

**Mountrail County 4-H Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 29th, 2026**  
**Mountrail County South Complex**  
**Zoom/In Person**

The Mountrail County 4-H Council meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Melissa Vachal.

**Meeting Attendees** – Sarah Brewer & Kaylee(Zoom), Barb DeTienne, Veronica & Teagan Meiers (Zoom), Monica, Cooper, and Keylie Sem, Julie Woodbury, Lisa Uran, Grady Uran, Krista Littlefield, Melissa Vachal, Bailey Hawbaker, Erika Littlefield, Laura Fransen, Heather Tomlinson, Lynnette Vachal, Breanna Istilart, Anika Istilart, Axel Istilart, Cameron Istilart, Robby Alford (Zoom), Jacie Feiring (Zoom)

**Pledges:** The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge, led by Breanna, Erika & Cooper.

**Agenda Approval:** A Motion was made by Erika to accept the agenda, seconded by Breanna, agenda was approved.

**The secretary's report** was read by the members, and Breanna motioned to approve the Secretary's notes, and Axel seconded. Minutes Accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** was read by members; the balance is \$52,743.49 after outstanding checks are cashed; it is \$58,144.93 at the current time. The Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bailey and seconded by Barb. Report Accepted

**Old Business:**

- **Fundraisers:**
  - Krista handed out an income/expense sheet from the annual fundraisers.
  - Income - \$7,927.00
    - Plaza - \$2435.00 and Stanley - \$5,492.00
  - Spoke that Plaza was down on numbers, but Stanley had a steady group of people attend.
- **CWF:**
  - Cooper & Monica Sem attended the CWF conference that totaled - \$1,375 for registration, which included a tour of Capitol Hill, Thursday – Saturday, and learning sessions. hotels, meals. A travel agent booked their plane ticket and a ticket to the Beauty & the Beast show for a total of \$1, 235.30. This comes to a total of \$2,610.30.

- Cooper spoke about what he was able to do during the trip, and he really enjoyed his time touring.
- North Dakota purchased 3 tickets every year, and Cooper was chosen as one of the three representatives.
- Cooper is potentially our first Mountrail County member to attend CWF conference.
- **District Archery:**
  - It occurred on January 31<sup>st</sup>, which was a stormy day, but only a few could not make it.
  - 59 Participants – Adams, Burleigh, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Stark/Billings, Ward & Williams participated
  - Before, there were not many contests on the west side of the state, so this was greatly appreciated.
  - It went great, and they look forward to next year's contest.
- **Leadership Awareness**
  - Breanna really enjoyed the conference and feels like she received a deeper understanding of the law program. She highly encourages other members to attend this conference.
  - Cooper also highly recommends, he said that he could really connect his Washington D.C. trip knowledge with the LAW conference.
  - The members were able to talk to attorneys and learned a lot from them at a sit-down supper on Friday evening.
  - Wade Enget sponsored both members with a full scholarship to attend the conference.
  - The council has made a motion in the past to pay the state rate for a hotel room and the registration cost for the conference; however, this year the sponsorship was received.
- **Judging Teams**
  - There were six youth who started the year in Agronomy. They had four returning members and 2 new members. At the state contest, the junior team received 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall, and the senior team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall. There is plenty of room for additional members if they would like to participate in Agronomy. They made jackets for the team members as well, which turned out great!
    - We would like to thank Rochelle and Julie for the hard work that they put in.
  - Katie spoke about hippology and wanted to thank the council for the support when they traveled to nationals. They had a few that placed in the top 10 in a few categories, and they placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall as a team at nationals in Denver. They took an Intermediate Team and Junior Team to state a few weeks ago, and one Senior Individual; they had a successful year!
  - Cooper spoke about the meats judging team, which received 6th the National 4-H contest in Kansas and then placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall at the Denver 4-H contest.

## **New Business:**

### - **Achievement Days:**

- Dates:
  - Set-Up is July 6 and Static Judging is July 6
  - Livestock Record Book Judging is July 8
  - Livestock Judging & Other Events: July 8 & 9
- 4-H Online Membership/Animal Ownership/Animal Info Entry Deadline – May 1
- **No animals will be allowed to be entered after midnight on May 1st. Members & Extension Office are locked out of the system.**
  - Exception – Poultry & Rabbits: Can be added in FairEntry directly starting May 18.
    - Recommended to add in 4-H Online if you know the Animal Info, as then the animals will appear in the system to re-add each year.
- FairEntry Static/Livestock Fair Class Entry Registration – Opens May 18 / Closes June 19; the earlier that you can register, the better for planning purposes.
- The species superintendents will be meeting beforehand to line up the stalls and set up on July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Vendor Request
  - Farmers Market - They would like to host the Farmers Market on Thursday, during Achievement Days, with timing and location to be negotiable.
    - Barb made a motion to allow the Farmers Market to set up on the East Side of the South Complex during Thursday of Achievement Days. The motion was seconded by Krista, and the motion passed.
  - RTC
    - Contacted about having a table to set up and give away free items. They do not want any money but would like to show up and be visible.
    - Krista made a motion to allow RTC to set up a booth at Achievement Days. The motion was seconded by Erika, and the motion passed.
  - Krista and Melissa will check out all projects at the end of the sale. The room will close for supper and then open back up for buyers to look at projects.
  - It was also clarified that livestock exhibitors are able to take out tack during the sale, but the livestock must stay within the building until the conclusion of the sale. It is asked not to make a large commotion.

- It was requested to have all panels brought into the arena for all species, including rabbit and poultry. Once 4-H members finish with judging, they will need to go into the arena and help set up. Nothing is to be set up prior to the 4-H youth helping.
  - It was suggested that 4-H members volunteer to sing the National Anthem. Bailey mentioned offering it to members to sing the Anthem, but if no members volunteer, then we will play the Anthem instead.
  - They discussed how to enhance the Parade of Champions event. It was brought up that some members did not look enjoyable during the event. Erika brought up that having members come into the ring and shake hands, then exit the ring. It was also brought up to sort the awards by the member instead of by the category. This would have the member come into the ring once instead of coming in for every award. The members could then go to the backdrop for a photo. Then, it was suggested to play music during the announcement of names and allow the members to come into the arena in a fun way. It was decided to try to add music to the announcement this year.
  - It was asked to have the council put up a banner for each graduating senior at Achievement Days.
    - Bailey moved to allow Krista to spend up to \$250 on senior banners to hang at Achievements Days. Erika seconded, and the motion was passed.
- **Horse Show:**
  - Dates – Set-Up: June 10 / Horse Show: June 11
  - 4-H Online Membership/Animal Ownership/Animal Info Entry Deadline – May 1
    - No animals will be allowed to be entered after midnight on May 1st. Members & Extension Office are locked out of the system.
  - FairEntry Horse Fair Class Entry Registration – Opens May 2/Closes June 5
  - Jenna Mickleson will judge the indoor events, and Paige Brummund will judge the Ranch Trail and Cloverbud members outside. Goat tying has been eliminated and has been replaced with the Flag Race. Rebecca Hager has offered the use of her flags from her horse show.
- **Ambassador Updates – Erika Littlefield**
  - There will be at least two (including Erika) at Achievement Days, but she is looking for more ambassadors
  - EYC planning is in full swing; we currently have one member, but likely more members will be registering soon to attend.
  - The Luhman Ranch shoot fundraiser is coming up this fall, and this year, they are adding camping to the weekend. Erika will provide more information as it gets closer.
  - Erika also attended the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. She spoke about her time and enjoyed the opportunity.
- **Youth 4-H State Leadership Representative Events:**

- Ignite, CWF, Congress, & Conference
  - Monica asked the state office – Kelly & Karla about the logistics of members attending these events. They asked to reach out to the state office initially so that the state can help coordinate the logistics for this conference. They said that they normally purchase three tickets, but if you talk to them in advance, they can purchase more if there is interest. Tickets for these events are not refundable, so the state does not want to purchase more in case they do not get filled. They mentioned that normally budget around \$2,600 to attend these conferences. They like to see one chaperone per five youth. The state paid for Monica to be the chaperone for the three youth who attended this year.
  - The CWF conference is more about legislation and focuses on the government. Members were able to meet the state legislators through the CWF conference. Ignite conference is split into three conference focus areas. The conferences are held at the same time; however, they are separate.
  - It was suggested to have Ignite members fly in with CWF members to be able to meet the state legislators as well, since it is not part of their conference.
  - Tickets open in September or October. The state will purchase up to five tickets, so we could potentially use one of those tickets for a Mountrail County member to attend.
    - Cass County selects two members through an application process, so it was suggested to contact them for more details. Erika also offered an application that she completed.
  - Erika moved, and Breanna seconded to develop a scholarship to the CWF/Ignite conference. The member would be allowed to attend the conference once, utilizing scholarship funds. Erika amended her motion to insert at the end of the conference that the member would need to present to the council or at the awards day what they learned at the conference. The amendment was seconded by Cameron. The amendment passed, and the motion passed.
  - Julie moved that Cooper Sem be our first CWF/Ignite Conference Scholarship Recipient. Erika seconded the motion. Monica said she was grateful for this scholarship opportunity for reimbursement. Motion passed.
- **State 4-H Policy Updates**
- There are new policies in the book. This is a new one in the North Dakota Policy Book regarding youth protection.
    - Youth Protection (per ND State 4-H Policy Book – Pg. 50)
      - Media Release Protocols for Extension & Volunteers - Only use the first name and last initial of the youth when identifying them. Never use a full name. This must be followed for any media.
  - Deadlines – April 15<sup>th</sup> (next year) is when Lynnette has to give the number in our bank account. September 15<sup>th</sup> is when the financial statement is due.

- **Civil Rights**
  - How can we become more inclusive as a council?
    - It was suggested to have a cultural night where clubs come together and celebrate different cultures. It was also suggested to invite a lot of our community members to the event.
    - It was also suggested that clubs/members bring in proposals for events or ideas.
- **Programming & Others**
  - It was asked to clarify the showmanship classes at Achievement Days, which are Cloverbud, Junior, and Senior

2025-2026 4-H Dates to Set:

- 2025-2026 4-H Year
- Budget Meeting – Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm
- Fall 4-H Meeting – Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Julie motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Erika. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.