

4-H Livestock Committee
September 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Large Conference Room, Sheriffs Complex Basement

In attendance:

Josh Stroh, Chairman, New Horizons	Emily Standley, Extension
Larry Hagenbuch, Vice Chairman, Creative Critters	Anna Marie Mack, Big Sky
Shannon Ruckman, Secretary, Lewistown Livewires	Ed Mack, Big Sky
Pat Ward, Sunnyside Shiners	Jared Long, Lewistown FFA
Casey Willmore, Denton FFA	Mike Vanek, Christina Busy Bees
Kristi Dutton, Big Sky	Dustin Reisig, Heart of the Snowies

Chairman Josh called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Minutes – Shannon read notes from the last meeting. Dustin moved to approve the minutes as read; Anna Marie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

Finance Report – The current balance of the checking account as of September 17 was \$16,667.97, with \$5,294.32 Restricted for the awards and \$20,695.81 in Equity. Emily said she assumed the equity was the value of the panels and equipment.

Old Business:

1. Scale Update: Emily said she had John Uecker, USDA, and Fred, State of Montana, evaluate the scale after the fair. He determined the scale is accurate to the pound. It was suggested to clean out the pit underneath the scale and replace the rubber seal, but otherwise the scale is in good condition.
 - a. Livestock Committee Members discussed ways to improve or resolve scale issues and complaints.
2. Carcass Awards – Emily announced there were 4 Steer of Merit steers, 6 Symbol of Excellence swine and 10 Certified Lambs awards given. There were also 80 people at the banquet.
 - a. Committee members discussed ways to bring back the Carcass Calcutta. Dustin said it would take a separate permit but there are ways to do it.
3. Fair Review – Committee members discussed what went good at the fair and what needs improvement.
 - a. Good comments included: hog pens looked nice, Extension Agents were great, new stalls made barn area look a lot cleaner looking and improved air flow, shows moved along very smoothly, set up and tear down went well, livestock check out went well, weigh in process went well, judge talked more to kids and was able to educate the audience more and sale order in class placing was good.
 - b. Needs improvement comments included: Water access and accidents, posting classes, events and photo order, stall assignments to get tack stalls out of pig pens, pig roster, fair body, rules about switching animals tags, reweigh in process, replacement heifer show, all exhibitors showing in showmanship, making sure all exhibitors and their parents know about sale photos, need better system to unload

pigs and tack, pigs got out more and ran under cattle – it is a safety issue, tack stalls should be out of the livestock, and sound system.

- c. Dustin suggested the committee ask Spraggins to build racks for the gate panels for easy storage.
- d. Care of the Livestock after the fair was discussed. Josh said the expectation was that the pigs are killed right away, but that is not always the case, which affects carcass quality. Jared suggested talking to the processing facilities and letting them know of the expectations for the integrity of the carcass contest. He said they would meet the expectations if they want the business.
- e. Sale paperwork – Emily said there was a mistake in the sale paperwork where a pig Century purchased got put on a resale list. The mistake was realized when Century picked up three pigs instead of 4. She said Chris found a 300-lb pig to replace it and Judith Mountain Meats processed it. She said the mistake was on our end so the committee voted to pay for the pig and the processing to make it right.

New Business:

1. Review and Discuss Fair Policy Proposals – Policy Change Proposals were read by Emily, then will be voted on by the committee in October and published in the October newsletter for consideration. Then, policy proposals approved by the committee would be referred to the Leaders' Council meeting for adoption.
 - a. Weigh In and Reweigh Policy – proposed by Pat – he says it is unclear in the fair book and can be a problem. After much discussion, the Livestock Committee decided the policy change should be no re-weigh would be allowed.
 - b. Replacement Heifer Quality – proposed by Pat - If the heifer is open, they go into the breeding beef show, yet can still be selected first in the class. Mike suggested the 4-Hers needed more education on the project.
 - c. Junior Superintendent – proposed by Casey - Be a six-month commitment instead of just fair days.
 - d. Breeding Goats – proposed by Casey – break into classes by types – dairy vs meat, and 4-H Feeder Steer under a Year – not a budget calf – to bring back the next year as a show steer, like a prospect Steer calf.
 - e. Set Up Day Age Limit – Dustin proposed having no kids under 10 help set up as it is a safety issue. Keep them out of the pavilion area.
 - f. Ewe & Lamb Class – Tracy Kimmerman and Emily proposed adding a Ewe & Lamb class to the breeding sheep show and a Goad & Kid Class. A
 - i. Anna suggested an Alpaca breeding class.
 - g. Market Beef – Pat suggested a rule stating heifers have to be spayed to be included in the market beef show. It was determined that was already in the rule book.
 - h. Sale Order – Josh proposed rotating species in the sale order to break up the sale and keep interest. Casey said he talked to the buyers in the sale last year and they were in favor of breaking up the species.
 - i. Champion Feeder Awards and Feeder Classes – Emily and Jared both propose removing the Champion Feeder Awards for those who didn't make market weight. There was some discussion on whether to keep the feeder classes all together.
 - j. Tack Stalls – Shannon proposed removing tack stalls from the livestock stalls and assigning club tack stalls in other areas. Options on where to put stalls was discussed.
 - k. Class Number – Emily proposed changing the minimum number of animals per weigh division to 7.

- l. Educational Displays – Jennifer Saunders proposed condensing the educational display categories to one per species.
 - m. Ear Tag Substitution – Emily proposed a deadline for appealing the decision for ear tag placement. Currently, animals can tag three pigs and bring two to the fair. The current rule states the exhibitor has a 10-day grace period to determine ear tag placement. Anna suggested the ear tags be cleaned before the fair.
 - n. Showmanship – Jared proposed a policy that requires all those entered in market classes be required to participate in showmanship in the market species and exceptions have to be approved by the committee or the exhibitor will be penalized 10% of their sale proceeds with a cut going to the committee.
 - o. Bylaw change – Emily brought it to the committee’s attention that the bylaws stated only 4-H leaders can vote. She suggested changing the bylaw to include FFA advisors. The committee agreed.
2. Voting Rule – Leaders’ Council Meeting. All policy changes approved by the committee will be voted on at the Leaders’ Council Meeting in November for adoption.
 3. New Judge – Suggested names for the new judge include Colby Hales of the University of Wyoming, Brett Casen from Colorado State University, Rex Hoppes of Iowa, Brad Mendez from Fresno, and Deb and Mike Cord from Iowa.

Next meeting – The next meeting date was set for 6 p.m. on Monday, October 29. Emily said the committee will vote on proposed policy changes at this time.

Adjournment – Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Dustin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Ruckman,
Committee Secretary