

Mountrail County 4-H Council Meeting
Thursday, May 29th, 2026
Mountrail County South Complex
Zoom/In Person

The Mountrail County 4-H Council meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President Melissa Vachal.

Meeting Attendees – Zoom Attendees – John & Julie Woodbury, Sarah, Emma & Kaylee Brewer, Axel, Breanna, Anika Istilart, Robby, Emma and Graci Alford, Lisa, Grady, Levi & Kaley Uran Family. In Person Attendees - Melissa Vachal, Erika Littlefield, Krista Littlefield, Nancy Hermanson, Bailey Hawbaker, Cooper Sem, Jim Gray, Ty Nichols, Lynnette Vachal, Heather Tomlinson, Jennifer Old Rock, Pattilyn Old Rock

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

Agenda Approval: A Motion was made by Erika to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Cooper, and the agenda was approved.

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

Treasurer's Report was read by members; the balance is \$53,444.70 after outstanding checks are cashed; it is \$52,208.57 at the current time. The Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Cooper and seconded by Erika. Report Accepted

Old Business:

- **Achievement Days:**
 - FairEntry for Static and Livestock Classes opens May 18th and closes June 19th
- **Horse Show:**
 - FairEntry Horse Class Entry Registration – Opens May 2nd and closes June 5th
- **Ignite/CWF Application:**
 - The tickets need to be purchased sooner than we had thought (Potentially July)
 - Melissa presented what Cass County gives as an application to their members to be able to attend.
 - Krista moved to skip this year's application and put our county's application together for next year, and it was seconded by Erika. Motion passed.

New Business:

Electrician Workshop:

- Jared Brown contacted the 4-H about putting together youth-oriented electrical workshops. He has secured some funds from businesses to build studded walls to practice electrical circuits with and will conduct the lessons at the Fair Building or the South Complex.
- Donations would come through the council from businesses for him to utilize for this class.
- He could not attend the meeting tonight but may seek more information from the council in the future.
- Bailey moved to make an “earmarked” category under programming/workshops. Krista seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Shooting Sports:

- Archery Grant
 - Lynnette received a \$1,000 grant from ND Game & Fish for the contest that we will host next spring.
- Team Discussion
 - Practices – The team would like to see our district practices starting earlier, with a potential of October. With the building our team practices in, it is tough with building rentals, especially during the holiday season.
 - The Sem family has offered, depending on numbers, to have practices at their house if available.
 - Asked to have the Archery group, Heather, or Lynnette check the costs for rental of area facilities and bring it to the August meeting.
 - Instructor Certification
 - Happens in the fall before the season gets busy. There is one on Saturday, June 6th, at 4-H Camp in Washburn; however, that would not be the same training as the indoor one would be.
 - Uniforms
 - There was a design made by Steve Babbit for potential uniforms for the competitors. Was asked to have him come to the August meeting with more information.
 - Archery discussion is being tabled until the August meeting.

Achievement Days:

- Market Animal Breed & Weight Guidelines Update
 - The livestock committee approved the guidelines, and they have been sent to families, so far, no questions have been asked.
- Vendor Approval
 - Nancy Hermanson has asked to have a table for Foster Parent Awareness. She has coloring pages at the table to offer for kids to

color. Nancy would be in and out from the table as she cannot be there the entire time, both days, but will be sitting at the table when she can.

- Krista moved to allow Nancy to set up a table at Achievement Days, and Cooper seconded; the motion passed.

- Runnings Donation

- Contacted the office about sponsoring buckets for the livestock participants.
- Krista moved to allow Runnings to have a booth/table if they wish. Erika seconded, and the motion passed.

- Cages & Poultry

- Last year, the Fair Board purchased new cages for the poultry participants. They purchased 5- 2 sets of cages that fit large geese, ducks, and a trio of birds, for a total of 10 exhibits. Along with 5 whole cages for a total of 20 individual exhibits.
- Jennifer would like to ask the council to see if we could purchase more cages, as some members are still having to use the old ones that have caused injury to members and exhibits. She feels that 10 should be sufficient for now.
- Was asked to have Jennifer check into pricing and let the council know a price so that they can see if it is in the budget and approve through text messages. The board approves of her to move forward with finding prices for cages.

- **2026-2027 Budget:**

- Erika brought up that we have not budgeted for Ambassadors to attend Achievement Days and asked to add a line item under Achievement Days. This year, the Littlefield family has offered for the ambassadors to stay with them.
 - Bailey moved to amend the budget to include \$700 to allow the 4-H Ambassadors to attend Mountrail County Achievement Days, seconded by Cooper, and the motion passed.
- Krista moved to amend the 25-26 budget to include \$2,610.30 funds towards CWF. The motion was seconded by Pattilyn, and the motion was approved.
- Asked to amend any other budget line items for the 25-26 year at the August meeting.
- Melissa read the proposed budget for 26-27. Most items stay in the same budget as the 25-26 year, with a few changes.
 - Fundraiser – Achievement Days (Raffle) – Change from \$265 - \$365
 - Fundraiser – Pancake Breakfast – Shows as expenses on our budget, but normally, all expenses are paid through sponsorships.
 - Awards Day – RTC sponsors Git R Done awards, but it shows as an expense on our budget
 - Scholarship/Sponsorships – CWF will not be sponsored this year, so the total for 26-27 will be \$3,525.

- Achievement Days & Horse Show – We will add banner expenses and ambassador expenses to this line item, to total the budget for Achievement Days & Horse Show to \$11,695 for 26-27 years.
 - Programming & Events – Animal Camp – Meal/Supplies will be \$300, bringing the total for this budget item \$11,525.
 - Living Exhibit Contests – Communication Arts will total \$200, and the Living Exhibit Contests will total \$360.
 - Julie asked to have the council budget \$500 for meats, hippology, and agronomy, along with \$150 for livestock judging, to provide those teams the ability to purchase educational items.
 - Erika moved to accept the proposed income and expense for the 2026-2027 calendar year as amended at this meeting for a total of \$49,480. The motion was seconded by Cooper and passed.
- **Ambassador Report:**
 - EYC has three registrations from our county; registration closes on June 1st.
 - Luhman Ranch has camping set up this year and would love to have people attend.
 - Ambassador Applications are open and close on October 31st.

Upcoming Dates:

- June 10 – Horse Show Set-Up
- June 11 – Open Horse Show
- July 6, 8 & 9 – Achievement Days
- July 10 – ND State Fair exhibit promotions due
- July 17-25 – ND State Fair
- Aug 19 – Fall 4-H Meeting Sept 1. – 2026-2027 4-H Year Begins

Erika moved with a second from Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.