

Mountrail County 4-H Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 21st, 2026
Mountrail County South Complex
Zoom/In Person

The Mountrail County 4-H Council meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by President Melissa Vachal.

Meeting Attendees – Sarah Brewer, Barb DeTienne (Zoom), Katie Steele (Zoom), Monica, Cooper, and Keylie Sem, John Woodbury, Julie Woodbury, Lisa Uran, Grady Uran, Krista Littlefield (Zoom), Melissa Vachal, Bailey Hawbaker, Erika Littlefield (Zoom), Laura Fransen (Zoom), Vanessa Fransen (Zoom), Heather Tomlinson, Lynnette Vachal, Curt Vachal, Breanna Istilart, Axel Istilart, Anika Istilart, Cameron Istilart, Emma Brewer, Amanda Hynek, Katie Woodbury (Zoom)

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

Agenda Approval: A Motion was made by Sarah to accept the agenda, seconded by Axel, agenda was approved.

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

Treasurer's Report was read by members; the balance is \$61,097.03 after outstanding checks are cashed; it is \$55,812.34 at the current time. The expenses from the Denver trips for National Horse Judging and National Meats Judging have not been fully paid out yet as the office has not received all of the receipts at the time of this meeting. The Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bailey and seconded by Cooper. Report Accepted

Old Business:

- **2025-2026 4-H Year Registration:**
 - If any clubs have adult or parents who assist frequently at meetings/events or drive youth to events/activities, they need to enroll and complete a volunteer background check to be covered on insurance and to assist with youth.
 - Every year, you need to sign up; however, you only need a background check every three years.
- **Achievement Days:**
 - Livestock Committee Updates

animals on 4-H online or through their FFA advisor. The show is not finalized yet, but you can check out the recording that will be sent to 4-H members from the Zoom call about the combined show. The handbook will also be made available soon.

- **Ambassador Update – Erika:**

- They have been meeting about EYC at NDSU Campus. They received a grant from the 4-H Foundation, so they are excited and hoping to get a large attendance! Early bird discount: there is \$10 added each month to the cost leading up to EYC. The council will reimburse ½ of the cost. Erika is willing to bring members with her; they would need to go a few days early with her, but they are willing to accommodate.

- **Shooting Sports:**

- Air Rifle – Approx. 20 participants (all sessions full w/ waitlist)
- Archery – Approx. 55 participants
- District Contest Updates – Very excited for our 1st ever contest!
 - Event Date: January 31st
 - 72 participants
 - 2 Senior Free-Styles available

- **Fundraiser:**

- Date & location(s)
 - Dates: Stanley – March 15 / Plaza – April 12
 - March 15th is Stanley's Spring break. Heather will look at date availability for the building and text out date ideas.
 - Same meal and activities as the prior year will be served.
 - Anika moved, and Axil seconded to have the Plaza fundraiser on April 12th. Motion Passed.
 - Committee to reach out to businesses or prizes/donations towards the event & expenses (2-4 people)
 - Heather will lead the committee
 - Cameron, Breanna, Axel, and Cooper
 - Approve prize item purchase allowance
 - Bailey approves the office to use \$1000 for prizes, with a second from Breanna. Motion Passed
 - Deadline for club prize submissions – Feb. 20th – May adjust once a new date is decided.

- **Horse Committee:**

- Sarah spoke about the proposal from the horse committee. The committee has decided not to have the clinics this year. The proposal is to allow horse participants to be part of the premium sale at Achievement Days.
 - Potential horse show date – June 11th
 - If the show is moved up, registration would be opened May 2nd.
 - The horse committee will be setting up for the show, members do not need to come help set up, but will need to help tear down.
 - John moved and was seconded by Keely to approve the horse committee proposal. Motion passed.
- **Achievement Days:**
- Livestock Exhibitors
 - Parts #1: 4-H Online Animal Info – Part #1 of register is open NOW – Closes May 1
 - Part #2 in FairEntry opens May 18 (potentially earlier)
- **Leadership Awareness Weekend (LAW):**
- April 10 & 11, 2026 University of ND, Grand Forks
 - Deadline – March 16th
 - Mountrail County 4-H will cover the full registration fee for this event, plus one night's stay in a hotel at the state rate.
 - This would be a reimbursement, member would need to bring in receipts, and the council would reimburse them.
- **Extension Youth Conference (EYC):**
- June 22-25, 2026, NDSU Campus, Fargo
 - Deadline – June 1st
 - Mountrail County 4-H helps cover up to 50% of one camp for registered 4-H'ers for the year
- **Ignite:**
- Cooper Sem has been chosen to attend, and Monica has been chosen to be a chaperone
 - They will fly out of Fargo.
 - Youth Leadership that combines with CWF
 - March 25th – 29th
 - At this time, we are unaware of what the exact cost will be. Once we know what the cost is, Heather will send information to the council board members, or it will be on the agenda at the next meeting to reimburse part of their costs.

- **Other Programming:**
 - Winter Judging
 - 5 members in Agronomy (possibly another member joining)
 - 3:45 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Bailey Hawbaker's Classroom at Stanley High School (Room 50 in the new addition)
 - 11 members in Hippology
 - Practices 6-8 pm on Tuesdays
 - Project Days
 - English Horse & Poultry are coming up
- **Dates to Set:**
 - Plaza Fundraiser – April 12th
 - Stanley Fundraiser – TBD
 - Spring Council Meeting – April 29th at 6pm
- **Current Dates:**
 - Feb. 13-22 – ND 4-H Ice Fishing Derby (pre-registration required)
 - Feb. 20 – Fundraiser Club Prizes due
 - April 10 & 11 – LAW
 - March 1 – 4-H Online Market Beef Animal Info Entry Deadline
 - May 1 - 4-H Online All Other Livestock & Horse Animal Info Entry Deadline
 - May 2 – Horse Show - FairEntry exhibit class registration OPENS
 - May 18 - Achievement Days Exhibits (livestock & static) - FairEntry exhibit class registration OPENS
 - May 26 - Pet Show
 - May 26 - Small Animal Day Camp
 - May 28 - Livestock Day Camp
 - June 2-4 – West Farm Safety Day Camp, Dickinson
 - June 5 – Horse Show FairEntry exhibit class registration CLOSES
 - June 10 - Horse Show Set-Up
 - June 11 - Horse Show
 - June 19 – Achievement Days (livestock & static) - FairEntry exhibit class registration CLOSES
 - June 22-25 - EYC
 - July 6 - Achievement Days Set-Up/Static Judging
 - July 8 - Livestock Record Book Judging Livestock Judging (Poultry, Rabbit, & Goat)
 - July 9 - Livestock Judging (Swine, Sheep, Dairy Cattle, & Beef) All other Achievement Days events

- July 17-25 - ND State Fair

Sarah moved to adjourn the meeting, and Cooper seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.