

ANIMAL ISSUES COMMITTEE 2011

Members Present:

Elizabeth Anderson, GSGRA
Lisa Smith, DSRA
Chris de Espinoza, ILGRA
Jerry Tropf, MGRA
Kim Fry, CGRA
Linda M. Frazier, MGRA
Voni Whitaker, FGRA
Nikol Hillman, FRGA
Rodd Smunk, TGRA
Jay Beck, RRRRA

Chute Coordinator Stock Reports & Rodeo Check List Reports

Junior Bulls

- FGRA, Sunshine Stampede: Only two junior bulls were used for nine contestants, one had been used as a bull in prior years. One kept going down in the chute, leaving only one animal for Saturday. This made a bad show for the audience, delayed the rodeo and creates undue stress on the animals.
- MIGRA, Rodeo Fest: A variance was requested and approved to use steers, but not used when the stock contractor realized that junior bulls are the same animal that they call novice bulls.
- ILGRA, Windy City Rodeo: A variance was requested and approved to use steers. The steers were too small for the size of some contestants, under performed, went down in the chutes and one didn't make it out of the chute.
- GSGRA, Best Buck in the Bay – not enough animals due to a spike in contestant numbers at registration.

Camp Steers

GSGRA, Best Buck in the Bay – Steer Deco and Chute Dogging used to use the same stock. When the steers were separated into different groups in Rodeo Rules, the minimum horn length necessary in Chute Dogging carried over to the new Camp Steer category. By this rule requirement, the horns were too short. This has been addressed in Rodeo Rules.

Roping Steers

NMGRA, Zia Regional Rodeo – Lost horn sheath in Team Roping. The sheath was recovered and reattached by the vet on duty at the rodeo, given antibiotics.

Calves

NMGRA, Zia Regional Rodeo – In an attempt to bring calves with no horns, the stock contractor brought calves in of two different sizes. These were broken up into to groups to be used in different events but the quantity not adequate for either event resulting in stressed animals.

Goats

- FGRA, Sunshine Stampede: Billy goats were used.
- CGRA, Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo – goats were too small.

New Stock Contractors

- Williams Ranch, Oklahoma
- High Stakes Rodeo Productions, Missouri

General Stock Conditions

ARGRA, Canadian Rockies International Rodeo, some stock too green.

Return Gates – need to be covered with a banner to prevent animal injuries.

FGRA, Sunshine Stampede: Return gate was not covered; this was corrected when brought to the rodeo director's attention.

DSRA, Rodeo in the Rock: Return gate was not covered; this was corrected when brought to the rodeo director's attention.

Chute Gates

NGRA, Big Horn Rodeo – chute gates were not secured prior to loading of the animals.

Hot Shots

Hot shots were used in accordance with IGRA guidelines in the FL, AB, and OK rodeos. The stock contractors were reminded of our rules and corrected their handling of the stock. OGRA was using a new stock contractor. The stock contractors for FGRA and ARGRA were longtime, seasoned contractors and will most likely not be used again for this reason as well as several other issues.

Animal Injury Reports

These were only filed for the Zia Regional Rodeo. The report needs to be filled out whenever there is an injury reported. These reports are available from the rodeo secretary. In the discussion it was recommended that the trustees help out by preparing the reports for the Chute Coordinator to sign. This keeps the rodeo from delays of the official from having to stop to fill the form out and by doing it as it happens; there is a greater chance of documenting things before they are forgotten by the end of the day. It was also discussed that it would be helpful to make a place to note weather conditions on injury forms to see how it relates to injuries. Animals were observed to get ranker when weather conditions got bad resulting in an increase in contestant injuries.

Equine Herpes Virus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) - Neurotropic form of EHV-1

- EHV-1 (Equine Herpes Virus) – Common virus carried by equines and camelids.
- Most foals are born with it and it can resurface in times of stress.
- EHM is from mutant or neuropathogenic strains of EHV-1.
- Incubation time is four to six days, up to 12 days.
- Recommended quarantine time is 22 days to six weeks.
- Death can occur in as few as four days.
- There is currently no licensed vaccine against EHM and no treatment other than palliative care.
- The disease is highly contagious, and can spread through the air as well as through objects that have been in contact with infected horses including clothing.
- A drug trial is being conducted in select areas.
- This disease is classified by the USDA to be an emerging disease.
- EHM is not a reportable disease in all states and provinces.

An outbreak of EHM at the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Western National Championships held in Ogden, Utah from April 29 to May 8, 2011 led to the cancellation of many equestrian events in the US and Canada. The USDA reported that the outbreak lasted approximately

two months, generating 90 confirmed cases of the disease, spread over 10 American states, and resulting in the deaths of 13 horses before it was declared contained by the US Department of Agriculture. Canada reported four confirmed cases and three deaths in two provinces. In October there has been a report of three confirmed cases of EHM in horses from an out-of province facility that were at a show in Manitoba. There are currently no confirmed cases in MB.

Biosecurity Recommendations

- Keep up to date on shots: West Nile and Tetanus in spring; Influenza and Rabies in the fall.
- When loading horses in the barn at a rodeo, separate Horses by region with an empty stall in between groups.
- Don't share tack, equipment, feed or water buckets or trailers.
- Bleach Walls of stalls before and after the event with a light solution of bleach. (Two table spoons of bleach per quart of water aka 30ml bleach per liter of water).
- Wash hands in between handling multiple animals from different regions.
- If a horse becomes sick at an event, isolate immediately and notify the event organizers.
- These recommendations will be added to the Rodeo Guidebook for use in the contestant bags and posting at rodeos.

Emergency Planning Recommendations

- Many fairgrounds have bunkers for animals.
- If a rodeo is held in an open area, release animals so they are not trapped and fend for themselves.
- Each rodeo venue has unique issues that should be discussed by each association with their arena contractors.

Stock Quantity Recommendations

Discussed how much stock to should be brought to a rodeo. This can vary due to weather conditions and number of contestants that are expected. It was recommended to consult with the stock contractor and chute coordinator.

Junior Bull Recommendations

Discussed how junior bulls did very well at our rodeos this year by loading in the chutes better than steers, cows or heifers and returning to the chutes. Some problems that occurred in the beginning of the year of junior bulls performing more like our bulls was addressed by Jay Beck, who called stock contractors before the rodeos to explain the kind of performance we expected from the animals:

- Should not do high bucks and dives or spins.
- Should lope out.
- These are for novice, beginner riders.
- Flanks should be tied loosely, the tighter these are tied, the more advanced moves the bull will make.
- Bulls may lay down in the chute if the rigging is pulled too tightly, letting the air out of the animal / restricting its breathing.

It was also deemed helpful for the stock contractors understand that what we call junior bulls in IGRA rules may go by different names that they may be more accustomed to such as: novice bulls, beginner bulls or peewee bulls. A video was shot at the Great Plains Regional Rodeo and the web address along with these recommendations will be presented to the Rodeo Guidebook.

Security

Reviewed Rodeo Rule I, 21 to confirm that stalls need adequate security. Security including the barn manager is additionally helpful in letting contestants know about horses that become sick at night.

Stock Requirements

Discussed problems of stock contractors that have brought goats to rodeos that do not meet IGRA requirements. Currently this a \$50 fine that some stock contractors would rather pay than to bring the correct stock. It was felt that it would be helpful to associations to have the same existing fines that are levied for steers to be applied consistently with all of the IGRA stock requirements to encourage compliance by the stock contractors that these fines would be passed on to. This lead to the recommendation of the following proposal that has since been presented to Rodeo Rules and was approved by that committee:

Sincerely,
Kelly Peebles
IGRA Animal Issues Chair