**Gallatin County 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Committee Meeting**

**October 28th, 2024**

**6pm @ Extension Office**

**Attendance**

* Lee Nuss, Molly Yurdana, Brittney Harwood, Rachel Colton, Lea’h McDonald, Monica Samson, Shawna Oostema, Annabel Morgan, Kelly Pavlik, Merle Farrier, Michael Braught, Dave Casto, Jess Woodring, Shawnna Taylor, Jodi Smith, Cody Brownell, Amy Brownell

**Orders of the Meeting**

* Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:07pm
* Introduction of Guests: Fairgrounds Director Caitlin Quisenberry, Commissioner Zach Brown, Chad Woodring, Josey Woodring, Wyatt Woodring, Makenze Woodring, Dakota Woodring

**Guest Presentation -** Fairgrounds Needs Assessment (Caitlin Quinsenberry and Commissioner Brown)

* Commissioner Brown - 4-H is here to stay. They are here to clear up some rumors, to make sure we are all on the same page. No one is here to point fingers at anyone, but with investment in fairgrounds has deteriorated, facilities need to be better. County commissioners' direction to Caitlin and the Fairgrounds is to come up with a way to improve the fairgrounds (enterprise generated? Rather than tax support), partnerships to levy. We don’t have a lot of tax money to throw around at building a multi-million dollar facility, but what kind of approach and partnerships can we form to work through these changes. 4-H is very important to us, the agricultural history and skills that we teach through 4-H are essential. There is not a future of the fairgrounds without 4-H.
* Caitlin Quisenberry - if the rumor-mill is going, please correct those rumors. Anxiety is here because of the passion. Collective space for community - dog agility, hockey, 4-H, motor sports. Facilities are past their life span and we deserve better. Let’s work together as a collective to get excited about the future plans. What we need to know is interim needs -
  + Overall - history of the program is important. The volunteers are a powerhouse. We could use an estimated 85 nights at the fairgrounds, 25 of those would include live animals and the space required to accommodate those. Space, expense and room for live animals is hard to find in this community. Wash rack access, scales, barn use vs. indoor meeting room space. We get bumped quite often and then where do we go with animals to do hands-on education.
  + Sheep - Jodi
    - Will email feedback to Caitlin
  + Goat - Amy and Lea’h
    - Will email feedback to Caitlin
  + Beef - Annabel & Kelly
    - Beef cannot be flexible last minute. With 100+ cattle and kids, it is too difficult to be flexible to move spaces. Beef is offering to pay full price to not get bumped. April weigh-in and demo of control needs to have full facilities, on top of Rodeo, does not work.
  + Swine - Lee, Merle & Brittney
    - Swine barn availability, always competing with dog agility group. Need more space for Pig Pool.
  + Rabbit - Monica & Cody
    - Frustrating to get bumped last minute - scramble to find space to use for small animal meetings. Exhibit buildings are the only place we can hold some of these gatherings.
  + Poultry - Shawna & Rachel
    - Poultry has their full schedule planned already for the whole year. But they always have to keep the exhibit building blank/TBD because we never know what building we’ll get put in. Poultry is fast-growing, as urban families can participate, yet we don’t have facilities to accommodate.
  + Horse - Jess & Dave
    - It would be awesome if the arena could be prepared when we show up for fair. The ruts in the arena are very dangerous for horses and children. Indoor arena is not big enough for project size, we are having to use other facilities around the county. A larger indoor arena would be ideal. Near future would be awesome to have safety/parking access if the millings weren’t in the parking lot. Difficult to park horse trailers, moving cows in for the working ranch horse problem. Battling traffic, moving horses and trailers around the piles. Not using the arenas as much because of the risk. Indoor facility would be used 2x/month at least by 4-H horse.
    - Millings have made a cooperative agreement with Road & Bridge department. Will be used for parking lot paving on the fairgrounds over by baseball. Millings pile will soon be a shiny new parking lot.
    - If there was a better indoor facility available, it would be rented out constantly by outside groups that are looking for a space in Montana. From a business standpoint, there would be a way to generate some serious revenue with a facility like that.
    - For rumor-mill, have your people speak about the priorities in a way that will communicate it correctly. Not just Bozeman, talk about the county, the county needs, community needs, program priorities (ex. 4-H). Have the partner groups speak the language that they want people to understand.
  + Dairy Cow - Shawna O.
    - Will email feedback to Caitlin
* Sale Pavilion -
  + About $11,000 to remove the sale pavilion. IF we remove the pavilion, it has to go on a public commission agenda since it is the removal of a county asset. Caitlin ran a report and it has only been used for 300 hours over the last 5 years - roof is in poor condition, heater/AC broke. History of that building is important, but is it more expensive to update/salvage the building. Can the county offer it for sale for someone to move it? Disposal is one path, but selling it is another path per county policy.
* Concessions -
  + If we invest in projects that are short-term, with written documentation of timeframe/if’s/possible tear downs, we can “fix” our problems/needs (i.e. concessions kitchen) we have the green light to do those things.
* No more motor sports in the Anderson Arena for safety reasons

**Minutes/Financial Reports**

* Approval of Meeting Minutes: August Fair Wrap-Up Meeting
  + Lea’h motions to approve the August meeting minutes as written. Shawna seconds. Motion passes.
* Treasurer’s Report: (Merle)
  + Balance Sheet
    - Checking: $106,698.65
    - CD: $3,773.92
    - Grand total: $110,472.57
  + All bills have been paid, except what Kelly Pavlik has not turned in yet and the Thanksgiving Save the Date. Katie the TAB designer has been paid. All we are missing is $100 add-on, which we probably will not get it. We still have not received $4000+ from 2023 sale from Madison River Contractors.
  + 1% reviewers - Lea’h and Lee

**Reading of Correspondence**

* Extension Office Report (Molly)
  + Enrollment #s are HUGE (expecting over 600 youth members this year). Molly sent a “Get to Know You” survey to all volunteers - please complete the survey asap as it will help plan trainings and needs. MSU Concessions remains a huge money maker - if a project signs up together, you will maximize profits - football, basketball, volleyball, concerts, etc.
* Fairgrounds Report (Lee)
  + Lee emphasizes importance of sending letters to the commissioners regarding needs, red sale barn and use of the fairgrounds to continue the support
* Youth Report
  + Applications are due November 1st, 2 spots available

**Old Business**

* Behavior at Fair
  + Family Code of Conduct added to ZSuite. Doesn’t prevent all future issues, but gives us grounds to stand on when issues occur. All 4-H members sign upon enrollment, FFA-only would sign upon fair registration. All members and families at fair would be held to the same code of conduct and be treated accordingly for behavioral issues.
* MLC Officers/Membership
  + Swine: Merle & Brittney
  + Beef: Annabel & Kelly
  + Sheep: Jodi & \_\_\_\_\_
  + Goat: Amy & Lea’h
  + Rabbit: Monica & Cody
  + Poultry: Shawna & Rachel
    - Secretary: Shawnna Taylor, if we make an amendment to our bylaws to make Secretary a non-voting member
    - Bylaw clarification: if President represents a species, they recuse their species vote, unless of a tie in vote.
* Account Signers
  + Lea’h McDonald motions to remove Melanie Duffin as a signer from the Gallatin County 4-H Market Livestock Sale account (\*\*1235) and add Monica Samson as a signer for 2024-2025. Rachel Colton seconds. Motion passes by unanimous vote.
    - Signers for 2024-2025 are as follows: Kelly Pavlik, Shawna Oostema, Annabel Morgan, Molly Yurdana and Monica Samson.

**New Business**

* 4-H Insurance Policy
  + Committee reviewed the Montana 4-H insurance policy, what is covered (not much) and Molly encouraged that species leaders make safety the utmost priority
* Curriculum Use/Workshops
  + Ensure they are research-based, exploratory, career-exposed, provable (for record book scoring)
  + Goat - webinars, guest speakers w/ cross-county networking, writing reports, use books if they have to, Farm Fair, jackpots, petting zoos, expectations for age levels
  + Swine - Level 1 only (1st-3rd years), mentorships, write-ups
  + Sheep - Level 1 only (1st-3rd years), tests, write-ups
* AQA Format
  + Keep hands-on, leaders can help Molly teach, considering moving some of the topics to the species workshops. AQA will be huge this year with the influx in enrollments. Tentative dates - Feb. 2 (Sunday 1pm-4pm) and Apr. 12 (Saturday 9am-12pm)
* Market Livestock Contract - All edits due to Molly on Nov. 16th
  + Swine - tagging date April 15, 2025
  + Goat - May 4th, 2025 (70 pounds)
  + Beef - January 12th (175 days) (01/10/25 enrollment deadline) - April will need to move location
  + Sheep - May 4th
  + Rabbit - 2 weeks before
  + Poultry - needs to check
  + Add to paragraph #12 verbiage about when exhibitors get their market livestock checks
  + Add on #14 liability statements (events, properties throughout the year)
* Planning for Fair 2025
  + Tents
    - Get contracts ASAP
  + Livestock Judge
    - Merle motions to bring Caleb Boardman back for the 2nd year as our livestock judge. Lea’h seconds. Discussion: beef families may have an issue with bringing Caleb back due to conflict of interests. There may be a circuit that we tap into to find new judges. Expand outside of Wyoming in future years. Motion passes.
  + Processors/Trucking
    - With MSU Contract process, who is legally allowed to deal with the processors? MSU or us?
      * Merle has 170 spots at Pioneer
      * Beef is confirmed
  + 2025 Milestone
    - Buckle redesign
    - Theme input
* Annabel motions to provide a $2000 bonus to Molly and a $500 bonus to both Colyn & Kari for a total of $3000 in bonuses for their work during the 2024 Fair. Cody seconds. Motion passes.

**Committee Reports**

* Market Sale
  + Reach out to auctioneers
* Publication
  + Save the Date - send around Thanksgiving/Christmas
  + We’ve used Katie (TAB designer) - switching everything over to Microsoft Word.
  + Does not have to be a voting member on this committee to help
* Fairbook
  + Update the front section of rules to clarify, update, clean up

**Announcements**

* Next meeting isat the Gallatin County Extension Office on **Tuesday, December 17th 6pm at the Extension Office.**

**Adjournment- none**

* Lea’h motions to adjourn the meeting, Rachel seconds. President Kelly called for the meeting to be adjourned 9:05pm