

Outdoor committee Meeting June 1, 2015

Present:

Big Sky: Dennis Deaton (Chair); Jay Deaton (Jr. Swine); Wade Bratlien; Sydney Deaton; David Hamilton (Swine); Josie Hamilton (Jr. Goat); Karen Bratlien (Dog)

Canyon Creek: Lisa Grady (Herdsmanship)

Sleeping Giants: Shane Tamake (Beef); Marilyn deMontigny (Dairy); Becky deMontigny (Jr. Dairy); Kathy Swanson; Patty Matthews

LCL: Vanessa Olson (Horse); Jeff Patton (Sheep); Dave & Martha Gardner (Sale); Val Williams (Poultry)

Haywire Kids: Nicole Newman

Baxendale: Dundee Gribbons (Rabbit)

Extension: Mary Meyer; Janet Cerovski

Worth Yer While: Anson Moffitt; Desiree Moffett

The Outdoor Committee meeting was called to order by Dennis Deaton, chair, at 5:32 PM in the Conference Room.

The May 11, 2015, meeting minutes were review. **Jay Deaton made a motion to approve the minutes. Shane Tamake seconded the motion and it carried.**

Superintendent Reports

- **Beef** – Shane Tamake reported Open Scale Night was held last week and 8 steers with their handlers attended the Showmanship workshop. He noted the steers look very promising this year. The Hoof Trimming clinic was held on Sunday with 17 steers in attendance with several more to go. If you missed this opportunity and still need your steer done, please contact Jack McCullough (406-868-0040) to make an appointment. He will be at the Jackpot Show.
- **Dairy** – Marilyn deMontigny announced they will be rescheduling the recent Dairy workshop for another day due to a scheduling conflict. The project will have two meetings in July and she does not yet have an exact count of how many dairy cows will be at fair this year.
- **Dog** – Karen Bratlien reported the third session of dog has been completed and the project will now move into the fourth and final session to get handlers ready for fair. This section will be coaching of the handlers instead of the training mode and the project will be meeting several times during the week.
- **Goat** – Dave Hamilton reported all is well with the project.
- **Herdsmanship** – Lisa Grady continues to gather awards for Herdsmanship.
- **Horse** – Vanessa Olson reported on the upcoming workshop this weekend and practice show on the June 20th. The Horse Committee has met and have new rules for Horse High Point that will need to be voted at the June 15th Horse Committee meeting.
- **Poultry** – Val Williams reported at their recent workshop they covered on washing of the birds and built risers for the project. Next workshop will be painting the risers. Val is working on the guidelines for Avian Flu for the project.
- **Quality Assurance** – Mary Meyer reported the workshops have completed for the year and waiting for the certificates for those who participated. Janet will be following up with MSU.
- **Rabbit** – Dundee Gribbons reported at last month meeting Clancy Olson did a showmanship workshop that went really well. The project's next meeting is June 15.

- **Round Robin** – Dennis Deaton will follow up with Jim Leslie. Please get your contract into the Extension office.
- **Sale** – Dave Gardner report arrangements for the sale are going good. He spoke to earlier trucking of the pigs and loading. A suggestion of hauling pigs with a truck and trailer versus a semi-truck; however the concern was raised about liability and loosing superintendents to hauling instead of assisting with their projects. Discussion of better way to load pigs and limit people in the barn was discussed including use of panels and a closer alleyway for pigs that could be removed easily after pigs were loaded to make way for the other animals. One item that may help is a solid panel chute loading the pigs along with a narrow chute so they could not turn around. Shane offered his personal solid panels to assist with loading of the pigs. Dave will order the two trucks and look at a better way to load. Other questions for follow-up will be use of personal truck and trailer liability.
- **Sheep** – Jeff Patton announced the June 27 Sheep workshop from 2 PM to 4 PM. Scale will be open for sheep and other animals to weigh if they would like.
- **Swine** – Dave Hamilton reported on the workshop for Showmanship which had 3 kids attend; may look at trying to do another workshop if there is time prior to fair. Dave reported on Open Scale night with beef and had 10 hogs over the scale. He would also like to have another scale night and will follow up.
- **Extension Report** – Mary Meyer reported working with Dave Gardner for Carcass Evaluation. Brent and she will be attending training in Big Timber for Carcass Evaluation. Dan Lucas and Alison Flynn will be coming up for the training and carcass evaluation this year. Hog Carcass hauling will be July 29 and hog carcass judging will be held on Friday, July 31. Other carcass (beef, sheep, etc.) hauling will be August 3.
- **Northern Rep.** – Nothing to report

New Business

Avian Flu – Dennis Deaton gave an update on the Avian Flu and the recommendation of State of Montana Department of Livestock of no waterfowl at fair. The decision of not having waterfowl at our fair was not our decision to make as it is the fair steering committee and if needed the County Commissioners.

Dennis and Mary worked with several officials regarding this issue. One recommendation was not stacking the cages and having birds come in on Tuesday and leaving on Thursday and then bringing in rabbit projects due to space constraints. We will enforce no sick birds at fair and step up our bio-security measures. Another recommendation was to not have birds and swine next to one another for potential gene mutation and effect on human. We already follow this recommendation. No food or drink in the barn. The stacking of cages is a low concern per the state vet and with birds close in contact. This is an airborne virus with short transmission rate. If they have it, they are getting it and it is easily communicable. The state vet will handle check-in for sick birds and hand sanitizing in and out of the area. Signage will be needed and sanitizer available as much as we can. To date this epidemic has killed 39 million birds. Val thought perhaps is limit the cages the kids can bring in and letting air flowing through the cages. If birds are housed together they would have beak to beak contact, but it would separate exhibitors from exhibitors. She felt we would still have a good poultry exhibit this year.

Part of the concern is those birds going back to their farms and potentially spreading the disease to their flock. Last year we had 66 4-H poultry entries with 8 meat birds totaling about 90 birds all together including open classes. Flathead and Judith Basin counties have had confirmed cases in the past two months. We can encourage the kids to do educational poster as well. It was success to have the kids register for fair and communicated to them there may be a potential they would need to limit the amount birds coming to fair due to Avian Flu. Discussion of disinfecting the cages prior to birds entering fair was discussed. Fairgrounds will be limited to 5 entries for combination of birds and rabbit for open entries. Please be sure to change your boots and disinfect prior to going home from fair and dealing with your animals. This is highly contagious. Dave Hamilton made a recommendation to Dennis if another decision is needed on this topic, please move forward and make it and move forward.

Old Business

Security at Fair – Dennis Deaton reported last meeting Kimberly Lowery brought forward a proposal for fair security to include using two Sheriff's deputies at night for a total cost of \$1,200 and gave an overview of the topic at last month's meeting. Dennis spoke to Kimberly regarding other options to look at for security. He noted there was an issue last year with clubs not showing up for their shifts. Dennis contacted Starplex Corporation for pricing as they already are under contract with the fairgrounds for fair security. Dave Hamilton reported this topic is on the agenda for Council to discuss and whether or not this is what the clubs would like to do for barn security this year. Between the two vendors, Starplex is the more affordable. Although livestock would pay for security this year, it would not be the same year after year. Dave would like to ask the clubs their interest in assisting for paying for the services. We will still need cleaning crews in the barn for chores as well as barn opening. Starplex probably does not have a lot of livestock knowledge but would have access to the superintendents' numbers if there is an emergency. They would know enough about animals to know if the animals are in trouble. The pig barn will be locked during the night. Security would only be for the big barn. Recommendation to Council from the committee is that Starplex is the better option than the Sheriff department; having them also contracted for Tuesday night; and how are we paying for the service. Including Tuesday night, the total would be \$406.80. Sydney asked if the two options for barn security and a schedule of barn cleaning would be available depending on what the decision is at Council. This could be used as a club fundraiser as well. Dennis would like to see us figure out how to pay for this instead of asking Foundation. It was noted Foundation is concerned about the liability of having the kids in the building and perhaps having to deal with a spectator issue.

Ops Manual – Karen Bratlien reported the Operational Guidelines Manual is near completion for roll-out to the members. If you have not completed your project guidelines, please do so and forward to Karen as they will be added to document as she receives them.

Adult Round Robin – Lisa Grady reported they are getting the news out to clubs and anticipate continued sign-ups at fair. Should be a really fun event and hope for good participation.

Painting of Panels – Dennis will follow up.

Reminder of Minimum Pig Weigh for 2015 is 210 lbs.

Other Business

Extra Day for Pig Cleaning - Dave Hamilton reported since we added another day to the fair schedule we will need to add another day for pig cleaning for Wednesday. Some clubs may have to do more than one round of pig barn cleaning as some clubs have several kids in the project and others with limited kids in swine. Would like to have clubs pick their times, but Dave may have to assign a time for extra shifts. If you have no swine members in the club, they do not have to participate. We added 8 more shifts with the extra day. The clubs with multiple kids they could have choose who does what shift.

Next Meeting – The next meeting was scheduled for July 13th; however, Dennis asked if anyone was opposed to have it on July 6th so that we can address any last minute fair items. **Everyone agreed July 6th would work.**

Dave Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Vanessa Olson.