

2001 WASHINGTON 4-H COUNCIL “Action Taken” on Recommendations

A. GENERAL 4-H

1. **4-H Membership Eligibility** - Clark. Recommends that membership in 4-H be open to youths who have reached their 5th birthday before October 1 of the current 4-H year, through those who have not reached their 19th birthday before October 1 of the current 4-H year; and that members must have reached their 8th birthday before October 1 of the current 4-H year to be eligible for competitive situations, and to be eligible for enrollment in large animal projects and projects using firearms, motorized vehicles, hot water bath or pressure canning methods.

Rejected by Council: Eligibility requirements are already addressed in current policy. Enrollment by grade, rather than age, is a better indicator of the developmental stages for which 4-H curriculum has been designed. [This issue has also been addressed nationally: "Nearly 4 million 4-H participants (over half) are in school enrichment...Our educational materials are targeted at particular mental ages, which are best reflected by grade in school, not chronological age."]

2. **4-H Membership Groupings** - Clark. Recommends that the following groups be identified for special programs and activity participation within the 4-H program: Primary - youths aged 5-7; Junior - youths aged 8-10; Intermediate - youths aged 11-13; Senior - youths aged 14-19.

Rejected by Council: Grade grouping keeps kids competing on a more level playing field. [It would be inconsistent to have membership eligibility by grade and participation groupings by age.] See item A.1 for more explanation.

3. **State 4-H Forum** - Spokane. Eliminate WA State 4-H Forum and replace it with 4-H Project Weekends, where one project area is totally focussed on for beginners to experienced, youth leadership within that project, with 4-H projects divided into four main categories (Family Living, Animal Science, Environment and Sports, and Arts/Sciences).

Accepted with Modification: "In addition to WA State 4-H Forum, add project weekends."

Rejected by State Staff: The State Forum is a needed activity, as it is the only time volunteers, youth, and staff from across the state gather together to share ideas, make new acquaintances, and learn. It is an opportunity to expose participants to new projects

and ideas outside their own area and county. Many weekends are already being offered for specific project emphasis to gain more in-depth knowledge for the experienced volunteer and basics for the new volunteer. Examples of these include dog project weekends, science camp-in, livestock training, dairy weekends, shooting sports training, etc. offered as county invitational events and training, WSU-sponsored events, or state-wide training opportunities.

4. **State 4-H Forum** - Spokane. Focus WA State 4-H Forum on training of 4-H staff and volunteers so they can lead better within their counties; add Project Weekends where everyone comes to learn about a project.

Rejected by Council: The Forum is already set up to address this issue. [The focus of the Forum is training in specific project areas as well as the broader issues of youth development and leadership for 4-H staff and volunteers.]

5. **State 4-H Fair** - Spokane. Instead of having 4-H State Fair at Puyallup each year, rotate 4-H State Fair through the four districts.

Rejected by Council: While it would be convenient for a different portion of 4-H youth each year, rotating the State Fair presents more disadvantages than advantages. These include: a) locating and maintaining an adequately-sized group of experienced volunteers in each area to carry out this major effort only once each four years; b) adapting to the many variables present at different fairgrounds facilities; c) continuing to quality for essential funding from the WA Dept. of Ag.; d) securing convenient and appropriate dates for the State 4-H Fair to use facilities of county or area fairs.

6. **State 4-H Fair** - Spokane. Remove 4-H State Fair out of the Puyallup Fair. Instead, scatter the 4-H State events and activities and exhibits throughout the state, hosted by different counties (through a bid process), and held at different times throughout the summer.

Rejected by Council: The State 4-H Fair qualifies for funding from the WA State Dept. of Ag. in its present configuration; but this is no guarantee that funding would or could be continued for scattered events, which would not be viewed as consistent or stable. In addition, many 4-H youth participate in more than one area in the current State 4-H Fair. Scattering events and displays across the state could cause overwhelming obstacles to their full participation. Continuity and stability are valuable features of the current State 4-H Fair.

7. **County Days** - Kitsap. Schedule only one County Day at State Fair for each county; schedule exhibit entry due dates on the county day.

Rejected by Council: County day scheduling can be addressed by fair management and any county can request that their county day assignment for exhibit building activities be changed. To wait for exhibit entries from each county on their county day would cause the fair to open with an empty building. Exhibits from the counties with the last day assignment would have their still life exhibits displayed for less than one day. That would

not merit a good score from official fair evaluators-essential to maintaining our funding level from the WA State Dept. of Ag. Further, every still life department would need to have superintendents and clerks (volunteers) and judges (paid) available for all 17 days for the Fair. Currently, they work 5 days; this recommendation would increase time and costs by more than 300%. Additionally, the turmoil and confusion of an on-going fair mixed with requirement for space and time to accept, judge, and adjust displays daily would cause serious disruption for those 4-H youth trying to present their demonstrations, model their fashion garments, or complete preparation of a dish or meal.

8. **Fitting & Showing/Performance Standards** - Skagit. Recommends that all projects have a written score sheet for fitting and showing and performance class standards; recommends a written required amount of total points that must be achieved to qualify for county blue ribbons and qualifying for State Fair.

Rejected by Council: Rejected because of lack of clarification (fitting/showing and performance do not apply to all projects); two different issues are being addressed by the recommendation.

9. **Photography** - Lewis. Recommends that exhibitors be allowed to bring three photos to State (Fair), even if they were admitted to the county fair as 3"x5" small photos.

Rejected by Council: Not an issue - exhibitors may already enlarge photos if they ask the superintendent.

10. **Photography** - King. Recommends that in the Photography exhibits, the composition subcategories be changed to: A. Special Lighting/Exposure; B. Line/Angle; and C. Special Patterns, Texture, or Shapes.

Accepted with Modification: ...subcategories be change to: 1. Special Lighting, i.e., back, side, evening, strobe, etc.; 2. Design Elements, i.e., line, shapes, patterns, etc.; 3. Still Life, inanimate objects, set-up; 4. Abstract. Flexibility in wording given to St. Fair Photography superintendent and the Fair Manager.

Accepted.

11. **Photography** - King. Recommends that a judging sheet be added for Black & White/Darkroom skills.

Accepted with Modification: adding the statement: Have available by March 1, 2002 in downloadable form.

Accepted. The judging sheet is undergoing final review before posting is on the 4-H web site.

12. **Photography** - Lewis. Recommends that the wording on the Photography Tag, C0890, be changed from "Automatic Exposure" to "Camera Type" - Manual/Adjustable or Point & Shoot; and that the line "Year in Project" be changed to "Year in Photo Project."

Rejected by Council: No action is necessary; changes have already been made, waiting for new tags. Changes will be posted in downloadable form on the web by March 1, 2002. [Undergoing final review before posting on the 4-H web site.]

B. FAMILY LIVING

1. Home Economics Activity - Yakima. Recommends the creation of a new class called "Dress for the Occasion."

Rejected by Council: Addressed in B.2.

2. **Consumer Economics Activity** - King. Recommends that the State 4-H Fair Board research specific programs now being offered in various counties in the state, so they may prepare a State Creative Consumer Event that reflects the range of current similar events now being offered in Washington State.

Accepted

C. CATS/DOGS/SHEEP

1. **Cat Judging** - Pierce. Recommends that in the Cat Judging Contest the same person(s) judge the oral reasons per each division, i.e., one judge for Intermediates, one judge of Seniors.

Accepted

Rejected by Fair Board: The Fair Board is concerned that rules not be created for one judging contest that aren't practical rules for the remaining twelve contests. However, the Board recognizes the issue that caused this recommendation, and the Fair Manager was instructed to discuss proper use of oral reason judges, with the unique situations of each contest, with all the contest superintendents.

2. **Sheep** - Lewis. Recommends that county and state market lambs' weights be 95 lbs. minimum and 170 lb. maximum, giving consideration to the growth of the lamb between county fair and state fair.

Rejected by Council: The State 4-H Fair market lamb class currently reflects market standards.

3. **Dog Classes** - Pierce. Recommends that the name of our current "Graduate Novice" be changed to "4-H Advanced Novice."

Accepted with modification: State dog leaders will edit current score sheets for use

4. **Dog Classes** - Pierce. Recommends that the name of the 4-H Novice Y Class be changed to "4-H Pre-Novice Class."

Accepted with modification: State dog leaders will edit current score sheets for use by the 2002 State 4-H Fair.

Accepted. The Dog Curriculum Committee is in the process of editing current score sheets. They will be posted as downloadable files on the 4-H web site this spring.

5. **Dog Classes** - Pierce. Recommends that the name of the 4-H Open Y Class be changed to "4-H Graduate Novice."

Accepted with modification: State dog leaders will edit current score sheets for use by the 2002 State 4-H Fair.

Accepted. The Dog Curriculum Committee is in the process of editing current score sheets. They will be posted as downloadable files on the 4-H web site this spring.

6. **Dog Classes** - Skagit. Recommends that Novice Y and Novice blue ribbon scores be in agreement with the AKC standard of 50% of each exercise, and a score of 170 points or above.

Rejected: Although rejected by the Council, the Dog Curriculum Committee is working on clarifying the issue between AKC and 4-H standards.

7. **Dog Classes** - Skagit. Recommends that Graduate Novice and above scores for a state qualifying score and a county blue ribbon be in agreement with the AKC standard of 50% of each exercise, and a score of 170 points or above.

Rejected: Although rejected by the Council, the Dog Curriculum Committee is working on clarifying the issue between AKC and 4-H standards.

D. EQUINE

1. **Driving/Performance Participation** - Grant. Change State 4-H Fair participation to allow driving exhibitors to participate in performance equitation classes and driving classes.

Accepted with modification by Council: ...or Western Games until barn is filled in Driving at State Fair. Premium points will be awarded in only one discipline.

Rejected by State 4-H Fair Board: a. Impossibility of scheduling arena time to accommodate significant increase in numbers of harness exhibitors; b. To maintain consistency in rules and policies (cross entering between Western Games and Performance is not allowed.)

2. **Driving/Performance Participation** - Grant. Recommends that driving be included in performance as it is at the county level. Recommends that a person who shows in performance and driving with the same horse be allowed to show at State in driving and performance events.

Rejected by Council: See D.1. [See rejection by State 4-H Fair Board, D. 1.]

3. **Harness Classes** - Lewis. Recommends that Harness Classes be permitted to combine horses and ponies, as was the practice prior to 1998.

Accepted by Council & State 4-H Fair Board

4. **Bareback Equitation** - Clallam. Recommends that bareback equitation be dropped from the State/County Fairs.

Rejected by Council: This should be left as a personal choice of rider and parent.

5. **Contestant Numbers** - Snohomish. Recommends that State Fair Premium Book, pg. 53, #8., be revised to allow members to laminate numbers so that they last 3 days.

Accepted with modification: change the Fair Premium Book - add to end of last sentence, "but may be laminated."

Accepted by State 4-H Fair Board

6. **Contestant Numbers** - Snohomish. Recommends that State Fair Premium Book, pg. 53, #8., be revised to allow Performance Contestants to put numbers on both sides of saddle pad, requiring member to provide second number.

Accepted with modification: add "of same size."

Rejected by State 4-H Fair Board: Maintaining consistency in placement of exhibitor numbers assures that the judge's view is less likely to be impeded and ensures equity to all exhibitors

7. **Rodeo Project** - Spokane. Recommends that either the Rodeo project for WA State 4-H be reinstated for members as described in EM4610 or drop the project completely.

Accepted with modification: Revise statement #2 under "Safety" in EM0758, dropping the last word ""events." The policy will be revised with the next printing.

8. **Green Horse** - Spokane. Limit handling of green horses, yearling to 5-year-olds, to intermediate and senior members (Grades 6-12).

Accepted with modification: add that Green Horse Project will only be open to Intermediates and Seniors. Put this in EM4714 & EM0758.

Accepted: The statement will be added to these publications when they are reprinted.

9. **Green Horse** - Spokane. Recommends that no stallions be allowed in the green horse project, as described in EM4714, "Training Horses, Yearlings to Five-Year-Olds."

Rejected by Council: Creates a conflict between EM0758 and EM4714. [EM0758 will be revised to be consistent with EM4714; only yearling stallions are allowed in the Green Horse project.]

10. **Horse's Age** - Spokane. Recommends that a horse's age be determined as of January 1st of the current year; a horse becomes 1 year old on January 1 of the year following the actual foaling date. Include this in EM4714, "Training Horses, Yearlings to Five-Year-Olds."

Accepted by Council

Accepted by State 4-H Staff: This has been an unwritten policy in the 4-H Horse program. It will be included in the future in horse and policy publications.

11. **Attire** - Lincoln. Recommends that 4-H horse show attire be: long-sleeved white shirt, dark jeans, tie, helmet, and boots.

Rejected by Council: This is a county issue. Counties may be more restrictive than state guidelines.

12. **Performance Horse** - Skagit. Add to "Bit" (EM4727, Performance Horse Class Rules, pg. 46): Western horses 5 yrs. and under as of Jan. 1 of year foaled, may be ridden in a smooth snaffle at least 3/8" diameter, 1" from ring or a bosal with two hands used on the reins. When split reins are used both reins must be held in both hands.

Accepted with modification: In each of the project references, under the word disqualification, add the words "rider places two hands on the reins when riding with a curb bit."

Action is delayed on this recommendation. This issue will be addressed by a horse program committee to be organized by fall 2002.

13. **Performance Horse** - Spokane. In EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 39, under "Judging Requirements," change rule #2 to the fall of horse and/or rider shall be cause for elimination. Rider may finish the class at judge's discretion, but will receive a participation ribbon.

Rejected by Council: In EM4727, pg. 55, state staff should move "falling off horse" from Mandatory Disqualifications to Faults. This should be at the judge's discretion.

14. **Performance Horse** - Spokane. In EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 42, under "major faults," add off course as a major fault and cause for elimination.

Accepted with modification by Council: Modify to read: "In EM4727, 'Performance Horse' on pg. 42, add off course."

Action is delayed on this recommendation, as its intent is unclear. This issue will be addressed by a horse program committee to be organized by fall 2002.

15. **Performance Horse** - Spokane. In EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 42, under "major faults," add fall of horse and/or rider as cause for elimination under major fault.

Accepted with modification: Eliminate "as cause for eliminate under major fault" from recommendation.

Action is delayed on this recommendation, as its intent is unclear. This issue will be addressed by a horse program committee to be organized by fall 2002.

16. **Performance Horse** - Spokane. In EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 42, under Class Routine, replace the phrase "may be cause for elimination" with "will be cause for elimination," and delete 1) a refusal 2) loss of stirrup 3) trotting while on course when not part of a test.

Rejected by Council: Covered under safety rules.

17. **Performance Horse** - Spokane. Recommends that in EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 43, under "height of fences," that jump height be set at 2'0" to 2'6" for Intermediates.

Rejected by Council: Covered in D.18.

18. **Performance Horse** - Spokane. Recommends that In EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 43, under "height of fences," that jump height be set at 2'6" to 3'0" for Seniors.

Accepted with modification: State Fair Premium book will have two height divisions for Intermediates and Seniors. Members may only enter one division. Height divisions will be 2'0" to 2'6" and 2'6" to 3'0".

Rejected by State 4-H Fair Board [A horse program committee will review the 4-H Jumping program this fall.]

19. **Performance Horse** - Snohomish. Revise EM4727, Performance Horse, pg. 44, saddle seat attire, to allow paddock boots.

Accepted by Council
Accepted.

20. **Performance Horse** - Snohomish. Add to Saddle Seat Class Routine (EM4727 Performance Horse, pg. 44) "transition to canter may only be from a halt, walk, or collected trot - never a strong trot."

Accepted by Council

Accepted

21. **Western Games** - Spokane. Recommends the use of closed (roping) reins for Western Games riding events be put back into the rule book.

Rejected by Council: Already in EM4610, so no action is needed.

22. **Performance Horse** - Snohomish. Revise the definition of an acceptable western bit to the definition in the current AHSA (pg. 46 under Appointments).

Accepted by Council

Accepted - implementation will be dealt with by the future horse program committee.

23. **Western Games** - Grant. In EM4610, Section 4, Equipment & Attire, change from "Closed reins are recommended" to "Closed reins are required. Split reins must be tied or secured with a slider."

Accepted by Council

Rejected: Closed reins are recommended. If split reins are used, it is recommended that they be tied or secured with a slider.

24. **Western Games** - Grant. In EM4610, Section 4, Equipment & Attire, add item under Western Saddle with Horn: "If the cinch buckle has a tongue it must be buckled into a hole in the latigo or billet."

Accepted by Council

Accepted.

25. **Western Games** - Walla Walla. Recommends that the following rule be eliminated: "Intentionally striking the horse ahead of the cinch while on course" under No Award Disqualification (EM4610, Western Games, pg. 24, Section 14, C., #3).

Rejected by Council: Most judges recognize the difference between patting and striking.

26. **Western Games** - Spokane. Recommends that weight be added to plastic barrels used in Western Games to equal the weight of steel barrels.

Rejected by Council: County issue

Reconsidered and Accepted by State Staff: Texas barrels - 55 gallon white plastic barrels with both ends in tact. Barrels are to be set with ring down in the inverted position. Eight (8) pounds of water or sand are to be added to the barrels.

27. **English Classes** - Wahkiakum. Recommends that flash nosebands and crossed nosebands be allowed in appropriate English classes consistent with AHSA, USCTA, USDF, and Oregon 4-H rules.

Accepted by Council

Accepted.