

HIO Teleconference Summary

November 8, 2005

Present via Teleconference: Bob Blackwell (MFTHBA), Don Bell (NWAH), Donna Benefield (HPC), Keith Dane (FOSH), Craig Evans (NHSC), and Niels Holch (HOA)

Not Present: Lynda Hill (SSHBEA), Kenny Smith (KWAH), Mike Tuck (USDA), and Bob Wright (SSHEBA)

USDA: Dr. Todd Behre; Facilitator Robin Lohnes

Review of October 14, 2005 Teleconference Summary:

The October 14, 2005, teleconference summary was reviewed and approved as amended.

USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

- Show Reports: Dr. Behre reported that USDA attended no shows or sales, either affiliated or non-affiliated, since the October 14th teleconference. He also reported that there are three outstanding conflict resolutions with KWAH: two of which USDA will write bilateral tickets and the third is pending. There are also two conflict resolutions pending with SSHEABA.
- Update on Technology: Dr. Behre gave an overview of the draft protocol for the algometry study which was emailed to each HIO representative on November 7, 2005. In summary, the draft protocol for the study requires 25 horses ages 2 through 10, approximately 6 examiners (may use 4 or up to 10) and will take two days to complete in order to have sufficient time to analyze data. USDA is looking at the first or second week in February and would like to complete the study prior to the spring training sessions. The Department is asking HIOs interested in participating to provide animals. The location of the study is currently open and will be determined by where the animals are located. USDA will underwrite the cost of the chosen facility and is open to either weekday or weekend dates. Dr. Behre reported that the final draft of the protocol should be completed with the next two weeks. In response to a question as to how to access publications listed in the draft's bibliography, Dr. Behre emailed links to Medline and PubMed.

Outstanding Issues

- Update Cumulative Show Report: Dr. Behre emailed HIO representatives an updated cumulative show report including the Land O'Sky show.
- Follow-the-Horse Analysis: Keith Dane reported that he needed additional time to review the data with both Niels Holch and Mike Tuck before submitting a final report. He did add that one pattern has emerged: that horses and owners are not being suspended along with the trainers with the frequency one would expect. It was suggested to discuss whether the 2005 data should be reviewed once the 2002-2004 data is fully analyzed at the December meeting.
- Definition of Barn Party: Discussion tabled indefinitely.
- Standards of Conduct: HOA, WI, and SSHEABA have yet to submit their standards of conduct.
- Status of USDA Public Meetings: Dr. Behre reported that USDA is open to holding public meetings the day before the quarterly scheduled HIO meetings for 2006 plus an additional meeting to be held in Dallas, TX, a date to be announced. The dates/locations for the 2006 HIO meetings are March 14, 2006, in Springfield, MO; June 13, 2006, in Pomona, CA; September 12, 2006, in Chattanooga, TN; and December 12, 2006, in Riverdale, MD.

Miscellaneous

- Keith Dane requested a clarification as to whether an increase in LOWs would result in a decrease number of available DQPs. FOSH will send a letter to the Department inquiring as to the circumstance under which LOWs are issued, and any impact LOWs may have on the program.

Review of OP

- There were no additional items noted for review.

2006 Training

- Craig Evans will send Dr. Behre an updated syllabus to distribute for comment. It will be held in the same venue as 2005. A preference was noted to schedule the DQP training on the weekend to facilitate attendance. Dr. Behre reminded HIOs that all DQP Coordinators should attend and that USDA will extend invitations to all DQPs.

Determine December 13, 2005 HIO Meeting Agenda

- Tentative Agenda:
 - Review of November 8, 2005 teleconference summary
 - USDA November Monthly Report
 - Review of Final Algomerty Protocol
 - FTH Report
 - Discussion of Scar Rule Definition and Application
- HIOs not able to attend the December 13, 2005, meeting should submit comments regarding the scar rule to either Dr. Behre or Robin Lohnes or have another HIO representative bring forward their comments.