

Teton County 4-H Livestock Committee

The Teton County 4-H Livestock Committee met January 13, 2009 at the Choteau library. Those in attendance were committee members Danelle Crary, Kirk Smelser, Susan Rice, Chuck and Terry Stephens, Krista Briscoe, Barb Bouma; guests Mark and Mary Salmond, Bruce and Janae Ruckman, Extension Agent Mark Major, and Extension office assistant Jamie Smith.

Vice President Krista Briscoe called the meeting to order.

Terry moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Kirk 2nd. Motion passed.

Terry gave the treasurer's report. Transactions included 35 beef assessments and one late fee for an income of \$2130.00. Expenses were \$14.90 to Northwestern Energy for the pig barn power. This brings the current balance to \$3236.23.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mark will ask Doug Ulsh to check with the State Fair in regards to using their holding pens for the pigs. The lock on the pig barn remains on the "to do" list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The State Livestock Committee is a newly formed group. Mark and Colton Stephens will serve on this committee.

Cowboy Action Shooting is a new project for members who are at least 12 years old. The first meeting will be held March 21 at 3:00pm at the Choteau library. The first shoot will take place March 28. If you are interested in this project please plan to attend the first meeting or contact Mark at the Extension office.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jamie will invoice beef assessment late fees that are due. These need to be paid by January 31 or the member will be dropped from the project.

The balance due to the Weatherbeater for the building expansion is \$1180.95. This is interest free until the conclusion of the 2009 fair. After that time, interest will begin to accrue at a rate of 6 or 7%.

The dates for the 4-H fair are June 22-28, 2009. The schedule of the 4-H fair has changed. The major changes include moving the horse show to Wednesday, interview judging to Thursday, and the dog show to Friday.

Swine weigh-in will remain on Thursday evening. To accommodate people attending the interview judging on Thursday who also have a swine project, the need to have a morning weigh-in was discussed. Barb moved to split the swine weigh-in into two sessions, Session I on Thursday morning 9-10:30am, Session 2 on Thursday 6:30-9:00pm. Terry 2nd. Motion passed.

Assessment fees for all species changed this year. Through an executive committee agreement following the previous motion in this matter, Mark made the changes to late fees from being doubled to being 1 ½ times the assessment fee. Chuck moved to accept assessments of \$60 for swine and beef with a late fee of \$90 and a \$30 assessment for lambs and a late fee of \$45. Danelle 2nd. Motion passed.

Colton Stephens continues to offer Beef Meetings for any interested members. These are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2pm.

Livestock Quality Assurance training is scheduled for 4:30-6:00pm on April 6 in Choteau and April 7 in Fairfield. Members must attend every other year.

Animal Insurance was once again discussed. The committee does not feel that there is currently a need for this insurance. If anyone is interested in obtaining insurance for their individual animal, contact Mark.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Chuckwagon Dinner was discussed. The clubs in charge of this event for 2009 are Spring Creek and Eager Eagles. Consideration to have this meal at the Weatherbeater would allow buyers to mingle with 4-Hers and their animals more easily but tents, tables and chairs would need to be hauled in. There is also concern about the cleanliness. The committee decided that having it at the pavilion is the best option. A subcommittee consisting of Terry, Krista, Danelle, and Nikki Ley was formed to look into finding a caterer and what type of meat to serve (beef, pork, burgers, etc.).

Ultra sounding and direct shipping of 4-H animals was discussed. A letter from Tammy Townsend was read. Jamie Smith reported on the paperwork logistics that take place between the end of the sale and the carcass judging in Shelby. Mark presented some research on ultra sounding and also reported that he estimated that from the 2009 fair, 75% of the animals will remain at Crossroads Meats and 25% will go out to other processors. Animals will be hauled to Crossroads Meats as in the past, with shipping times to be established at the next meeting.

Carcass judging will take place July 2nd and the Carcass Event on July 13th. The group felt that the two events have been poorly attended and yet the end-product is what a market project is about. It was suggested to add carcass education to the Quality Assurance training. Terry moved that 4-H members are required to attend either the Carcass Judging or the Carcass Event in order to receive a carcass award. If a member does not attend one of these events, the award will be given to the next top carcass in line. Kirk 2nd. Motion passed.

Fair books should be reviewed and any changes submitted to the Extension Office by March 1st. The new motion regarding carcass awards will be included on page 39. It is okay to take Option Books home after interview judging. Fair books will be available online. Hard covers are available upon request.

Fair setup will take place Monday, June 22 at 6:00pm at the Weatherbeater.

Judges for the 4-H fair were discussed. Mark will contact Jared Long from Lewistown to judge market animals and goats. Mark will check with Dusti Hicks about a rabbit and cat judge.

Having neck ropes on cattle at the fair is needed for safety reasons. Terry moved to require all beef cattle to have a neck rope on while tied at the Teton County 4-H Fair. Kirk 2nd. Motion passed. This will be added to the general rules in the fair book. Colton will offer to make neck ropes at one of his beef meetings and will also have extras available at the fair.

Chuck volunteered to be the beef superintendent. Mark will contact potential superintendents for sheep and swine. It was suggested to have 3 swine superintendents (pre-fair, fair, and sale).

Fundraisers will not be needed this year.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 12 at 7:00pm at the Choteau library.