

Committee Report for the 2016 National Show Youth Activities Committee

Prepared by: Paul J. Plummer, Chair National Show Youth Activities Committee

Report of activities for this year: The committee was excited to have hosted a very successful Youth Activities Weekend at the 2016 ADGA National show in Harrisburg, PA. Approximately 135 youth participated in the 2 days of youth events. This number represents the largest youth participation since our last show held in Harrisburg, PA (approximately 200 kids in 2004). The committee would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time and commitment of our four judges: Todd Biddle, Ann Clagett, Kirt Schnipke, and Tecoa Seibert. We would also like to thank Maddie Bennett, our ADGA Youth Representative and our alternate youth representative Henia Mackenroth. They worked tirelessly to assure that all of the awards were set-up and presented in an efficient manner especially when we were running two rings simultaneously. They constantly had a smile on their faces and were a great example for the other youth.

We would also like to thank the National Show Committee and the chair of that committee, George Altheide, for greatly assisting us in the organization of venues for the events and acting as the liaison between the show complex and our committee when action was needed. We implemented all of the changes discussed in the report from 2015 and addressed the housing issues associated with animal only coming in for the youth events.

As an old business item we have continued to discuss the potential for an embedded youth show as part of the National Show. As was the case last year, this continues to be a somewhat controversial issue both among the committee and in concerns voiced to the committee by ADGA members, the NS Committee, ADGA directors and judges. One of the major concerns expressed by the committee last year was the ability to incorporate show management for the embedded youth show into the ADGA National Show management software. At this year's NS there were only 7 committee members in attendance, thus making continued labor issues a concern in terms of implementing a massively labor intensive process moving forward. After further discussion this year we see two potential means of moving forward:

- 1) The preferred method would be to have the embedded youth show integrated into the National Show software management program. We envision a system by which youth interested in showing in an embedded show could click a "youth animal" box upon online entry for each eligible animal. This would then confirm that the youth was the owner and would tag that entry with a youth "flag" that would propagate into the ring steward and show secretary forms as well as the results book. In such a scenario the embedded youth show would be expected to run seamlessly with minimal to no additional labor. As a committee we strongly feel that this would be the preferred path forward and would encourage the BOD to direct the appropriate measures be taken to pursue this type of solution. We believe that this is the most sustainable and effective method of moving forward.
- 2) If the above option is not viable we as a committee have discussed potential alternate options. In late August we were provided a proposal regarding potential alternate implementation options. After discussion as a committee we have determined that implementation of an embedded youth show without software support would need to take the following form. At the youth check-in table (where we make sure we have the youth entered in the appropriate youth events) we would provide each youth with some stickers to place on the animals backtag of goats owned by the youth as the sole owner. Since back tags are not currently available in many cases at the start of the week we as a committee would not be able to specifically validate that the stickers were placed on specific animal's tag, so it would be on the honor system for the youth to apply the tags. Then when the ring steward assigned by the NS committee was collecting placings in the class they would look at the back tag and if there was a sticker mark the placing sheet with a symbol showing it was a youth animal (assuming that it was a youth showing the animal). These marks could then be read by the show secretary and recorded along with the open placings and announced accordingly. Following the selection of the open show champion the first and second place youth animal from each class could be invited into the ring and the "Premier Youth Breed Winner" selected. It is unclear to the committee if and how these results could also be included in the show results book since this is a semi-automated process. The following points need to be emphasized with this approach

- i. Application of the stickers would be on the honor system and would be difficult to police except at the selection of the breed winner where we could consider a registration paper check
- ii. The committee does not have the manpower to provide a dedicated youth ring steward for each breed- thus recording of the results would need to be assigned to the NS committee designated ring steward.
- iii. The ring steward would need to confirm that the animal was being shown by a youth (under age 21) as only animals owned exclusively by youth and shown by youth would be eligible.
- iv. The announcer and show secretary would need to be responsible for announcing the results and recording the winners names. If desired we could restrict publicity of winners to only the Premier Breed winner and not the class level winners.

New Business

- 1) The committee was asked to discuss the possibility of moving the youth check-in time from 12 PM on Saturday to later in the day (in order to allow youth to not need to be there as early). After discussion the committee does not see a viable means of doing this given the very tight timeline for youth events. At present the orientation meeting starts at 2 PM to review the rules and the first youth competitions start at 4 PM Saturday and are concluded by 2 PM on Sunday in order to allow the open show to start at 4. During this time period we conduct four competitions and a pizza party. In order to make sure that we have everyone registered and ready to go for the competitions we do not see a viable means of moving this later. The only option would be if the youth events could move later in the schedule.
- 2) The other new item was a discussion of legal and ethical issues associated with taking pictures and publication of youth's full names. Many association's youth events have moved to publishing only the youth's first name and last initial. This is done in order to protect the youth's Internet "presence". In response to this discussion the committee makes the following recommendations:
 - a. Add a statement to the youth permission form stating that by signing the permission form the guardian is giving ADGA permission to take photos, publish photos and publicize their youth's name.
 - b. Consult with legal counsel regarding an associational policy on what name information should be publicized.

Actions required of the Board of Directors:

- 1) Determine how the BOD would like to proceed with the embedded youth show option. The committee would prefer that this be to direct that the embedded youth show be programed into the NS software. If this is not possible the BOD should determine if they support the alternate option (given the discussed limitations).
- 2) Have the appropriate individuals consult legal counsel regarding policy on publication of youth names.

Problems Encountered: None

Actions for next year's committee:

- Secure 4 judges for National Show Youth Events.
- Modify rules for youth permission forms as outlined above.
- Implement the recommendations of the legal counsel regarding youth name publication.
- Address embedded youth show as directed by BOD.

Signed: Paul Plummer