

# **Mountrail County 4-H Council Meeting**

## **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025:**

### **Mountrail County South Complex**

The Mountrail County 4-H Council meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by President Melissa Vachal.

**Meeting Attendees** – Venessa Fransen (Zoom), Wendy Mauer (Zoom), Lisa, Sadee and Dilan Uran (Zoom), Krista Littlefield, Erika Littlefield, Sarah Hoffmann, Melissa Vachal, Laura Fransen, Cassie Burns, Bailey Hawbaker, Katie Steele, Sarah Brewer, Cooper Sem, Keylie Sem, Raelene Roos, Amber Bock, Lacie Meyer, Siana Bock, Emma Brewer, Monica Sem, Addison Enerson, Ilene Enerson, Barb DeTienne, Julie Woodbury, Robert Alford, Breanna Istilart, Axel Istilart, Anika Istilart, Cameron Istilart, Lynnette Vachal, Heather Tomlinson and Rebecca Hager

**Pledges:** The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge and led by Keylie.

**The secretary's report** was read by the members, and Sarah moved to accept the secretary's report as amended with a second from Erika. The report was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** was read by members; the balance is \$ 52,852.44, with \$1,227.90 in outstanding checks at the current time. The Motion to approve the treasurer's report was moved by Sarah and seconded by Erika. Report Accepted.

## **Old Business:**

### **2024 -2025 4-H Year Registration:**

- If any clubs have adults or parents that assist frequently at meetings/events or drive youth to events/activities, they need to enroll and complete a volunteer background check to be covered by insurance and to assist with youth. The background checks are valid for 3 years, contact Heather with any questions if you need a background check.

### **Achievement Days (tabled discussions from August 14, 2024)**

- Seemed that most enjoyed static exhibit judging on Monday. It is hard to help in the barn for set up and statics if you have a lot of projects. There were not many complaints about this, just can be hard to juggle both.
- Was suggested that parents could help set up in the barn while their kids are in the static judging.
- The community enjoyed being able to see the exhibits on Wednesday when the shows started.
- Krista moved to have static judging on Monday of Achievement Days from 3-6pm with the Extension Office determining judging times by club or by species. The motion was seconded by Cooper and the vote passed.
- Addition of an Intermediate Division

- We currently allow cloverbuds in with junior showmen, so we have a large range of ages competing against one another.
- The number of exhibitors could be justified within the poultry and rabbit divisions, but not within the large animal divisions.
- Sarah moved to add a cloverbud division for 5-7 years old, junior division would be 8-12 years old and seniors would remain at 13–18 years old. Raelene seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
- Krista moved that the cloverbud overall in each species will receive a Top Honor Award. Sarah seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- It was discussed to have the round-robin judges selected before Achievement Days
- Discussed combining overall Large & Small Animal Round Robin
  - It would be a long time for the livestock to be shown.
  - Gives our showman more opportunities to show more livestock.
  - Promotes large and small animal camps.
  - No motion was made so it will stay separate large and small animal round robin.
- The suggestion was made that large birds cannot be placed near the show ring panels.
- It was also suggested to have one more record book judge.

### **Awards Day**

- Please use complete sentences when filling out the award form. We would like to see members express complete thought within their answers and not just submit a two-word answer to the questions on the form. We ask that members are the ones filling out their award form and a parent is not the one filling it out.
- Krista moved that award forms be editable forms to have the ability to fill out forms online. Julie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

### **Financial Updates:**

- We officially have our 501c-3 and it is filed at the extension office
- The budget was provided at the meeting with the total expenses totaling \$35,760 and the projected total for 2024-2025 is -\$10,930.
- Erika moved to approve the budget report as amended, the motion was seconded by Sarah and the motion was passed.
- The budget will start being looked at in June, with the budget being approved at the fall meeting in August.

## **New Business:**

### **Shooting Sports – Assisted by Rolling Plains Sportsman's Club**

- Air Rifle – Approx. 20 participants (all sessions full w/ waitlist)
- Archery – Approx. 55 participants (all sessions full w/ waitlist)
  - 3 new 4-H certified instructors for archery
  - Shooting Sports is seeking funds for 3D targets. It was suggested that they can use the \$1,250 that is currently budgeted for them to use on targets and if more money is needed, they can come to the council with their monetary needs.

### **Fundraiser:**

- The Plaza fundraiser will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> and the Stanley fundraiser will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - A breakfast meal will be served, and pictures with a bunny will also be provided

- Amber and Cameron have volunteered to be on a committee to reach out to businesses or prizes/donations towards events & expenses.
  - o Heather will reach out and advertise a deadline for club prize submissions.

### **Civil Rights:**

- Lynnette keeps inclusion and diversity papers at the extension office. We need to go over diversity and inclusion each year. She is asking members to seek out more members at school and encourage more attendance, as personal connections mean a lot.

### **Judging Team:**

- Julie wanted clarification on whether the agronomy educational items are already budgeted for and whether she can purchase resources and be reimbursed. It was confirmed that she can purchase educational resources and be reimbursed as long as it is within the budgeted total.
- It was asked that once the judging season is over to bring the items into the extension office so that they can keep track of the inventory. If it is an item that you normally keep at your house, please let the extension office know so that they are aware where all of our inventory items are.

### **Bunnies 4 Buddies Contest:**

- Two registered Mountrail County 4-H youth members will receive a young market or pet rabbit with supplies to participate in Achievement Days. Sponsored by Jah Krolik (rabbit), United Quality Coop (feed), & Tractor Supply (Rabbit Care Book)
- Erika moved to sponsor two cages and accessories, up to \$250. The motion was seconded by Cooper and the motion passed.

### **Achievement Days:**

- Livestock Exhibitors –
  - o 4-H Online Animal Info –register is open NOW – Closes May 8
  - o The second part in Fair Entry (choosing classes) opens May 19
  - o Market Beef ownership date is March 1<sup>st</sup> and all over livestock's ownership date is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We have been asked at a county level about adding a heritage class for livestock such as highland cattle. It was discussed that we would like to see how the state level handles this class and then we can follow their recommendation.

### **Poultry & Dairy Goat Showmanship Clinic/Contest:**

- Cassie Burns proposed to host a dairy goat & poultry show; she would like to host a clinic in the morning and then have a showmanship competition in the afternoon. After discussion, it was decided that she would propose this at her club level to host this event.

### **Horse Show:**

- The set-up is June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the show is June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, starting at 9 am.
- It was discussed that most attendees and contestants enjoyed having two judges, one being inside and one being outside. The horse committee asked to keep both judges.

- We currently have \$400 budgeted for judges for the horse show.

#### **Horse Committee Proposal:**

- The horse committee proposed to host clinics. They currently have three clinicians from different disciplines willing to host the clinics. They would like to ask for a \$100 deposit with all Mountrail County 4-H youth receiving the \$100 back after they attend the clinic. Mountrail County 4-H youth would be the first to be able to attend the clinics, then, if any spots are available, outside youth would be able to attend, but they would not receive their deposits back at the end of the clinic and the money would go to the hippology program. The goal of the horse committee would be to host a clinic and then the next week they would host a workday for the attendees to come in and work on the skills that they learned.
- Krista moved to support the horse clinics with up to \$1,500. Any money from deposits not returned would come off this amount. Any excess above this goes into a fund for future clinics. Cooper seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### **Premium Sale:**

- The horse committee proposed to allow horse contestants to be allowed to participate in the premium sale.
  - o The proposal contains similar rules to livestock contestants.
  - o They suggested allowing max premiums of \$500, but after discussion, it was decided that buyers do not like max premiums.
  - o The committee simply wants suggestions since most members keep the same horse from year to year so they still want it to be fair since other livestock can only sell once.
  - o Other counties were researched and there are not many that allow horses within their premium sales. This would allow Mountrail County to pave the way for other counties.
- Erika moved to add horses to the premium sale with the proposed horse committee requirements, excluding the maximum bid, and members must follow the same criteria as other livestock. The motion was seconded by Krista.
  - o Krista amended the motion to add a number 9 to the proposal to add a horse record book to the requirements. Julie seconded the amendment. Amendment passed. Then the motion passed.

#### **Programming & Other:**

- Krista moved to amend the budget to add \$250 for bunny cages and accessories and \$1500 for the horse clinics. Erika seconded the motion, and the budget was amended.
- Clover grants are due February 1<sup>st</sup>, they can be applied for by the 4-H clubs.
- Farm safety camps will be held all over the state, the closest to us is in Williston on June 10-12<sup>th</sup>.

The next council meeting is set for April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Mountrail County South Complex.

Erika moved to adjourn the meeting; Cooper seconded the adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.