

4-H Livestock Committee  
December 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Darren Crawford, MSU Extension	Josh Stroh, New Horizons 4-H Club
Casey Willmore, Denton FFA	Berkley Stroh, New Horizons 4-H Club
Jared Long, Fergus FFA	Larry Hagenbuch, Creative Critters 4-H Club
Shannon Ruckman, Lewistown Livewires 4-H Club	

Darren Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

There were no announcements or correspondence.

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting were available to be read by those in attendance.

Business Items:

1. Round Robin –the idea of moving Round Robin to Thursday evening instead of Saturday. After some discussion of heat and stress on the animals, early release of livestock on Saturday and a potential livestock judging contest on Saturday, Larry moved to move the Round Robin contest to Thursday evening. Casey seconded the motion; the motion passed.
2. Sale Weights – changing sale weights to be reflect current industry standards. Josh suggested selling the animals by the head instead of by weight, but Casey said that took away from the “real world” experience. Jared said it makes sense to move the pay weight on the pigs to 300 and minimum to 220. After more discussion on current industry weight standards, Josh moved to set the maximum pig weight at 300, sheep at 150 and steers at 1450. Jared seconded the motion. The motion passed after Darren asked the club advisors to help the kids explain to the buyers why the weights were changed.
3. Sell Market Champs – Casey said the kids with goats don’t want to sell their champions because then they can’t sell another animal worth more money. He said he knows of 9 kids who won’t show because of this policy. Darren said the small animals are not require to sell, and kids can only sell one animal at the 4-H livestock sale. Darren moved to get the goats out of the must-sell category. Casey seconded the motion; the motion passed.
4. Black show adhesive – Rules prevent the use of black show adhesive in the 4-H show. After some discussion of current show products differing from that of the past, and other artificial colorants, Josh moved to strike the rule preventing the use of black show adhesive. Larry seconded it; the motion passed.
5. Replacement Pens – The committee would like to replace the current pen system for the pigs, sheep and goats. Jared said he got quotes form Tritan Panels and Western Ranch Supply for panels for 150 5’x8’ pens – back to back with bow gates on the front. Jared said he preferred the panels to be 42” tall. Tritan Panels sells galvanized 32-36” tall panels without the bow gates for

\$30-\$35,000 for the whole system. Western Ranch had a competitive price for a similar system with 4'x8' pens.

- a. Shannon asked if he checked with any of the local businesses to see if they could supply the panels – Jared said he had not. Larry said he had talked to Spraggins about a quote – but Spraggins needs a design so he can submit a bid. Jared said he could have his marketing class build a marketing plan to show people the proposal.
  - b. There was some discussion on how the committee would pay for the panels. Darren said there was \$15,000-\$20,000 in the Livestock Committee Year-End budget. The committee could submit a proposal to the Central Montana Foundation for a grant and perhaps collect private donations, he said.
  - c. New pens would help with the ventilation of the area, prevent pig fights, sheep escaping and provide overhead gates for hanging banners.
  - d. Casey agreed that purchasing a whole system would be better than buying pieces and hodge-podging a system together. He suggested they could make a system for the steers as well.
  - e. No motion was made on the matter.
6. Judges – Names suggested for judging the 2017 Livestock Show were Caleb Boardman, University of Wyoming, Ken Parker, Houston, Brett Casen, Colorado, Mark Hoag, Clay Webber, Marty Robb, Al & Candy. Josh said he would like to stay out of the decision making because he knows so many people.
- a. There was some discussion on pay and contracts, the contract should specify the days and times of work. The county fair rate is \$250 per day with expenses paid. Josh said \$2,000 would get some quality judges. Darren moved to set a \$2,000 budget for hiring a judge. Larry seconded the motion; the motion passed. The Livestock Committee covers meals and hotel for the judge.
7. Livestock Sale Auctioneer - Lyle Allen has a family reunion that week; Ty Thompson from Billings did a good job last year. No motion was made on choosing an auctioneer.
8. Committee Chairs –
- a. Chairman – Jared nominated Josh Stroh as chairman. Larry seconded the motion.
  - b. Vice Chairman – Larry said he would stay on as vice president if no one else wanted it.
  - c. Secretary – Shannon said she would stay on as secretary if no one else wanted it.
  - d. Jared moved to cast an unanimous ballot. Casey seconded the motion; the motion passed.
9. Other business:
- a. Darren said the Montana Winter Fair catalogs are out. There was some discussion on the TQA presentations and grouping them with multiple 4-H clubs earlier in the year.
  - b. Larry suggested having a rate-of-gain contest starting in January.

- c. Fair Supers – Jared will be the pig superintendent and Larry will be the beef superintendent. Berkley Stroh will be a junior superintendent.
- d. There was discussion of having a pre-competition swine workshop in May to demonstrate fitting and showing, and also a swine camp.
- e. Berkley said one of her pet peeves is seeing livestock with empty water buckets. Another fair pet peeve is having extra pigs to load on the trucks.

Next meeting date - The next meeting was set for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2017, at the Sheriff's Complex meeting room.

Adjournment - Jared Long moved to adjourn the meeting; Larry Hagenbuch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shannon Ruckman