

Outagamie County 4-H Horse Assoc.
Board of Director's Meeting
January 16, 2024
Outagamie County Extension Office, Appleton, WI

Call to order: 7:07 p.m.

Present: Sara and Keira Leitermann, Ellen and Kaiya Wheaton, Allison and Dale Maass, Gail Leitermann, Lauren Suehring, Lydia Ewing, Trisha Werner, Kyle and Kensley Breaker, Elyanna Masty (Kerry Shepard), Danielle Schlueter

Guests: Tammy Stille (Rebecca), Isaiah and Kelsey (Oneida Creek Equestrian), Dave Schroeder (Fair Rep.), Ava (and friend)

Absent: Melia Pauley, Janet Schlueter, Wycovia Young, Lane Witterholt

Secretary's Report: Tricia made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as emailed by Keira for the November 28 planning meeting. Danielle seconded the motion. No additions, questions, corrections were shared. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The budget will be discussed at next week's meeting.

2024 Horse Show:

Discussion was had on why the horse show is not during the fair show.

- History was shared. Originally on the Saturday of the fair, the horse association used to run the pleasure show and gymkhana classes (Jr fair and open class) on the same day. The fair continued to request we leave earlier and take up less space. Members of the public continued to ignore the barriers and drove down the road by the arena. Many gymkhana riders would pull their horses from classes at the end of the long day.
- When the dog project was granted permission to move their show to the weekend before, the horse association asked permission as well. The show was allowed to add classes, expand offerings, and increase safety for 4H youth and horses.
- Gymkhana is shown the Saturday of fair. Participation increased by splitting the shows.

The following reasons for running the pleasure show in July follow.

- Many youth do not have access to a safe, dry, arena to practice on their home premise.
- Often in May and June we battle rain or storms, which cause unsafe practice areas and canceled clinics.
- Showing gymkhana in June and July allow the horse to adjust to the two performances.
- Youth already prepare, show, and safeguard multiple animal projects at fair.
- The gymkhana show offers more exciting horse riding events to watch.

The following reasons for running the pleasure show during fair week follow.

- Boarding the horse at the fair allows youth to show off their horse.
- Boarding the horse at the fair allows youth to show multiple events potentially during the week.
- Families ask to see the horses.

- For the short amount of time those families want to watch the horse show, they wouldn't mind watching pleasure classes.

The following were ways we could show during the fair week.

- Members could haul and rent arenas to practice for a cost to the 4H member.
- Congestion in the back by the riding arena is less than in the past.
- Members have eight clinics to practice for the show.

The following is feedback on interest for keeping horses at the fair from present 4Hers.

- Most spoke of having no interest in boarding horses during fair.
- There are concerns about the ability to safeguard all animal projects in multiple barns/tents.
- Horses are stressed out by the other animals: sights, sounds, and smells.
- Horses are stressed out by the heat and extended stay in a new location.
- Horses could be fed things they should not be fed.
- Leaders do not want members penalized if they do not want to keep their horses at fair.
- Some 4Hers are concerned about the impact on their job and requesting more time off.

Suggestions to fix those concerns follow.

- Have other people show your animals (not horses though).
- Have other people watch your animals and keep strangers away from them.
- Have a rotation of members rather than keeping horses on the grounds the entire week.

Other concerns were raised about having horses at the fair.

- Insurance on the animals is the responsibility of the owners.
- The 4H Horse Association does not have the funds to run two shows, etc.
- The need to schedule a quality judge is becoming urgent.
- There would need to be more volunteers to run multiple shows.
- The horse arena does not have a wash area for bathing horses.
- The horse arena only has one water spigot.
- The horse arena does not have electricity. There is concern about heat within a tent.
- Many changes to the schedule in the past were because of Mounted Shooters. They do not have a current contract with the fair. 4H groups will be given priority when scheduling by the fair board.

Decisions:

- Oneida Creek will board their horses during the fair under a tent with rented/borrowed stalls.
- 4H Horse project members will be offered the opportunity to board their horses during fair.
- Many decisions will be made in the future: show schedules, classes, deadlines, requirements, length of stay, equipment, water, electricity, facilities, practice times (open ride, twice a day for 2-3 hours scheduled), stall times, security, volunteers, judge for open show, cost, etc.
- Saturday, June 30, of fair week
 - Open Class Show
 - Youth and walk trot classes will be added.
- Sunday, July 1, of fair week
 - Jr Fair Gymkhana Show
 - Walk trot classes will be added.

- Open class gymkhana classes will be added.
- Saturday, July 20, Jr Fair Pleasure Show

[Fair representative left.]

Drill Team Information:

- Oneida Creek Equestrian started a drill team last year.
- They will start practice in March, once or twice a week drill team practice
- 4H members could haul in for practice.
- A question was asked about a charge to participate. No answer was available.
- Current members pay 100 for the season for the drill team.
- Ten riders are on the team; regular members would sub out for 4H participants.
- OCE could do a youth team and an adult team, depending on interest.
- In the OCE arena the most is ten per team. At the fair grounds the most is twelve participants.
- The drill team has/will perform at the following:
 - Ride for Ty event
 - at Rock Ranch
 - at the fair grounds during fair week
 - OCE home performances
- The information will be shared with the general membership next week.
- 4H participants would have to participate on their own, not as 4H participants.

[Fair entry representative left. OCE representatives left.]

Award point system: This will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Fun show: Dawn Brandow is available for the fun show.

- Sunday, June 2
- Classes: driving, halter, showmanship, hunter hack, English, western, w/t, w/t/c, trail, ranch
- Feedback will be provided for each class.
- Danielle will provide the showbill.

Gymkhana clinic:

- Pam Bound charges 1,200, which is more than our budget allows.
- Sara Harmann is a possibility.
- Circle M of Pulaski is a possibility.
- Caswell of Neenah, on II, is a possibility. Danielle will contact Caswell for more information.

January meeting:

- Horse bowl
- Riding log
- Project requirements. Danielle will print off some requirement sheets.
- Website was updated over winter break.

[Handbook](#): No new updates.

Tricia Werner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Danielle seconded. Motion carried.