

4-H Livestock Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2016

In attendance:

Darren Crawford, Extension Agent  
Casey Willmore, Denton FFA  
Larry Hagenbuch, Creative Critters 4-H Club  
Shannon Ruckman, Lewistown Livewires

Darren C. called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the basement meeting room of the Sheriff's Complex.

Business:

1. Round Robin – Darren said there had been some suggestions to move the Round Robin contest to Thursday evening to allow for an earlier release for fair animals not going to market on Saturday. He said it was originally moved to Saturday to give the kids something to do on Saturday besides the Barnyard Olympics. Darren said he wants more comments from the public before changing the Round Robin contest time.
2. Sale Weights – It was mentioned last spring that the sale weights needed to be adjusted to better match the market standards. The topic was tabled until this fall when kids are picking out their market animals. Darren suggested changing the maximum weight for pay to 300 pounds for pigs because the national average is 286 pounds, and educate the buyers why the change was made. Casey said other county fairs, like Wheatland and Judith Basin counties, have already increased their max pay weight.
3. Selling Market Champions – There was discussion of making this optional for goats, poultry and rabbits, and requiring only champions of market classes for steers, lambs, swine and replacement heifers to sell at the 4-H Livestock Sale. Casey said he supports the proposed change because there is not a carcass contest for goats and knows some kids who would be more willing to show market goats if they weren't required to sell them.
4. Black Adhesive – Darren proposed changing a rule to allow for the use of black show adhesive. Darren said the rule was made when the show adhesive rubbed off on anything that touched the steers and caused problems. Larry said the new product doesn't do that and is widely used at most shows. Darren said they don't enforce the rule prohibiting the use of the black show adhesive so there is no reason to have the rule. No motions were made due to lack of attendance.
5. Replacement pens – Darren proposed purchasing a pen system for the sheep, goats and swine. HE said a system would cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000 and would last 20 years or more if stored in the small animal barn. Last fair, the number of pens reserved did not match what was actually needed and some of the pens were being used as tack stalls which presented a shortage of available pens. Darren said if they could get a good system for the pigs and sheep, then they could use the other pens for the beef or sell them to another agency. Casey and Larry expressed support for the purchase of new pens. Shannon

requested they look to local businesses first before purchasing pens out of town or state, as a courtesy thank you for all the local support the businesses give the 4-H Livestock programs.

6. Judges – Looking for a new judge. Darren said they try to get a new judge every two years. Qualifications include college livestock judging experience or being on a college judging team. Larry said he knows of potential judges in California, Illinois and Oklahoma. Casey suggested Jared Boardman from Wyoming or Travis Standley from Choteau.
7. Auctioneers – The committee discussed auctioneers for the Livestock Sale.
8. Committee chairs – Larry said he would stay as vice president, and Shannon volunteered to stay secretary if no one else wanted the jobs.

Darren said he did not feel there were enough people in attendance to make decisions on the items discussed and decided to meet again in December. The next meeting was set for 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 12, 2016, at the basement meeting room of the Sheriff's Complex.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.