

Notes from Meeting with Trainers

Springfield, OH

August 1, 2019

Issue: Attendance at PFHA regional shows has been declining and some of the shows are no longer profitable. Regional chapters are at risk of being shut down due to lack of funds.

Proposed solution: Kentucky, Great Lakes and Ozarks regions combine to host one annual show with costs and proceeds split between the regions.

Advantages:

- Larger pool of volunteers to plan and run the show
- Likely to draw more exhibitors – classes would be larger
- Larger classes create more excitement

Challenges:

- Might require a PFHA rule change
- Would make it much harder for some horses to qualify for Nationals (points system)
- Limits the amount of show experience the horses get prior to Nationals
- Timing – need to stay away from Asheville Alive, Murfreesboro and Nationals dates (July, early August or October would work)
- Fall show would require an indoor facility
- Need 200 horses to support a big show
- Great Lakes is under contract with the Champions Center for two more years

Options:

- Make the show four-days long
- Hold the show at Kentucky Horse Park
- Offer cash prizes for the championship classes (will need sponsors)
- Regions split the proceeds based on number of horses from each region

Other ideas:

- Propose a rule change to eliminate the point system to qualify for Nationals.
- Alternative to point system could be a requirement to attend at least two regional shows
- Build a 'show circuit' – one show in the Northeast; one show in the Midwest'; possible schedule:
 - Spectrum in March
 - Asheville in June
 - Northeast in July/August
 - Nationals in September
 - Midwest in October
- Create farm shows with music and food; could be qualifier shows for the circuit shows and/or could be used to get horses used to the show environment; consider offering "try a Paso Fino" day as part of the farm shows

Consensus from all attendees: CHANGE IS NEEDED!

Actions:

- Attendees provided names and contact numbers with a commitment to help find a solution.
- Joe Hartke to investigate potential use of Kentucky Horse Park.

Attendees:

Tina Bunce	419-308-2934	
Mark Bunce	419-308-1208	
Roey Yaloz	917-498-4000	
Beth Uelsmann Figueroa	573-934-5352	
Joe Hartke	859-380-5904	
Frank Bilyeu	636-698-4011	
Francisco Palafox	312-208-1757	
Nelson DelValle	573-366-6667	217-835-2603 (H)
Victor Santos	616-477-3715	
Sarah Preston	269-539-0781	
McKensie Frase	330-248-1306	
Ashley Misner	330-388-2072	
Jackie Holland	859-816-1095	
Rufo Figueroa	706-244-1294	
Ricki Mendoza	502-655-6554	
José Gonzalez	336-877-0029	
Lew Haines	618-830-3807	
Carolyn Barren	586-255-8451	
Lori Ware	616-581-8047	