

Fergus-Petroleum 4-H Livestock Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2019
Fergus County Sheriff's Meeting Room

In Attendance:

Larry Hagenbuch, Chairman, Creative Critters	Emily Standley, MSU Extension
Jeremy England, Vice Chair, Creative Critters	Denise Seilstad, MSU Extension
Shannon Ruckman, Secretary, Livewires/Silver Spurs	
David T. Morris, 4-H grandparent	Morgan Ward, Sunnyside Shiners
Carl Fowler, Winifred Mustangs	Pat Ward, Sunnyside Shiners
Michelle Farley, Creative Critters	Dustin Reisig, Heart of the Snowies
Kim Vincent, Utica Sapphires	Heather Thom, Utica Sapphires
Shawn Grindheim, New Horizons	Jared Long, Fergus FFA
Jondie Rianda, Fergus FFA	Brady Martin, Snowy Mtn Trailblazers
Judi Martin, Snowy Mtn Trailblazers	Jaden Martin, Snowy Mtn Trailblazers
Allie Uecker, Silver Spurs	Brookelynn Ruckman, Silver Spurs
Lariat Hagenbuch, Creative Critters	Casey Willmore, Denton FFA
Chris England, Creative Critters	Mike Vanek, Busy Bees
Ross Butcher, Fergus County Commissioner	Terri Harper, Broken Arrow

Call to Order - Chairman Larry called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Minutes – Members read the printed minutes. Pat moved to approve the minutes; Michelle seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Finance Report – Emily said there was \$25,875.95 in the account after the fair money was deposited; \$8,436.44 of that is restricted for awards, \$17,439.51 is unrestricted. The sound system has \$4,874.68 in a separate account. The powder coating on the new panels has not been paid yet. Members discussed sound system funds and decided to leave it for now.

Public Comment – Emily invited comments on the Extension Office's decision to change the policy on 4-H Livestock Sale, allowing only the out-of-county animals that place in champion or reserve champion to sell in the sale.

- A. Shannon asked Emily to explain the livestock committee's role and how it relates to the Extension Office. See attached handout. Emily said if the Extension Office wants to it can make changes and does have authority to do so over policy, project, etc. Emily also explained the county rules can be more restrictive than the state rules but cannot be more lax.
- B. Dustin commented about a rumor of how the livestock committee had made the decision and the impact the rumor had on his business relations with those in Judith Basin County. He questioned Emily about the business owners' response to the decision, since a lot of people form out of county come to Lewistown for business, but how many Lewistown people go there for business.

- C. Denise explained how other counties have combined when they don't have their own fair, that they combine the work and expenses also. Emily added that the other counties don't do that for the Central Montana Fair, and the paperwork has become too much for the office to handle.
- D. Heather Thom questioned why the fair is called Central Montana Fair if it is only for Fergus-Petroleum 4-H members. Emily said historically the other counties didn't have their own fairs at the time the fair started, but now they do.
- E. Jeremy asked what the Extension Office would gain by not selling the other animals. Emily explained the packer issue, ear tag problems and resolution of having the agent show the tag info by the fair entry deadline on June 1, less paperwork, and less chance to miss people, which has been an issue in the past.
- F. Mike said he thinks the Extension office is going the wrong direction. That at the show in Billings is more restrictive to show – you have to be there for weigh in on January 4 or you don't show. Mike said the Extension office needs to make it harder for out-of-county members to show, and he is not in favor of their decision. Mike said he thinks the new policy will hurt the fair because Judith Basin County people are mad and not coming. He said there is a better way to implement it and that the livestock committee is going to lose money in the account, the fair is going to lose money and the food booth will lose money.
 - a. Emily said it was not a witch hunt, that the fair board and commissioners had told the Extension to talk to the 4-H committees and make a decision.
- G. Ross Butcher said he came to see how the program was put together, that the decision was not the commissioners' decision to make. He said it is a matter of 4-H membership and organization to make the determination.
 - a. Emily explained that it was not a decision of the committee's, fair board or commissioners, but it was an Extension decision.
- H. Denise said the Rotary Club was on board with the decision.
- I. Mike commented that the buyers are now divided, that the Extension is going to see some changes and they will need to mend fences with the businesses.
- J. Terri Harper commented that Musselshell Valley Equipment buys more animals in Lewistown than in Musselshell County. She said her kids are going to take the gamble and be here to show with their animals.
- K. David Morris said his grandkids are in a Judith Basin County 4-H Club. He said the decision will be a hit to the 4-H program.
- L. Shannon questioned if the livestock committee will now have too many pens now. Emily said we have too much money in the account.
- M. Emily said she had no phone calls regarding the matter when she was collecting comments. She said the Leader's Council said to eliminate participation in all or the sale, that Jennifer had asked for a ballot
 - a. Shannon questioned why the livestock committee wasn't given the opportunity to write down comments regarding the matter during this comment time.

- N. Chris England commented that the 4-H program would have to live with it this year, accept it and power through.
- O. Mike said he misses the old newsletter that was printed and mailed, some people don't get e-mails. He encouraged the Extension office to take a step back and look at it because people are mad.
- P. Heather asked if the Extension would be notifying the counties that they are not allowed to show; Kim Vincent said she didn't know anything about the matter until it was in the paper.
 - a. Emily and Denise said it is hard to communicate with the members from out-of-county if their extension agent doesn't communicate with them.
 - b. Terri said her Extension agent would have liked to have known.
- Q. Kim said the easiest way to fix the problem is to call it the Fergus-Petroleum County Fair.

Old Business

1. Members reviewed the wording of policy changes but did not vote.

New Business

1. Judge Update – Last year's judge cannot commit to our fair because it conflicts with his local fair.
 - a. Jared said he talked to Warren Beeler of Kentucky but didn't get a commitment from him. Jared said there are a lot of people available who are in their 20s and early 30s but he thinks people enjoy more seasoned judges with experience.
 - b. Names of interest include Mike Gustafson of Moore, Oklahoma, Kevin Potter of Emmett, Idaho, Marty Ropp, Guy Laflan, Crisha Geffert. Jared said the committee owes it to the kids to find people who can talk to the kids and explain their reasons, someone who can teach the kids. Mike agreed with Jared. Larry said he would like to find someone who is in the livestock business.
 - c. Casey moved to refer the matter to a committee. Pat seconded the motion; the motion passed. Mike, Terri, Larry, Carl and Jared were appointed to the committee.
2. Possible Clinics – Jeremy moved to table the topic. Michelle seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Announcements

1. TQA trainings – Emily said she would start the trainings after the New Year. She is planning three to four trainings in January-May. She invited clubs to schedule club-specific trainings for at least seven to eight kids. If clubs want to do this, they need to let Emily know by February. Emily also suggested perhaps the committee would like to combine a fitting and showing clinic with a TQA training for those who need it. She said the food safety training can be done the same time as the TQA as well.

2. Fair Board – Ross Butcher commented there would be an opening on the Fair Board and they like to see different interests represented. Currently, 4-H is not represented. He said told members of the livestock committee to let him know if they were interested and to fill out an application.
3. Next meeting – The next livestock committee meeting date was set for 6 p.m. on Monday, February 10.

Adjournment - Pat moved to adjourn the meeting; Michelle seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Ruckman, Secretary