

HIO Teleconference Summary

February 14, 2006

Present via Teleconference: Don Bell (NWAH), Donna Benefield (HPC), Keith Dane (FOSH), Niels Holch (HOA & WI), Lonnie Messick (NHSC), and Mack Motes (SSHBEA)

Not Present: Bob Nagel/Gail Freed (MFTHBA), Kenny Smith (KWAH), Dr. Todd Behre (USDA), Dr. Cathy Hovancsak (USDA), and Dr. Randy Ridenour (USDA)

USDA: Mike Tuck; Facilitator: Robin Lohnes

Review of December 13, 2005, HIO Meeting in Riverdale MD:

The December 13, 2005, HIO Meeting Summary was reviewed and approved as amended.

Review of January 10, 2006, Teleconference Summary:

The January 10, 2006, Teleconference Summary was reviewed and approved as amended.

USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

The USDA January Interim Report was postponed until the March HIO meeting in Springfield, MO.

2006 Joint Training Report

Lonnie Messick gave a brief overview of the joint training seminar held in Shelbyville, TN, February 9-11, 2006. VMOs and the DQP Coordinators inspected a total of 24 horses, selecting 12 animals to use specifically for instruction re the scar rule on second day. He noted that there was a good exchange of information between the VMOs, the DQP Coordinators and the DQPs. A formal USDA report on the joint training was postponed until the March HIO meeting in Springfield, MO.

Follow The Horse Report

Keith Dane noted that he had completed a final draft of the FTH Report, and has forwarded copies to both Niels Holch and Mike Tuck for their review. Statistics from KWAH remain outstanding and Lonnie Messick volunteered to talk to Kenny Smith re the missing information. Keith also pointed out a number of discrepancies and suggested that it will be important to look at every scar rule ticket to determine how many separate violations occurred (horse, owner, exhibitor, trainer). The final report will be submitted at the March 14, 2006, meeting in Springfield, MO. Further discussion will be need

Review of Proposed Scar Rule Amendments to OP

Most of the discussion revolved around the joint training's review of the scar rule. Mack Motes stated that he believed that the scar rule language in the current OP was sufficient and that it is the inconsistency in application in the field that is the issue. He felt that the recent joint training held in Shelbyville was very helpful and everyone seemed to be on the same page. Donna Benefield added that there had been a lot more discussion re the scar rule at this joint training, and Lonnie Messick agreed that it will help to make enforcement more consistent. In talking with the trainers, Mack believes the trainers understand that they will need a clean horse to get in and that created a different atmosphere. He also favors FTH so trainers can not simply transfer horses to another trainer. Keith Dane commented that he was not sure that anything could be put into the OP to ensure uniformity of application. Overall, though, there was general consensus that the joint training did a good job of clarifying the scar rule.

Niels Holch stated that in light of recent changes within some of the HIOs he will circle back to his clients regarding specific proposed changes to the scar rule language in the OP and report back at the March meeting.

Miscellaneous

The USDA Listening Session scheduled for April 19, 2006, in Dallas, TX, will be held at the Sterling Hotel, and the listening session scheduled for May 17, 2006, in Somerset, KY, will be held at the Center for Rural Development.

Determine March 14, 2006 HIO Meeting Agenda

- Tentative Agenda:
 - Review of February 14, 2006 teleconference summary
 - USDA Reports: 2005 Cumulative Show Report; January/February Interim Reports; Update on Joint Training
 - FTH Report
 - Proposed OP Amendments: Scar Rule; Probation/Enhanced Penalties; Miscellaneous Items