

Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leaders Council

Meeting Notes

August 28, 2023 – 5:30 PM | Fergus County Sheriff's Office, Lewistown, MT

Call to Order: The Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leader's Council was called to order by President, Corry Arntzen at 5:30 pm on August 28, 2023. The group participated in the Pledge of Alliance and 4-H pledge.

Introductions / Attendance / Roll Call:

- Corry Arntzen - *Christina Busy Bees, President*
- Sonja Gregory – *Independent Leader, VP*
- Karly DeMars - *Christina Busy Bees, Secretary*
- Stacie Arntzen – *Christina Busy Bees, Treasurer*
- Leslie Long – *Independent Leader*
- Nicole Tholt – *Winnett Shamrock*
- Cory Poser – *Sunnyside Shiners*
- Amanda Gillett – *New Horizons*
- Jack Gillett – *New Horizons*
- Julia Gillett – *New Horizons*
- Michelle Farley – *Creative Critters, Ambassadors*
- Maggie Barth - *Creative Critters, Ambassadors*
- Sarah Mauws – *Ubet*
- Judi Martin – *Snowy Mountain Trailblazers (V)*
- Yvette Hersel - *Creative Critters, F*
- Shelly Van Haur – *Hilger*
- Davey Storfa – *Independent Member*
- Chris England – *4-H Program Assistant*
- Allison Smith – *Extension Office*

Minutes: May Meeting minutes were moved by Shelly Van Haur and seconded by Maggie Barth. Minutes passed unanimously.

Correspondence: We received two thank you notes from 4-H scholarship recipients. .

Treasurer's Report: A statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities and Transaction Detail handouts were provided to participants and were current through August 25, 2023. After discussion, Maggie Barth moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Michelle Farley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- ❖ **County Ambassador Report:** Fair went well. There will be an open ambassador position. Farm Olympics went well. The Ambassador dunk tank fundraiser went well – all funds raised are going to Ambassadors for fall training expenses.
- ❖ **Livestock:** Fair went well, had a couple of issues from the rule book. Many felt the judge was good. Photos went well but would have a larger backdrop in the future. Alison shared the purchase recognition items to participants.
- ❖ **Small Animal Committee:** Fair went well, only a couple of issues. There will be policy changes proposed. Buckles and plaques were very well received. Jackets will be done by the end of the week. Small animal petting zoo raised \$467.72 and there was a sheep donation of \$3,200.
- ❖ **Horse Committee:** Ranch horse show went well.
- ❖ **Static Project Committee:** Indoor auction brought 32 registered buyers and sold 19 items for 14 participants. Auction averaged about \$88/item. Will plan to keep around 25 items to sell. The committee plans to work on more year-round relevancy to help get some more businesses engaged for the sale. Cookbooks available for sale - \$20/each. Contact the extension office. Thank you to extension crew and volunteers for their help in setting up the static project for display at the fair.
- ❖ **Food Booth:** Had some critical vacancies in shifts. Farm to table for the meat continues to be a huge success and we have 2024 vendors set up already. Hilger Meat patted the meat. Bought some aprons this year. Next year – we are planning to clean once they have the storage trailer available, so there won't be an early cleanup day. Cleaning so far in advance you must re-clean and move things several times. Food booth was profitable this year – raised between \$4-5,000. Only a couple of people that

didn't show up for their shift. Overall, a good year with the food booth. Doors need to be fixed with something that has a rubber sealed - money from the Ag Windows will go towards the cost of door replacement (around \$1,200). New hot water heater this year. For clarification, 4-H rents from the fairgrounds – so they will replace the hot water heater. Pies – each club needs to bring them on the day they are scheduled...not when convenient for the club. Store-bought pies are an issue – we advertise homemade pies. If you do purchase, just make sure they are homemade.

- ❖ **Nomination for Open Leaders Council Positions:** President, vice-president and treasurer are up for re-election.

Stacie Arntzen is completing 4th year and will retire. Looking for replacement – if someone has a desire to run for any position, we will be voting at banquet in November.

- ❖ **Awards/Medallions Update:** Change in medallions to keychain was well received. Will adjust paper that goes with it to be a bit smaller. Once second place and third place rosettes are depleted, we will transition to the new keychain style.

- ❖ **Scholarships:** No updates, we were able to give out three. Colt Reisig Scholarship received five applicants this year. Two were chosen for \$500/each award (TJ Hickey from Utica Sapphires/ Codi England from Creative Critters). For the Colt Reisig Scholarship, 4-H is a pass through until 2026, then it will transition to Central Montana Foundation.

Extension Report

- Congress Updates: Four individuals and one team participated. Gavel Games team will be advancing to Denver competition. Website has a list of eligible events.
- Picnic Table Update: wrote a grant and were able to purchase six tables
- Fan for Small Animal Barn: was supplied courtesy of Central Montana Foundation

Old Business

- Monument is complete behind the trade center in gazebo area to replace the plaque from 1930. Benchmark Masonry donated all materials and time; money went back to CMF.
- Shooting Complex Fundraiser – didn't work out and fell through. Upcoming – October 13-15, 2023 – dual shooting education event to be certified.
- Updated 4-H Job Descriptions: looking to refine officer duties/job descriptions. A handout was provided with proposed updates (**second** reading).
- Update By-laws
 - Proposed by-law update: 'Amendment XXX Article XV – Requirements for Independent Members. A handout was provided with proposed changes (first reading).
 - Discussion:
 - Proponents submitted the proposed by-law updated after they learned at a State Leadership event that Fergus/Petroleum County is the only county that allows independent members. This news made participants question if independent members are meeting the true intent of 4-H (social skills, education, connection with others). Proponents feel that required community service events need to be a 4-H sponsored.
 - Opponents of the proposed by-law update shared that they feel the parent/adult leaders have done a good job at ensuring their members are developing social skills by participating in county public speaking, teaching at showmanship workshops, showing livestock, etc. Further, opponents feel that the option for Independent club status is a better fit for a busy family that can't make all required 4-H meetings. Independent members feel they shouldn't be punished for someone else's abuse of the process/status.
 - Other proposed changes need to submit the Policy Change Request Form (handed out at Leader's Council meeting) – change forms need to be sent to Extension Office

New Business

- Volunteer Appreciation – would like to recognize volunteers that help all year long
 - Proposal: Extension Office staff requested \$550 from Leader's Council to be used to purchase Lewistown Chamber bucks to be given to volunteers that have made significant impacts to the Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H program. Nicole Tholt moved to that approve the proposal as presented. Michelle Farley seconded. Approved by majority (one negative vote). Awards will be mailed out with a letter and will be announced at the Leader's banquet.
- Leaders Banquet - Sonya moved to set the date Thursday, November 9, 2023. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously – depending on location and availability of venue. Sonya Gregory, Shelly Van Haur and Chris England were appointed to the Banquet Committee to plan the event.
- County Awards event will take place November 5 at First Christian Church. Potluck will begin at 4 pm, awards ceremony at 5 pm.
- 4-H Foundation – Silent Auction Donation: Maggie Barth made a motion to use up to \$150 to donate to the 4-H Foundation Silent Auction. Yvette Hersel seconded the motion. Motion passed with the suggestion of a donation of a quilt. The extension office will complete this task.
- Policy changes:
 - Extension Office proposed to implement optional workbooks. For example, Level 1 first year is required (in each project) and could enter the workbook as a project. More information would be needed. Proposal was passed around.
 - District Council – second term, haven't done anything in the position. There are no meetings and no other counties in our district. Would propose to remove the position as the district council has seemingly dissolved. Maggie Barth made a motion to remove district council position, Stacie Arntzen seconded. Motion passed.
 - State Leaders Council meets four times a year, quarterly.

Announcements

- Clubs need to email club meeting minutes to the Extension Office.
- Radio spots and Spotlight reminders – 1st Friday of each month. Contact Heidi at Lewistown Radio Station to submit recordings.
- New 4-H year starts October 1
- Completed Record books must be delivered to Extension Office by September 15.
- County, Club Friends of 4-H nominations are due to the Extension Office by September 15.
- Club Financial Reports are due to the Extension Office by September 15.
- Online Virtual Leader/Volunteer training – due October 1 – if not done, Leader's will have to complete their background check again. Training is located in Z-suites.
- Non-profit Board Training sponsored by Snowy Mountain Development is September 13 from 6-8 pm

Date of Next Meeting: Leader's Banquet – Thursday, November 9, 2023. Location to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Karly DeMars, Leader's Council Secretary