

HIO Teleconference Summary

January 10, 2006

Present via Teleconference: Bob Nagel (MFTHBA), Don Bell (NWAHA), Donna Benefield (HPC), Keith Dane (FOSH), Niels Holch (HOA), and Mack Motes (SSHBEA)

Not Present: Craig Evans (NHSC), Dr. Alan Hogue (USDA), Dr. Cathy Hovancsak (USDA), Dr. Randy Ridenour (USDA), Kenny Smith (KWAHA)

USDA: Dr. Todd Behre, Mike Tuck; Facilitator Robin Lohnes

Review of December 13, 2005 Teleconference Summary:

Review of the December 13, 2005, HIO Meeting Summary was tabled until the February HIO Teleconference.

USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

- Show Reports: Dr. Behre reported that USDA attended the Christmas Futurity Sale (MFTHBA) with 25 sale horses and no violations. Dr. Behre also noted that the three conflict resolutions cases with KWAHA have been resolved and that KWAHA will write violations for all three. He also noted that of the two pending conflict resolutions with SSHBEA, one has been dismissed and the other SSHBEA will write a bilateral ticket.
- Regarding the 2005 Annual Show Report, Dr. Behre stated that FOSH had requested 12 categories of data to be included and USDA will use those categories as a guideline for an annual report which should be completed by the March quarterly HIO meeting.
- Update on Technology: Dr. Behre reported that FOSH representatives in Florida and California have volunteered animals for the algometry study. Don Bell also volunteered NWAHA representatives' animals in the DFW area. The timeline for such studies has been pushed to May. Don inquired whether it was possible to schedule such a study around the April 19th listening session in the Dallas area.
- Dr. Behre noted that the timeline for the APHIS Animal Care Database (which includes the HPA) is still set for September 2006. Keith Dane added that FOSH volunteers were looking for a way to organize show data from USDA into an Excel file.

Outstanding Issues

- 2006 Joint Training: USDA will invite DQPs via email. Dr. Behre said between 7 and 9 new VMOS were expected to attend the training session in Shelbyville, TN.
- 2006 Listening Sessions: Dr. Behre emailed an agenda for the 2006 listening sessions. He stated that a Federal Register notice would be published soon, and that the Department would be issuing a press release shortly. In addition, the date for the DFW listening session will be Wednesday, April 19th and that an additional listening session has been scheduled for May 17th in Somerset, KY.
- Follow-the-Horse Analysis: Tabled to February teleconference agenda.

Miscellaneous

- It was noted that TWHBEA withdrew from the Commission effective December 31, 2005. There are ongoing discussions planned for January among the three parties (TWHBEA, WHTA, and WHOA).

Review of OP- Scar Rule

- The HIOs continued discussion on scar rule language contained in the OP by reviewing Niels' redraft of his proposed scar rule amendments to the 2007-2009 OP. There were no final changes made to the OP.

Determine February 14, 2006 HIO Teleconference Agenda

- Tentative Agenda:
 - Review of January 10, 2006 teleconference summary
 - USDA January Monthly Report
 - FTH Report
 - Continued Discussion of Scar Rule Definition and Application