who don’t send anyone. Can those unused quota trips be reallocated?

Based on the current quota system counties with a larger number of qualified riders are already give a large number of trips that counties with smaller numbers of qualified riders. Quotas are figured for each county based on participation in the horse project. Often times it isn’t until very close to the state fair that we know that a county will not be bringing anyone. Sometimes it is due to last minute injuries etc. This late date would make it very hard to notify another person to attend. It would also be difficult on a short notice option to get the necessary paperwork completed and to get the changes in the computer and paperwork done. There is a very limited amount of counties that have trips that don’t send anyone. Most fill their quotas.

Can we address declining youth numbers across the state?

The following are numbers of 4-H'ers enrolled in 4-H over the past 4 years:

- 2012 33,126 youth
- 2011 31,292 youth
- 2010 33,403 youth
- 2009 34,644 youth

In the horse project the following numbers were for 2012

Horse enrollment 3,921 youth; horse is the 7th largest 4-H project in Minnesota and the largest animal project in Minnesota. There were 802 youth participants in the Minnesota State Horse Show in 2012 which equates to the largest participation at the state event. 20.45% of the youth participate in the state horse show.
Central

Deadlines, consequences and exemption policy...is the policy now in effect?
Each county has a role out plan and as deadlines come up that this policy will effect it will be announced. Yes it is in effect.

Is the policy for all of 4-H?
Yes. Policy is overall for 4-H.

How are independents affected/policies?
Same as regular members. Independent members have a new policy and format for tracking their involvement with mentors etc.

Are County Fair mandatory meetings affected?
If the meeting is tied to a state trip then there will need to be other things put in place as incentives.

Safety Clinics affected?
In Western Heritage the safety clinics are a part of the program itself so they are still required. As with the expectations of testing in the training program, etc. If they are a necessary part of the current program they continue.

Deadlines for achievement books?
If achievement levels are required for a specific program that is part of the program such as the training and achievement program they will continue to be required. If a county requires achievement steps for all but not as a part of a specific program they can't be tied to a state trip.

Many in the region are concerned about there not being any requirements and consequences?
There are still requirements and consequences; the University of Minnesota 4-H is trying to be more consistent across county lines and statewide between other project areas and other counties. There are still deadlines. We would rather counties look at incentives rather than punishments. This is a positive youth development method.
What counties were/are involved in the point system study?

Any county who volunteered at during the state webinar in December of 2013 or any who have come forward since were offered the opportunity to participate in the study. There were over 30 counties that completed the study.

What is the timeframe of the points?

We are currently working to develop a system that we are sure will work with all counties and through research can definitely say this is the appropriate system to integrate. As steps move forward they are being peer reviewed to ensure they are workable. We want to make sure when we put a system in place that we know it will work and through research can justify it. The timeframe is unsure at this time.

What is the latest regarding team quotas and eligibility for judging teams and hippology?

The state horse PDC discussed this at their November 16th meeting and a survey of all former coaches to see if the limit was taken off of each county how many additional persons would this mean. The problem is space issues and safety for horse judging as to the concern of opening it up. If it opens up for one county it must open up for all counties and we need to ensure we can support the additional persons that might mean. Survey will be done and results brought to the February state horse PDC for further discussion.

Communication needs improvement...this is an ongoing item of concern. We are working to improve communication and ensure that people are notified.

Can a horse specific calendar be added to emails or on the website?

This is something we can consider. Renee will look into the possibility of this.

County fair premiums: Why are they all different?

4-H does not control the county fair premiums. They are decided and paid by the fairboard not Extension or 4-H. Each Agriculture Society/fairboard sets theirs and pays them. The issue of capping premiums is also a fairboard decision.

State Horse show...can the dorms be used to help families save money?

If the dorms were used we would need to rent the building and provide 24 hour dorm staff and a nurse to house youth. I don't know if it would be cost effective since the rental of the building is by the day and full time staff would be costly.
State horse show...hotel discounts?

The advertised rates that are provided to families with their state horse show registration are negotiated discounted rates if you book with one of those hotels. We negotiate and block rooms for 4-H participants in the state horse show and negotiate discounted rates with those hotels currently.