

# Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leaders Council

## Meeting Notes, Annual Leader's Banquet

November 9, 2023 – 5:30 PM | First Christian Church, Lewistown, MT

**Call to Order:** The Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leader's Council Meeting was called to order by President, Corry Arntzen at 6:32 pm on November 9, 2023. The group participated in the Pledge of Alliance and 4-H pledge lead by the Ambassador group.

### Introductions / Attendance / Roll Call [V = virtual participant]:

- Corry Arntzen - *Christina Busy Bees, President*
- Sonja Gregory – *Independent Leader, VP*
- Karly DeMars - *Christina Busy Bees, Secretary*
- Stacie Arntzen – *Christina Busy Bees, Treasurer (V)*
- Cody Ream – *Extension Agent*
- Chris England – *4-H Program Assistant*
- Allison Smith – *Extension Office*
- Shelly VanHaur – *Hilger High Goalers*
- Pat Gallagher - *Creative Critters*
- Hailey Gallagher - *Creative Critters*
- Tristan Gallagher - *Creative Critters*
- Emma Wickens – *Winifred Mustangs*
- Anne Bergman – *Winifred Mustangs*
- Nicole Tholt – *Winnett Shamrocks*
- Virgil Tholt – *Winnett Shamrocks*
- Cheryl Tiarks – *Winnett Shamrocks*
- Tom Tiarks – *Winnett Shamrocks*
- Maggie Barth - *Creative Critters, Ambassadors*
- Sarah Mauws – *Ubet*
- Bryan Mauws - *Ubet*
- Kandi Vanek-Puckett – *Snowy Mountain Trailblazers*
- JD Puckett – *Snowy Mountain Trailblazers*
- Yvette Hersel - *Creative Critters*
- Lexie Wichman – *Ambassadors*
- Gisele Yaeger – *Christina Busy Bees*
- Jada Bantz – *Big Sky*
- Darann Curry – *Creative Critters*
- Jordan Grindheim – *New Horizons*
- Emma Farley – *Creative Critters*
- Davey Storfa – *Independent Member*
- Sterling Storfa – *Independent Member*
- Jane Gregory

**Minutes:** Approval of the August Leader's Council meeting minutes was moved by Nicole Tholt and seconded by Yvette Hersel. After discussion, Nicole Tholt moved to amend the original motion to change 'first reading' to 'second reading' in the meeting minutes under 'Old Business' to read *"Updated 4-H Job Descriptions: looking to refind officer duties/job descriptions. A handout was provided with proposed updates (second reading).* Maggie Barth seconded the amendment. There was not discussion; amended motion to approve the updated minutes passed unanimously. The Leaders Council Secretary will make the update to the minutes and submit to the Extension Office.

**Correspondence:** There were two letters received and shared with the group. One letter was from the 4-H Foundation thanking Fergus/Petroleum County for a donation to the state horse show. The second was from Farm on the Dell thanking 4-H members for their participation in the Fall Festival.

**Treasurer's Report:** A statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities and Transaction Detail handouts were provided to participants and were current through September 30, 2023. Stacie Arntzen reported that the transfer of bank accounts from Wells Fargo to First Bank is complete. There were a few questions regarding the scholarship accounts. Bryan Mauws moved to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Anne Bergum. Motion passed unanimously.

President Corry Arntzen expressed her thankfulness and appreciation to Stacie Arntzen for her efforts and dedication as the Leader's Council Treasurer for the past four years. The group gave Stacie a round of applause.

## Announcements

- Enrollment deadline is January 1, 2024.
- Sarah Bock has left MSU Extension. Cody will be taking over Horse Committee and Chris will be taking on Static Committee. Sarah's position has been posted and will hopefully be filled in January.

## Fergus/Petroleum County Ambassador Report:

- Pig kissing contest went very well, and they plan to do this again at fair next year. They are looking for volunteers for 2024 event. Funds raised from the pig kissing contest are used for Ambassador expenses (toiletry drive, Ambassador camps, farm safety day).
- April 1, 2024 will be the traveling farm. They would like to encourage more 4-H members to participate. There are always lots of animals, so if you don't want to bring an animal, you don't have to. The traveling farm goes to Lewistown Elementary Schools and local nursing homes.
- Farm Safety Day will happen in the spring for elementary schools in Lewistown and surrounding area.
- Spa Day event making bath bombs and lotion – did hand massages and yoga. Went okay – would like to continue.
- The Dunk Tank at Summer Nights for a fundraiser for 4-H went well and we plan to continue.
- One new project this year will be to develop county yearbook. Similar to a school yearbook – each club will submit photos of members doing what project they do. Will also include photos from camps, fair, etc. More information to come.
- Ambassadors are planning to visit each club this year and will be scheduling with club leaders.
- There are two open Ambassador positions. Members 13 years and older are encouraged to apply.

**State 4-H Leaders Council Report (Chris England):** There are no updates on what the State Leaders Council as they haven't had a meeting recently. Chris England would like to step down from the position and would like a volunteer to take on the role of representing Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H. A replacement representative was not selected.

**Montana 4-H Foundation (Yvette Hersel):** The State 4-H Foundation is the larger scale of what we do at the county level. They are responsible for all financial aid for statewide efforts, including scholarships for counties. They also organize the Don Graytak calendars sales as a state and county fundraiser. There are only a couple of meetings per year and the next meeting will be next summer.

**Committee Reports:** [See Attachment 1 for complete report.](#)

- **Food booth:** One issue with food booth this year was with store bought pies – please don't bring grocery store pies. Additionally, clubs need to bring pies on their scheduled times or else we run out. It would be helpful to have members that only have static projects to work the day of the livestock sale.
- **Livestock Committee:** Voted nine different changes. These changes will be posted to the website soon.
- **Horse Committee:** this will be the last year for Penny Uecker to be the leader. The committee is looking for a new leader.
- **Small Animal Committee:** Discussed updated policy to required attire.

**County Awards Program:** Took place Sunday, November 5. Had good attendance, but would always like to have more representation from each club.

## Old Business

- Leaders Council Bank Account – updated reported in Treasurer's report out
- Officer Nominations – Will be elected under new business
- Budget Report – reported during Treasurer's report out.

- Independent Membership: Council President Corry Arntzen requested a motion from the group to develop an anonymous committee to review the Independent Member policy and provide a recommendation to the Leader's Council. Yvette Hersel moved to allow the Council President to appoint an anonymous committee to review the Independent Member policy and provide recommendations to Leader's Council. Emma Farley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Corry will appoint members to the committee and will request an update for the February Leader's Council meeting.
- Other old business: None.

## New Business

- **2023-2024 Leader's County Budget:** Bryan Mauws moved to approve the proposed budget as submitted. Hailey Gallagher seconded. Motion to approve proposed budget passed unanimously.
- **Updated 4-H Job Descriptions:** looking to refine officer duties/job descriptions.
  - Nicole Tholt moved to approve proposed changes, including the two grammatical edits listed below. Bryan Mauws seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Amendment XVI – update to add: "...*council meeting so that meeting minutes can be posted to the county website and may be emailed to leaders.*"
    - Amendment IV – update to strike 'The duties of the' to read: "**The duties of the** Treasurer shall care for ~~all the money that may come into~~ all financial transactions ..."
- **Leader's Council Officer Elections**
  - The President, Vice President and Treasurer positions are up for election. Corry Arntzen is interesting in fulfilling a second term as President, Sonya Gregory is interested in filling a second term as Vice President and Gisele Yeager is interested in filing a first term as Treasurer.
  - Maggie Barth moved to approve the interested officer positions as proposed. Yvette Hersel seconded. Officer election motion passed unanimously.
  - The 2023-2024 Leader's Council Officers are:
    - President: Corry Arntzen (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)
    - Vice President: Sonya Gregory (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)
    - Secretary: Karly DeMars (1<sup>st</sup> Term)
    - Treasurer: Gisele Yaeger (1<sup>st</sup> Term)
    - Foundation: Yvette Hersel (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)
    - District Council: Chris England (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)
- **Policy Change Proposal:** The Extension Office submitted a 'Policy Change Proposal' that recommends making project workbooks optional for Level 2 and up. Members would still be able to participate and complete workbooks and will be able to get recognition for their work by entering the book into the fair. Several participants expressed both pros and cons as well as several questions regarding how this policy change would be implemented.
  - Maggie Barth moved to lay this topic on the table for a later date. Emma Farley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Workbooks will be required for the 2023-2024 4-H year.
- **Gavel Games Team Proposal:** The Fergus/Petroleum County Gavel Games team has earned a spot to Compete in national western roundup in Denver. The team addressed the group and requested \$500 to help with travel expenses. Total estimated costs for the trip is \$3,000-3,500. The State 4-H Program has already provided \$2,600 towards the trip cost. The expenses include travel, lodging, and conference registration. There will be seven individuals traveling to Denver (four team members, one coach, two chaperones).

- Yvette Hersel proposed to award the four participating individuals \$200 each for a total of \$800 towards travel expenses. The motion was seconded by Anne Bergum. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- **Foundation Plaque:** The money raised from the Foundation Plaque action goes toward covering our County dues to the State. Chris England reported that plaques are becoming very expensive that the Extension Office thinking of making a larger plaque with spaces to put on wall – this would cut annual plaque costs as well as free up limited wall space in the Extension Office. Anne Bergum knows of a possible vendor and will report back to Chris on options.

**Date of Next Meeting:** February 1, 2024 at Sheriff's Complex at 5:30 pm

Maggie Barth moved to adjourn the meeting; Bryan Mauws seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Karly DeMars, Leader's Council Secretary*

## **Attachment 1**

### **Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leaders Council Annual Meeting 2023 Committee Reports**

#### **Small Animal Committee**

The Small Animal Committee hosted their annual winter workshops with older members assisting younger members to complete their required activities in their workbooks. In June the "Showmanship Clinic" was well attended. Members started with their own animals learning about fitting and showing and how to prepare for the fair. Then they rotated to the other animals to learn showing basics in preparation for round robin. Nicole Tholt offered several dog obedience and agility clinics and Chris and Hailey offered rabbit agility workshops. The fair went well for all animal shows, Cats and Pockets Pets Thursday evening the week before fair, dogs on Monday of fair week, rabbits on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning and Poultry on Tuesday afternoon. The Round Robin was on Friday am and went well. The petting zoo was a huge hit again this year and we will be adjusting some things to ensure safety.

#### **Livestock Committee**

This year was a good year for the livestock committee. We had a few clinics this year which included one put on by local 4-H members for members wanting guidance in showmanship. The fair went well, and prices were good! This year all classes were given cash prizes for the top 5 animals at \$50, \$40, \$30, \$20, \$10. The super award was conducted for market steer, market heifer, sheep, goat, and swine again this year. For the carcass award an ultrasound technician from Eastern Montana was hired for the imaging process. We just had our last meeting for the year and made eight new policy changes. If you or your child is in a livestock project I would recommend going to the website and looking those over: the biggest changes were made in regards to weight requirements. Our next meeting is December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. For the upcoming year we are wanting to put together some more clinics as well as get a large monitor for the scale.

#### **Food Booth Committee**

Things went well in the 4-H Food Booth this summer and the Farm to Table hamburger program continues to be a huge success with great tasting hamburgers. Thanks so much to all of those generous donors- Wichman Herefords, MT Farmers Union/MT Lamb and Beef – Mary Jenny Ranchers- Mariah Shammel, Abby Majerus and Jessi Olson, Gran Prairie- Schultz Family, Ruby Valley Meats- Larson Oldenberger, Wickens Ranch, and Central Montana Cattle women. The Farm Bureau donated the water. We will adjust the pie schedule as we ran out mid-week. Most of the shifts had a good turnout. We will look at the times for the horse shows since they started later than we did, and the morning was slow. Looking forward to getting the doors replaced. Replace the microwave with a smaller wattage.

## **Static Committee Report**

The static committee had another great year. One of the main focuses of the committee this year was fundraising. The first fundraiser was the 4-H Cookbook. This cookbook contains recipes from members and 4-H families as well as some camp favorites. The committee also has been holding a photo contest each month of the year to make and sell a 4-H Calendar this November and December. The committee is hoping to sell the Calendars and Cookbooks at the Christmas Stroll this year. This year was the third year the committee has hosted an indoor project auction at the fair. We sold more items and had more kids take part in the indoor auction than we have in the past two years. The next meeting will be on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM in the Extension Office.

## **Horse Committee Report**

The horse committee also had a great year. As usual, we had two horse shows at the fair and both went very well. The committee received a grant from the Central Montana Foundation to put on clinics in the spring. These were very well attended with 38 horse members participating. These clinics have been very beneficial as they give them an opportunity to see what the competition may look like at the fair and get an opportunity to work with cattle (if in the ranch horse project). This year we had a committee that restructured our Level 1 and 2 Ranch Horse Tests. The committee also had a scribing workshop in the spring that was very well attended. Our next meeting is November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM at the Extension Office.