

Teton County 4-H Livestock Committee

The Teton County 4-H Livestock Committee met August 13, 2009 at the Choteau library. Those in attendance were Doug Ulsh, Cody Ulsh, Danelle Crary, and Extension Agent Mark Major.

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Ulsh.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was given. Since the last report, \$310.00 in late fees were collected and expenses were \$3584.01 for fair related items. The current balance is \$3704.45. There is a credit at Front Range Supply of approximately \$400 for returned wood chips.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A new Capital Improvements committee will be formed at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Haywood Foundation has a \$500 sheep award. Applications are due by November 15. Contact the Extension Office for more information.

August 29 is the State Cowboy Action Shoot at Simms.

OLD BUSINESS:

Improvements for 2010 will include getting electricity in the pig barn and multi-purpose building including outlets on the outside posts. Mark will get Gerald Torgerson to bid on this. Mark will also check with the Weatherbeater board about a previously discussed electrical expansion in the Weatherbeater.

The schedule for the shipping of market animals from the fair was evaluated. Crossroads Meats were finished with pigs by noon and have requested that the steers ship earlier so they can begin harvesting them when they finish with the pigs. Brad Hodgskiss needs to be kept in close communication regarding any shipping scheduling.

Jared Long, the livestock judge for the 2009 fair, did a very good job placing but the committee would like to pursue a judge that interacts well with the crowd and also speaks directly with the 4-H members. Potential judges for next year are currently being sought.

The schedule for the fair seemed to work fine with the horse show change. Having two swine weigh-in times worked fine. The morning weigh-in saw approximately 1/3 of the pigs but 9 am was too early. Next year the times should be 10-11am and 6-8:30pm.

The Carcass Event was briefly discussed. Hands-on activities at this event are the most effective at getting the 4-H members to participate. Recommendations for next year will be discussed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The total proceeds from the 2009 Livestock sale were \$119,738.75. This was down from last year due to fewer animals and a slight decrease in prices. This year, steers averaged \$1.67, lambs \$4.00, pigs \$3.84.

Suggestions and comments from the fair were reviewed. One of the suggestions was to have the large animal livestock judge also judge Round Robin. Mark will make this part of the contract with the livestock judge.

There is some interest in an alpaca project and potentially showing alpacas at the livestock show. Mark will invite those interested to the next meeting for further discussion.

The holding pens for the pigs that were borrowed from the Great Falls fair worked very well. Mark will talk with Milford Wearley about a possible FFA project to build some for our fair. Sue Thompson is in charge of the pens at the Great Falls fair and could be contacted for specific measurements of the pens.

Animal Insurance is a continued concern. Currently, the livestock committee is responsible for the death loss of an animal between sale and slaughter. Discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Classification and sorting of carcasses was done using state guidelines. This was done in accordance with a previous livestock committee motion and will continue for next year.

Having a Buyer's Social in place of the Chuckwagon Dinner was suggested. With the strong discussions relating to this matter last year, the Chuckwagon Dinner will continue to be offered at this time.

Discussion of eartags for 2010 was tabled until the next meeting. One suggestion was to have the 4-H member's back number be the same as the animal tag number.

There has been some confusion with late fees and fair entries. To clarify this, it was moved by Danelle to make late fees for *Weatherbeater fair entries* \$5.00 and late fees for animal entries will remain as-is. Cody 2nd. Motion passed.

There has also been confusion with possession deadlines and fair entry deadlines in regards to lambs and swine. Danelle moved to set the possession and animal entry form deadline for lambs and swine to 2 weeks prior to the fair entry deadline (which is usually May 1st). Cody 2nd. Motion passed. This would make the possession date and animal entry form deadline approximately April 16 or so, depending on the year.

The Livestock Committee hired a refrigerated truck to transport carcasses to local processors from Crossroads Meats this year. The truck plus 2 men from New Rockport colony cost \$375. There were evidently other trucks hired privately that cost around \$100. A subcommittee to organize this for the future will be established at the next meeting. The committee felt that it was very important to transport the meat to the various butchers.

The Butcher Block in Great Falls is talking about putting in a larger cooler. This could be a possible future outlet for one species to go to.

Elections for President and Secretary will take place at the next meeting. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact the Extension Office.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS:

Cowboy Action Shooting is considering forming a project club this winter.

All present commented on how great the beef meetings worked out. It may be possible to pursue other members to present on specific species this year.

The next meeting will be October 8, 2009 at the Chateau library.