

4-H PROVINCIAL EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PEAC) Newsletter



Oct. 2008

What is PEAC?

The 4-H Provincial Equine Advisory Committee consists of volunteers involved in the Alberta 4-H Equine Project, and includes two designated 4-H equine club leaders from each of the seven regional equine committees or Regional Councils and their alternatives, a 4-H Branch representative, a representative from the Alberta 4-H Council, and up to three members at large.

Mission Statement

PEAC's Mission is to "**Promote and enhance the 4-H Equine Projects in Alberta**".

Purpose

PEAC serves as an advisory body to the Alberta 4-H Council and the **4-H Branch** of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. Policies, guidelines and project specific rules and regulations for the 4-H equine projects are established through PEAC and presented to the Alberta 4-H Council for review, consultation and final approval.

What Does PEAC Do?

PEAC has developed all of the materials that are being used in the present 4-H Equine Project, including the Horse Reference Manual, the Record Book, the Horsemanship Assessment Level 1-3 and 4-7 Checklists, and all of the individual project manuals and resource materials. As well, PEAC is constantly reviewing and updating these materials in order to keep them current.

PEAC is also responsible for organizing events Provincially and Regionally to help train club leaders to teach the Equine 4-H content to their club members, and to help keep them informed of the latest news and changes in the Equine Industry. Such events include the bi-annual **PELF (Provincial Equine Leaders Forum)** where experts from different equine backgrounds and practises share their knowledge with club leaders, along with various annual provincial and regional **Train the Trainer** sessions intended to teach the club leaders the aspects of the different projects and how to convey this information to their members. **Provincial Horse Classic**, held every summer at Olds, is another PEAC undertaking. The **Provincial 4-H Competition** held during the

Alberta Equestrian Games is also organized by PEAC.

Present PEAC Members

The 2008 PEAC members include:

- **Peace Region** – Bonnie Ridley (Vice Chair), Jodee Hawley & Laureen Kosheiff
- **Northwest Region** – Ken Schmuland & Corine Verbeek
- **Northeast Region** – Larry Baddock, Karen Allen & Lana Graham
- **West Central Region** – Pam French, Kippy Maitland-Smith, Connie Kluczny (Sec.) & Lori Stuart
- **East Central Region** – Jimilee Chostner (Chair), Kym Lawrence, Beth MacGougan (AEF Rep), Lee Carothers (4-H Council Rep), & Bernie McGowan
- **Calgary Region** – MaryLou Tainsh, Linda Gooch & Anita Beaudin
- **South Region** – Dixie Crowson, Sherri Hosker & Trudy Andrews
- **4-H Office** - Ashley Eckel & Yvonne Yaremco

Meetings

PEAC has three regular meetings a year, typically one in the Fall, one in Winter and one in the Spring, along with committee meetings as they are needed. PEAC's last regular meeting took place on Sept. 6th

in Okotoks so that members travelling from the different regions of the province could have the opportunity to take in the Spruce Meadows Masters.

Our Vision

At our September meeting, we reviewed our Vision and confirmed that Identification of Leader Needs followed by Education and Training of our leaders remains our top priority. Along these lines, we were pleased to announce that the first two objectives that the committee had set forth in their five year plan have been met and are hopefully going to be a great asset to the Equine Program.

1. Our first objective was to produce a video with Muffy Knox demonstrating the presentation and teaching of the Assessment tools for Horsemanship Levels 1 through 6. After several months of scouting out video companies and riding facilities, and of compiling a list of 4-H members who could take part in this video, we were ready to begin taping on August 28th, 2007. CTV Lethbridge came in with not only the best quote, but also with the most congenial and enthusiastic contact, so with our two videographers, Ted Langenberg, Lauren Enns & our Creative Director, Janet Bell, we began filming 50 hours of video tape at two different riding facilities – JC Performance Horses and Grand Peaks Equestrian Center. Little did we know that getting horses and 4-H riders of all ages and abilities, from many different localities to perform the specific tasks required at the specific

times required in the proper lighting without a gale force wind blowing in Lethbridge, was going to be the easy part! Because once that was done, we were on to the next task of editing these tapes to make sure that bits and pieces from each of the 50 tapes were knitted together so that the correct methods were clearly portrayed in a format that could be reduced to fit onto 4 two hour DVD's. And so began what would seem to be a never ending saga of one or two trips to Lethbridge almost every week throughout the entire winter to spend the day in the 'Editing Suite' of CTV Studios with Janet Bell and Alex Giles. Alex is one of the most calm, quiet, understanding, helpful Engineers that you will ever have the pleasure of meeting or working with. And as a result, although taking quite a bit longer than anticipated, this video has now been completed and will be ready for distribution this fall when clubs start up for the 2008-2009 club year.

2. The second objective was to organize a provincially centralized Train the Trainer Leader Assessment clinic where each region could send one or two leaders to receive training in how to assess their members in the skills required at each level of the 4-H Equine program. These leaders would then be available to travel around their region to do assessments for each club, which would help standardize the expectations for the whole region as well as the entire province. We held this clinic in October of 2007 at Olds with a reasonably good turn-out and are now in the process

setting up another one for March of 2009 in the hopes of getting more representation from the regions. Leaders who successfully completed the first clinic and who are willing to go to other clubs to help with the assessment of their members are:

Level 1-3:

South - Nina Connors

WC - Kippy Maitland- Smith

- Pamela French

- Stacey Harrison

NW - Joanna James

Level 1-7:

Calgary - Lorna Malmberg

Leslie Oszli

For contact information, please contact your region's PEAC rep.

Other Business Discussed

• Young Horse Incentive Program

The committee has noticed that some of the members require more direction and instruction with their young horses before attending their Achievement Day. Several suggestions to help make this program more successful for the participants were discussed. It was decided that the club leaders need to be more aware and involved with these members and their projects. The possibility of having a leader information clinic at the start up of the program is being looked into, with information on Achievement Day expectations and the implementation of quarterly progress assessments done by the leaders. Also discussed was the possibility of dividing the province and having member participation clinics in the north and the south to reduce travel.

- **Standardbred Project**

The Standardbred Project was active again this year and their Achievement Day is Thanksgiving weekend in Edmonton.

- **Mandatory Horsemanship Level 1-3 Requirement for Non-Mounted Projects**

A discussion regarding whether or not members taking part in the non-mounted projects, such as Standardbred, Draft, Miniatures and Driving, should have to complete the Horsemanship Level 1-3 mounted requirement before being allow to take part in these projects, since they are not required to mount their project animals. As a result, a **motion** was passed stating that: **"Members wishing to enrol in non-mounted projects are not required to complete Level 1, 2 or 3 Mounted Assessments, but it is mandatory that they have completed the Dismounted Assessments in Horsemanship Level 1, 2 and 3."** The other requirement that they be at least 12 years of age before registering in any of these projects still stands.

- **Horse Classic**

Entries were down this year with only 76 members and 49 adult volunteers. The winners of the Hippology competition, who will be competing at the Denver Stock Show in January, all came from the West Central Region.

- **AEF (Alberta Equestrian Federation)**

AEF has teamed with AVMA, AFAC, SPCA and the Horse Industry to form the "Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada" to

ensure a high standard of welfare for the horse and provide a unified voice across Canada.

The new chair of the AEF is Dixie Crowson who has been actively involved with 4-H for several years in the South Region and as a member of PEAC.

Casino funding is available for 4-H clubs upon application.

Live Outside the Box program will be running again this year.

Horse Racing Alberta

Promotion – any club interested in spending a day at the race track should contact Theresa Sealy – ph. 403-540-8707 or 1-888-553-7223 or email tsealy@thehorses.com.

Horse Slaughter – Canadian activists are trying to promote an end to horse slaughter here in Canada, as was done in the US, which has led to many problems in that country. For more information on this controversial topic, the publication "Humane Handling Guidelines for Horses" will be distributed in an information package soon. Check out their website at albertaequestrian.com.

- **4-H Magazine Deadlines** –

The deadline for submissions for the 4-H magazine are February 27, July 27 and October 24.

- **Tack Guidelines**

A committee has be set to begin working on developing provincially uniform guidelines for **Tack** acceptable for 4-H which will be helpful for leaders and members when purchasing

tack for use at 4-H or open events.

- **Drill Teams**

Janet Kerr has located an excellent resource for clubs interested in Drill Teams called "US Equestrian Drill Team Manual". This book tells how to get started, contains 165 manoeuvres, has articles on teams, etc. To order, send a request and cheque for \$25. US to Gary Bonner @ PO Box 1333, Van, Texas 75790.

- **4-H/Pony Club/Polocrosse Alberta Summer Games**

Because the **Alberta Equestrian Games** will not be held in 2009, there is a question as to whether or not there is any interest in hosting a 4-H / Pony Club / Polocrosse Alberta Summer Games, likely at a Central Alberta location in August. Please take this back to your clubs and let your PEAC rep know.

Next Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, February 17/09 – Stettler – 10:30 am
- Tuesday, June 3/09 – Stettler – Annual Mtg. – 10:30 am
- Sat., Oct. 3/09 – Red Deer (in conjunction with Cow Horse Supreme) – time to be determined.

PEAC is endeavouring to work as a liaison between the 4-H Branch and the 4-H Regions of Alberta to help 4-H members get the most out of their involvement in the Equine Program. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Regional PEAC representatives.

Have a great 2008-2009 4-H Year!