2012 State 4-H Horse
District 5, Recommendations/Suggestions
Final Draft

1. Being able to have an OI showmanship class for *"special needs"* exhibitors had a significant impact on several exhibitors with a potential to increase in participation for 2012. Therefore we would like the state horse advisory council to consider adding an additional OI special needs riding class such as *"favorite gait to include lead with handler if needed"*.
2. **Item 3 in the General Rules for the Contest Division currently reads:**
   Contestants will start their runs from a designated point defined by cones (depending on location). Handler may enter designated area with rider but cannot enter the arena. Once contestant enters the arena, the adult must leave the holding pen. The arena gate will be closed once the horse enters the arena and will not be opened until the contestant has concluded his or her run and has the horse under control. Two contest stewards will be assigned to work the gate.
   During the 2011 show, several youth had their horses running from the holding area or in the holding area to gain momentum prior to entering the arena. Cones were not present as they were required to be. Therefore we would like the state horse advisory council to adopt the following:
   a) Make sure that ***"cones"*** are used and placed at the end of the incoming chute area.
   b) The designated contest judge needs to be repositioned so they may have a clear view of horses entering and leaving the arena.
3. **Body Condition Scoring** as mandated by the state 4-H program requires that all horses have a BCS of 4 or higher at their district and state show. In an effort to eliminate disappointment and confusion of the 4-H families we recommend the following guidelines for BCS evaluations:
   a) Qualified individuals (outside of the respective district, excluding all state contact agents) need to be appointed (in advance) by the state 4-H horse program to do BCS evaluations at the district shows.
   b) A written log of all BCS scores (referencing borderline cases) is to be submitted by the state horse contact for that district along with the state show entries.
   c) The respective state show judges assigned to the different divisions will then have the ***"final call"*** on BCS evaluations and disqualify those with a score of less than 4.

Suggestions:

- District 5 4-H volunteers were impressed with the improvement in friendliness and acceptance of the KY Fair & Expo Center staff and security as compared with previous years.
- **Safety:** The warm up ring behind Broadbent arena had a near mishap when a horse reared due to the plastic flags tied to the "T" posts marking the barriers of the warm up ring. The rider fell off nearly hitting one of the "T" posts and should the horse come back down on that post it would have been disastrous. Therefore it is suggested that some sort of plastic cover be placed over the "T" posts or look into using something different to designate boundary of the warm up arena.
- It is also suggested that we return to a "one day" show for the walking/racking/mtn division given the decrease in the number of exhibitors for 2011.
- Need to make sure that water is readily accessible for stalls under the stadium.
- With drill team competition being moved to Friday evening, it seems to have placed a hardship for western judged participants not allowing them enough practice time. It would be good if light in the outdoor arenas stayed on should contestants wish to work their horses late at night. If extra practice time for these exhibitors cannot be found then consider allowing some "schooling" time similar to what is done in the hunter division.