

## ***Provincial Competition Proposal***

### ***FAQ***

***April 6, 2020***

Members, Leaders and Clubs are still encouraged to submit questions they would like answered (as best we can). Below are the questions that have been asked to date.

#### ***If this proposal isn't accepted, what will that mean for 4-H PEI moving forward?***

Not accepting the proposal is absolutely an option. If the membership votes against it, PEI 4-H will continue to operate in the same way as 2018-2019. This means our year would stay the same, clubs would host Achievement Days, the Royal Dairy and Beef teams would be selected at the chosen Exhibition, and Provincial Champion Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet in February.

#### ***I really liked how things went in the summer of 2019 and didn't really miss Rural Youth Fair (RYF) – why does it have to change?***

It doesn't! With the cancellation of RYF at AGM in 2019, some people felt strongly that we needed to explore new opportunities to replace or recreate Rural Youth Fair. If you think 2018-2019 was a great year without the RYF – let your club representative know!

#### ***Who will pay for this event?***

The committee and board have not yet explored the detailed funding of this event. There was a desire to see if the appetite for such an event existed recognizing it is a fair bit of change. If the proposal is approved, a new Standing Committee will be formed and tasked with exploring opportunities for funding. A conservative estimate would be \$20,000 (cash or in-kind donations) to hold the new Provincial Achievement Day and would be new funds that would need to be raised. Past RYF costs were in the \$12,000-15,000. These costs exclude staff time/wages.

#### ***If a member can't attend the new event, how will they complete?***

The hope is that all members will attend or send their project and supporting documents for completion. We recognize that some members may not be able to attend a late September event if they are attending University outside of the region or have another commitment on those days. Members would have to identify their inability to attend to their specialist and an alternative arrangement would be made.

#### ***Why late September? Why not June or July to fit the current 4-H year?***

The committee felt that late September worked to allow for events like the Royal Dairy and Beef selection, the completion of projects such as gardening, potato, market turkey and floriculture, and also that it would serve as a conclusion to the year. Many livestock projects would not be ready to compete in June or July and other projects wouldn't be finished. It was also suggested that some clubs may want to run projects in the summer versus the winter months when hockey and figure skating often conflict (although it's been noted that soccer and summer vacation will be a challenge).

***Would it be possible to have 3 region-wide events rather than a provincial?***

The provincial format allows for some other events to happen – including the Royal Beef & Dairy team selection and the Provincial Judging competition. If the proposal is not approved, Regions will be welcome to host Regional Achievement Days as some have done in the past.

***Even though all recommendations will need to pass together, will it be possible to make suggestions or provide options for changes to the recommendations as they now stand?***

For planning purposes, we would like approval on the plan as it stands and small changes could be made as the committee moves forward with the planning. If the suggestion is a significant one, it would be best to send that in advance so that it could be circulated in advance. It will be a challenge at the meeting to make amendments to the proposal to vote on as representatives should have time to consult with their clubs. If there is a suggestion for an amendment, it should be circulated in advance. Please send your revised ideas to [pei4h@pei4h.ca](mailto:pei4h@pei4h.ca). Any ideas or suggestions will remain with the proposal if it is defeated as there may be interest in 5-10 years to revisit this topic.

***What happens to prizes/competitions?***

Without knowing more details, prizes and exhibitions would remain the same with a new event added at the end of the year. The new event would be in addition to what already happens for Fairs and Exhibitions. If this doesn't answer your questions, please send clarification!

***How would this affect who has the right to show at Old Home Week which is a provincial event?***

***Would projects need to be completed by July? Will clubs/projects have to meet in the summer?***

Current rules require project completion before attend a Fair or Exhibition. This rule would have to be changed so that participation at summer events is open to everyone with completion happening in September. For non-livestock projects, members would identify their one item to travel the circuit for Fairs & Exhibitions. Clubs would be able to meet in the summer although that wouldn't be a requirement.

***Do you realize that is the same weekend as Nova Scotia's Pro-Show? What are the impacts?***

***Will it be a challenge to get judges?***

Yes, the committee realizes the timing is the same as a NS event. The later in September was in hopes that University students could return home if they had a couple weeks at school. It is also difficult to find a weekend that isn't booked in the summer months by another Fair on PEI. The committee felt the timing conflict would not be of significant impact to our event and that the availability of judges wouldn't be a problem.

***If our registration isn't until January, will we lose out on members who have signed up for other events in the Fall?***

That is a bit of an unknown but definitely a possibility. If the plan moves forward, we would have to do some significant promotions in the Fall for the new registration and in the new year when the registrations open. It could be seen as a positive as families will know their hockey/ringette/figure skating schedules before signing up and know what they can realistically commit to. It has been noted by more than one club that soccer registration in May causes considerable drop off in member attendance now – so summer meetings may not make meeting attendance any better.

***The proposal mentioned the need for volunteers – what does this look like? What would the expectations be?***

Volunteers will be an integral part of making this event a great success. The committee acknowledges that one of the challenges RYF faced was getting volunteers for both in advance as well as the day of. A committee of 12-15 people would be needed to sit on the planning committee. They would be responsible for planning, marketing, and financing the event. There would also be a need for volunteers to help on the day of (at the last RYF there were 60+ spots) and with the additional activities, a conservative estimate would be 100+ volunteers. It is hoped that with clubs not having to organize their local Achievement Day, that would mean volunteers could step up for the Provincial event. It will not be the 100% responsibility of staff to manage and operate this event and volunteers will be a critical piece. The committee did not discuss this in great detail – but conversation happened around assigning clubs with a task or requiring each club to provide X volunteers. At the end of the day, if this is what the membership wants for an event, we will require volunteers to make it happen and there will be lots of work!

***RYF was a very full and busy day and had only a small percentage of members participating. Do we really think we can accomplish this same type of event in one day with the entire membership present? Further, the costs associate with hauling all animals to Provincial event vs. a local, on farm achievement day will be significant additional costs for farmers/members.***

Valid point and concerns. Perhaps one day is not feasible and we need to look to a weekend format. In saying that, the format of RYF was moved from a 2 day to a 1 day in an attempt to improve attendance. Is there an appetite for a longer event now?

***Having a central venue is important. Crapaud shouldn't be eliminated automatically, especially if the cost of the Charlottetown grounds is high.***

Valid comment and Crapaud can be explored once some decisions are made.

***Could this be done as a 1 year trial?***

The challenge with a 1 year trial is that it would be significant change and in order to give it the fair chance to see if it is a better system, you need to have 3 years to see how it could grow. We wouldn't expect instant success in year one, so there would need to be an understanding that we are looking at a longer plan. That would also assist for financial requests as the committee would be looking for partner commitments in the 3-5 year range.