

## 4-H LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 4-H Livestock Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Cory Poser at 6:09pm at the Sherriff's Complex in Lewistown.

Attendance included: Gisele Yaeger, Corry Arntzen, Mike Vanek, Alyssa Vanek, Mardi Linhart (all Christina Busy Bees), Tammie Poser, Cory Poser, Caitlynn Poser (Sunnyside Shiners), Ed Mack (Big Sky), Lexie Wichman, Wyatt Wichman (Moore Barnstompers). Online participants included Judi Martin, Amanda Gillett, Josh Stoh and Cooper Gervais. Extension staff present were Cody Ream and Chris England.

March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved as presented (Corry Arntzen moved, Mardi Linhart seconded). There was stated request for more detail being included in future meeting minutes.

Financial Report was approved as presented with \$17,164.34 total (\$4,674.73 sound system, \$4,252.54 awards, \$8,237.07 checking). Moved by Mardi Linhart, seconded by Caitlynn Poser.

Sub-committees reported out as follows:

- Awards – no official report as committee members had not been in contact with one another prior to the meeting. It was shared that a drafted budget with initial buckles was presented by Jared Long at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Continued discussion and questions about buckle supplier was discussed, as well as the number of awards needed. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the final species weigh/tag deadline and therefore an approximate number of possible awards should be able to be determined. There was indication of some species buckle sponsors. Suggestion made that any buckle sponsor(s) be invited to attend the shows and get their photo taken with show winners and that a ringside announcement of sponsors be made at each species show. Cody Ream is to email all livestock committee members (Judi Martin, Mardi Linhart, Jared Long) following the 5/12 meeting so they can coordinate and communicate on planning.
- Buyers' Meal at Livestock Sale – Tammie Poser reported that she's trying to work within the limited \$500 budget for a simple meal to promote buyers engaging inside the barn with members. She has secured donated burger by all local processors. They will have their name listed as a magnet on the large sale board/sign. Discussion on hosting a burger bar or taco bar ensued, with a taco bar being easier to prep ahead of time versus flipping burgers on-site. Tammie will work with Food Booth entity to order additional food items. Estimated head count is 250 for buyer meal, based on historical notes.
- Judges – repeated report that Tyler Melroe was selected (initially reported out at March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting).

- Sale Planning—Corry reported that Extension staff, Joel Sewell (sale superintendent), Cory Poser, and she have met to outline initial sale details like the auctioneer, sale day help, donation wood chips, setup diagram, opening program, buyers list, and buyer registration.
- Fundraising/Sponsorships – no official report as no volunteers to spearhead this endeavor
- Photography – moved to New Business action item
- On-line Sale – a number of individuals have made initial contact with Sam Fraser from Frontier Livestock Sales (Joel Sewell, Corry Arntzen, Mardi Linhart). Corry has volunteered to coordinate this sale and will work with Mardi to share ideas.

There was no Old Business.

New Business action item included voting on Amanda Dawn Photography to take sale animal photos as members enter/exit show ring, at cost of \$980 (moved by Tammie, seconded by Josh). Amanda will have a partner photographer taking candid photos throughout the shows/week to offer additional images/galleries for individual a la carte purchase of images. This is within the \$1,000 budget approved by full Livestock Committee/presented to Leaders' Council.

An ask if plans for any Showmanship Clinics were in the works, as at least one beef family had asked about tips to prepare them in their first year steer project. It was mentioned a non 4H affiliated party was hosting a multi-species clinic on May 17/18. Lexie Goettlich could be contacted for more information. There was no indication of any species specific workshops being planned at a county 4H level.

Two additional requests were included in New Business.

- Lexie Wichman introduced discussion the inclusion of additional breed award banners, (specifically Hereford) as it seems as some breeds may have been historically be left out. Discussion included a need to have a complete list of possible entries to all breeds could be accounted for in award planning. Group informally agreed that all breeds with entries need to have equal consideration of award banner opportunities. Additional question posed about what has been decided in the past for showmanship buckle awards as that may have been inconsistent. Assumption was stated that each grand and reserve showman per species per age group was awarded a buckle. Chris was going to look for old minutes for confirmation.
- The Schultz family asked about the addition of a middle weight class for lambs this year, assuming there may be more entries than past years. At current time

the number of entries was in-line with historical numbers. A decision is generally made at superintendents' discretion, after weighing in to determine: total animals being shown for market and the weights of said animals. Typically, classes of 1-2 animals in a weight class are avoided. If a middle weight class is deemed necessary, there should be banner award recognition.

To additional announcements were made. Josh Stroh shared that NILE Merit heifer applications are open with deadline of June 30th. View the application and details online, believe due date for applying is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Defer any questions to Josh.

Corry and Chris announced that Leaders' Council voted to purchase two additional port-a-coolers for the 4H program, one being identified for pavilion use at fair and one for small animal barn. They are working to secure grant funding for these purchases. Cory Poser has also acquired an additional unit for use in the pavilion and its believed there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> unit donated for fair week as well.

Closing requests were that prior to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting all sub-committees produce a preliminary report to be shared with agenda, ahead of the meeting. Additionally it was asked that a Superintendent sub-committee also produce a prelim report ahead of the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

The next Livestock Committee meeting will be Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm. The location will be determined as Cody works to identify a venue that will accommodate virtual meeting options.

Respectfully,

*Corry Arntzen*

Corry Arntzen

On behalf of Livestock Secretary Johnnie Schultz who was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitment