

USDA LISTENING Session

3/29/12

MICHAEL INMAN

1. How close to achieving goal of eliminating sore horses?

- In 2011 inspection #'s 53K plus by 5 major HIO's (Prize, Show, Whoa, HOA, Ry) 98.5% compliance including technical violations - "A" in anyone's book

- these results are despite a level of subjectivity, often distracting and difficult surroundings for the horse. Often times ^(at major events) protracted and unusually long processes.

2. Can the industry achieve consensus on a consistent self-regulatory program?

- At affiliated events yes - Continuing consistent training and implementation in the inspection station w/ both DQP's + UMO's is the key.

- Industry cannot control

* Non-affiliated events. Here is where an increased focus from the USDA IS NEEDED. *

3 What Responsibilities should certified HIO's have?

- consistent inspections + enforcement of the HPA

- Fair and reasonable penalties for the violations that are detected

- Accurate record Keeping and USDA reporting. Consistent protocol

4 How can the industry reconcile inherent competition while ensuring HPA compliance.

TWO ANSWERS -

I. Make sure all HIO's are consistent and equally stringent. There should be no "incentive" to go to an HIO because it is easier.

II We must acknowledge that this is a competitive event between horses + riders of varying talent. Some horses + some riders are just better than others. We have to get over a "No horse left behind" mentality and accept we have an extremely talented horse.

98% compliance - and it aggravates our detractors that this horse can be so impressive naturally and they can't stand it.

If honest sometimes we fall victim to if my horse beats yours he is a better athlete - If you beat me you are doing something or a poor judge.

~~That~~ These are people problems and we should stop trying to penalize or defame ~~the~~ this horse for our shortcomings.

5. What can the USDA do in the future to ensure compliance

- Continue to work w/ and build on relationship w/ certified HIO to become as consistent as humanly possible in an often subjective inspection process.

- TRY to Ensure DQP conflicts of interest do not exist.

- Strive For consistent inspections from VMO to VMO

- Enforce the HPA as it is written

6. What responsibilities should the USDA have within the industry w/ respect to enforcement and what hinders oversight of HIO + industry?

- the overall USDA/HIO relationship is good. It is a work in progress but w/ few exceptions we all are aware of the VMO's seem to be consistent.

* - The USDA's willingness to address non-affiliated events is nearly non-existent - That is the * the largest opportunity the USDA has for furthering HPA compliance if you choose to do so.

7-8 - Eliminating Pads & Action Devices?

- No -

- The Auburn study is quite clear and accepted in the scientific community

- therapeutic value of pads and chaps is well documented

- longevity of the TWH showhouse is unrivaled by any other Breed Classic Horse WC.

- That in mind should we make pads & action devices?

9 - Limit shoe size & weight on yearling + aged

- see Auburn study - No scientific rationale to consider such action against this or any other breed - THX

Mandata