

## HIO Meeting Summary

September 13, 2005

Washington, DC

**Present:** Donna Benefield (HPC), Craig Evans (NHSC), Russell Gaspar (FOSH), Niels Holch (HOA), and Mack Motes (SSHEABA)

**Not Present:** Don Bell (NWAH), Bob Blackwell (MFTHBA) Lynda Hill (SSHBEA), Keith Dane (FOSH), and Kenny Smith (KWHA)

**USDA:** Dr. Todd Behre; Dr. Allan Hogue, Facilitators Mike Tuck and Robin Lohnes

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### Review of August 9, 2005 Meeting Summary:

The August 9, 2005, meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

### USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

- Show Reports: The update for July is still outstanding. In August, USDA attended four shows, all of which were NHSC-affiliated:

Fayetteville, TN (NHSC)	127 entries	2 bilateral/1 unilateral	2 scar rule	3 shoeing
Belfast, TN (NHSC)	99 entries	1 bilateral/6 unilateral	8 scar rule	1 shoeing
Wartrace, TN (NHSC)	56 entries	1 bilateral/2 unilateral	0 scar rule	1 other
Celebration, TN (NHSC)	3449 entries	19 bilateral/52 unilateral	86 scar rule	5 shoeing/13 other

2 conflict resolutions
- Dr. Behre added that USDA took photos of scar rule violations at the Belfast show in order to have current documentation of scars that were definitely ruled as violations. He also added that 5 out of the 7 conflict resolution cases from the Celebration have been settled; 4 in favor of NHSC, 1 was dismissed, and the other 2 (involving bilateral) are pending. He also reported that although the show report was not yet in for the MFTHB show in September, it is estimated that there are 3 industry violations including 1 scar rule violations and 2 unilateral violations. Dr. Behre also attended the Saddlebred Championships in Louisville, KY.
- Dr. Behre will email the HIOs a cumulative summary of show reports to date by the next teleconference in October.

### Outstanding Issues

- Algometry Field Trial: Mack Motes questioned the need for algometry and its application in the field stating that proper inspection techniques could properly determine whether a horse was in violation. Dr. Hogue responded that new technology such as algometry is not intended to replace hands-on, but to enhance inspections, suggesting that perhaps technology could be used to standardize DQP instruction. Craig Evans added that to date he had no update as to NHSC's need or benefit from such a field trial. Dr. Hogue suggested that Animal Care will commit to developing a protocol within the next 60 days which would include: 1) establishing a baseline; 2) verification analysis for disputes; and 3) application as a training tool.
- Follow The Horse Report: Keith Dane continues to work on the analysis; Niels Holch would like to be kept in the loop as well as Mike Tuck.
- Standards of Conduct: USDA still needs the standards of conduct from SSHEABA, WI and HOA.
- Multi-breed Inspections: Dr. Behre stated that the HIOs will receive a copy of the USDA memorandum regarding this issue.

- Federal Suspension/HIO Sanctions: Niels Holch reiterated NHSC's position that this constitutes double jeopardy, and is in violation of the OP which carries a 6 month penalty for those individuals who show while on suspension.
- Show Report Data: Dr. Behre confirmed that USDA is seeking both the number of entries and the number of horses present for all show reports.
- Mack Motes emphasized that LOWs were a useful tool to improve DQP proficiency.

### **2006 Training**

- The tentative dates for the 2006 Training are February 2-4. USDA will be sending notices to all DQPs.
- With regard to the scar rule, there was a discussion about how to tighten the application of the scar rule and the impact it may have on those who have shown under a less restrictive application. It was generally stated that the "leaders" must agree what is in and what is out, and USDA will strongly suggest that at least one representative from each HIO attend the training session in order to ensure consistency. It was suggested that all potential differences of opinions be settled prior to the end of the clinic so that all parties left with a clear, succinct understanding.

### **OP Review**

- The HIOs reviewed the current OP in its entirety and highlighted language to be subject to additional discussion and potential amendment.
- Any HIO identifying further proposed changes was asked to contact Robin Lohnes so that a running log could be kept in order to track potential changes.
- The HIOs determined that the following areas were a matter of priority: 1) Scar Rule; 2) Probation/Enhanced Penalties; 3) Inspections; and 4) Owner Liability.
- FOSH reiterated its position that both USDA and the HIOs should develop a process by which the public could be kept up-to-date on potential changes to the OP. The question was asked if USDA still intended to hold public meetings in 2006, and Mike Tuck responded in the affirmative but added that there were no details at this time.
- Mack Motes pointed out the inconsistency in inspections and emphasized the need for tightening up enforcement of current rules and perhaps considering grandfathering horses that are not compliant with the more restrictive application of the scar rule. Dr. Behre suggested for consideration that grandfathering essentially would be a sliding scale for scar rule penalties according to age.

### **Determine October 11, 2005 HIO Teleconference Agenda**

- Tentative Agenda:
  - Review of September 13, 2005 teleconference summary
  - USDA July and September Monthly Reports
  - Definition of "barn parties"
  - FTH Report