

4-H Leaders Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021

Present: Melissa Kramer (Johnny's Buckaroos), Suzi Smith (Johnny's Buckaroos), Meredith Feddes (Springcreek Stockgrowers), Stephanie & Jake Wright (Johnny's Buckaroos), Tammi Kirch (Beartooth Ramblers), Shannon Moore (Johnny's Buckaroos), Joe Kovanda (Johnny's Buckaroos), Brent Shay (Park City Wranglers), Mike Baker (Park City Wranglers), Cortney & Casey Thiel (Johnny's Buckaroos), Erika Kelly (Park City Wranglers), Gina Fry (Park City Wranglers), Denise Loyning (Beartooth Stock Association).

Minutes:

The 4-H Leaders Council meeting was called to order by President Melissa Kramer, on September 15, 2021 at 6pm. Pledges were recited by attendees.

Correspondence was presented. Numerous notes of thanks from out of county members to Council for supporting the Champion of Champions show.

Treasurers' Report was given by Meredith. Accounts are looking good. She noted we still need to pay for 4-H Camp. Homemakers donated \$200 for 4-H Camp. Shooting Sports was awarded two grants, one from Absarokee Community Foundation and the other from Columbus Community Foundation. Meredith suggested we think about donating funds to Shooting Sports as well to help with their equipment upgrade. She also proposed that Council consider contributing to community service projects that other clubs will do. Pig wrestling provided a nice profit for Council. Awards went over budget so consider upping that number in next budget. Funds were used to purchase Small Animal cages for fair.

Teen Leaders: Mike reported the next meeting would be on October 3rd at 1:30. They would elect officers as well as prepare for the Awards Banquet later that day at 3:00.

Travel Program: Tammi reported that the group was unable to take a trip this year. Reservations were difficult to attain at the groups chosen destinations. Their funds have remained the same.

Homemakers: no updates to report

Unfinished Business:

Fairgrounds Update: Haley reported about the meeting held the week prior between the Commissioners, Extension, and Leaders Council. She gave Council an idea of what the county fair in 2022 will look like. The Dog Show will be displaced, as well as Pig Wrestling, but all other events will look the same with location to be at the same place as prior years. Years 2023 and 2024 will look very different as the current fairgrounds will be reassigned as the Law & Justice Center, and the 4-H facility will relocate to north of town. It was highly encouraged to appoint a committee to attend the County meetings pertaining to planning of the new fairgrounds.

Family Fun Night: Clubs brought back feedback from their members on what ideas they had regarding a fun get together for all Stillwater County 4-H members, prior/at Family Fun Night. Several kids offered that they would enjoy a separate event for members such as sledding, paintball, a dance, an "inflatable" movie theater, laser tag, and town scavenger hunt. Continue to discuss with clubs when they would like this to happen as well as more specifically which activity they would like.

Pig Wrestling vs Raffle Tickets: Discussion was had regarding if Council should continue to put on Pig Wrestling at the fair, or do Raffle Tickets again for a fundraiser. It was the consensus that Pig Wrestling was the preferred fundraising avenue to go with. Discussion included what each club could contribute as help, which could possibly be one leader and member from each club to help. A committee will be formed to come up with a list of what jobs are needed to fill and how many people we will need to volunteer to help. Tammi committed to be a member on the committee.

Fair Week Date: The date of county fair for 2022 is July 10-16, 2022.

New Business:

Proposal from Beartooth Stock Association: Commercial Heifer Futurity: On behalf of Beartooth Stock Association, Denise Loyning presented a new class they would like to spearhead for breeding projects. She noted the group would like to promote beef breeding programs as well as youth involvement in the ag industry. Amongst the qualifications for the program: can enter up to 2 bred heifers, will be ultrasound at fair to determine pregnancy, must be at least 30 days bred. The idea after year one is to bring the heifer and calf pair back to fair the following year to be judged again. After returning the second year, the individual is eligible for an award. Melissa suggested Council pair up with BSA and provide an incentive award for the first year of the program for kids. Brent Shay moved to accept the Heifer Futurity program. Discussion was had regarding if graduation senior members participated this year, could they return next year to show in the Futurity class to complete the 2 year commitment. Yes they can return. Cortney seconded. Motion passes. For more information, the Extension Office will have an outline available at the office.

Recognition of Top 3 Volume Buyers: Members were asked for ideas on how to recognize our top volume buyers at Stillwater County Fair Sale. It was discussed that a plaque or banners would be nice and that we should consider recognizing up to 6 buyers, as there were that number who were right at the top amongst each other. Joe moved to get banners made for the top 6 buyers of the fair, to display at their place of business. Stephanie seconded. Motion passes.

Fair Book Changes: All major changes need to be presented by October to be voted on by November.

Officer Nominating Committee: Please be thinking/inquiring with others who may be interested in running for an office on the Leaders Council.

Action Plans: Tammy proposed to separate indoor projects into Junior & Senior divisions to be judged, as well as recognize the top outstanding 1st year member in these projects. A lot of discussion was had regarding that projects were not judged based on age/experience level, but as an overall project. Haley noted that all fair entries are submitted based on the members age/class, and should be judged as so. Several members noted areas of concern that while this is how things are set up, project judges aren't necessarily following the guidelines. It was noted to review the fair book regarding wording/entries, as well as the judges packets for fair to be sure it is clear how to award classes.

Suzi proposed to keep things consistent with Outdoor and Indoor Projects, to have Grand & Reserve awards for each Indoor Class as well. Much discussion was had regarding that only the judge can determine if an award is merited. It was expressed that these placings should be encouraged, as well as consistent with whether the member is a Junior or Senior member.

Suzi also proposed to set further parameters for consistency in Underweight/Overweight Market Animals. Her suggestion was the following: set weight limits based on market averages of the current year, any animal over the weight limit can show and sell, but cannot make the final drive within the Market Class. She also inquired as to why we have a weight limit in place if there are no parameters in place to follow. Members advised that the Weight Limit set in the Fair Book is a limit set to protect buyers from overpaying. She noted that underweight animals could show in a Feeder class, but not sell at the sale, while overweight animals can show as well as sell at the sale, without any further parameters. Members discussed the suggestion, and ultimately decided it was unnecessary.

Suzi also suggested changing the birthdate requirement on Market Pigs from January 1st of the current 4-H year, to December 1st of the current 4-H year, as our county fair continues to creep up earlier and earlier every year in July. Mike Baker noted that the policy is actually December 1st, but has not been updated in the Fair Book for the last several years to reflect this change.

Stephanie Wright inquired as to if a 4-H member should receive a ribbon for each class they are in. If a member is awarded champion of a Novice Showmanship class, he/she is eligible to move up to show in Junior Showmanship. They should be awarded a new ribbon from that class as well.

Kathy Hollar asked if her kids would be able to participate in a single project, that had many facets to it. One member would design the project, one member would weld the project, and one member would paint the project. Several members encouraged the idea. It is to be determined how to enter this/if it is doable.

Next Council meeting is October 20 at 6pm at the Stillwater Pavilion.

Meredith moved to adjourn the meeting. Shannon seconded.