

## HIO Teleconference Summary

May 9, 2006

**Present:** Craig Evans (TWHBEA), Niels Holch (HOA & WI), Lonnie Messick (NHSC), and Mack Motes (SSHBEA)

**Not Present:** Don Bell (NWAH), Donna Benefield (HPC), Keith Dane (FOSH), Bob Nagel (MFTHBA), Kenny Smith (KWAH), and Mike Tuck (USDA)

**USDA:** Dr. Todd Behre; Facilitator Robin Lohnes

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### Review of April 11, 2006 Teleconference Summary:

The April 11, 2006, meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

### USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

**April 2006 Show Report:** Dr. Behre reported that USDA attended three shows: 1) Mid-Atlantic Tennessee Walking Horse Classic (NWAH) in Lexington, VA, April 21, 2006 [*105 entries, 0 violations, 0 conflict resolutions; 66 samples for gas chromatography-results pending*]; 2) Spring Jubilee Tennessee Walking Horse Show (KWAH) in Harrodsburg, KY, April 21, 2006 [*Show Manager cancelled show due to rain. Dr. Behre noted that it was NOT raining. Show was rescheduled for the next day. USDA was not present*]; and 3) South Central Ruritan Horse Show (KWAH) in Chuckey, TN, April 22, 2006 [*Show Manager cancelled show due to rain. Dr. Behre noted that it was NOT raining. Show was rescheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. USDA was not present*]. Entries listed in the USDA report reflect only those entries present when USDA was in attendance.

Dr. Behre noted that since USDA published its press release regarding Form 7060s on April 14, 2006, only samples taken post-April 14<sup>th</sup> will be issued 7060s. Niels Holch confirmed with Dr. Behre that the Form 7060 is a letter of violation and not a letter of warning. Dr. Behre also reported that the Department is updating its website. He noted that there have been no further policy decisions made regarding the 7060s and that all changes would be preceded by notice to the HIOs and a subsequent press release.

**Update on APHIS Database:** Dr. Behre reported that he had met with database technician regarding the APHIS Animal Care database. Trials utilizing the database are expected to begin in August and be operational by September 2006.

### Follow the Horse Report (Keith Dane/Niels Holch)

Tabled to June 13-14, 2006, HIO meeting.

### DQP Evaluation

Tabled to June 13-14, 2006 HIO meeting.

### Need for Stenographer at June HIO Meeting

Mack Motes stated that he thought that opening up the HIO meetings to the public would destroy the working relationships developed among the HIOs and did not see how making it public would help the HIOs in their negotiations. Niels Holch noted that HIO representatives would feel much less free to speak openly which would result in a stilted discussion. He felt that it would be a terrible way to go at this point and most likely would result in accomplishing less among the HIOs. Craig Evans stated he agreed with Niels' comments, and that no one was going to take a chance to be candid and stray far from each HIO's standard dogma. He referenced that both Keith Dane and Donna Benefield had previously pointed out that the old way meetings were conducted had led to closed door meetings. Lonnie Messick felt that folks would not be free to say what is on their minds and a transcript might hinder anything the group could accomplish. Niels added that he believed that the public process question had been adequately addressed by USDA hosting its listening sessions and making the meeting/teleconference summaries

available to the public. Mack Motes also pointed out that if meetings were recorded HIO representatives would refrain from expressing their own opinions, independent of their respective HIOs, in order to spark open discussion and possible compromises. Craig asked what the upside would be, and expressed concern that it would serve only to disrupt the current process. Niels Holch acknowledged that while a transcript would be more factual it would also be curtailing in that everyone would be on a very tight leash and would probably not be able to express personal opinions, but only their respective HIO Board's opinions/positions. There being no consensus among those present on the teleconference, no action was taken to engage a stenographer for the June HIO meeting. Niels Holch did suggest the topic could be revisited at the June meeting for consideration of the quarterly HIO meeting to be held in September.

### **Procedure for Reviewing the OP**

It was the consensus of those present that the goal for the June HIO meeting would be to review the OP section by section, starting on page one, and giving consideration to the pending changes proposed by the HIOs to date. Niels Holch offered to electronically track any changes, additions, deletions during the meeting.

### **Determine June 13-14, 2006, HIO Meeting Agenda**

- Tentative Agenda:
  - Review of May 9, 2006, teleconference summary
  - USDA Show Report
  - FTH Report
  - DQP Evaluation
  - Review of OP