

Mountrail County 4-H Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 19th, 2026
Mountrail County South Complex
Zoom/In Person

The Mountrail County 4-H Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Melissa Vachal.

Meeting Attendees – Zoom Attendees – Heather Tomlinson, Robby Alford, Laura Fransen. In-person attendees: Melissa Vachal, Erika Littlefield, Krista Littlefield, Sarah & Kaylee Brewer, Bailey Hawbaker, Lynnette Vachal, Jennifer Old Rock, Pattilyn Old Rock, Axel, Breanna, Anika, Cameron Istilart, Lisa, Grady & Kaley Uran, Curt Vachal, Ilene Enerson, John & Julie Woodbury, Amanda & Trinity Hynek, Burns, Wendy & Troy Mauer, Oliver & Chancy Mell, Cassie Burns, Desirae Nance

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

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

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

Treasurer's Report was read by members; the balance is \$55,583.18 after outstanding checks are cashed; it is \$53,271.09 at the current time. The Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Sarah and seconded by Erika. Report Accepted

Old Business:

- **4-H Horse Show:**
 - Attendance – Cloverbuds (5-7): 2; Junior (8-11): 14; Intermediate (12-14): 6; Senior (14-18): 5
 - Mountrail: 20 / non-Mountrail: 8
 - We were earlier this year, and Ward County hosted theirs the next day, so out-of-county attendance was down a little.
- **Achievement Days:**
 - 2026 numbers were gone over, and numbers were up in static exhibits, and most livestock numbers were down, but beef & dairy numbers increased.
 - Ambassador Update:
 - Ambassador applications are open, and we have a few members from Mountrail County applying

- EYC is planned for this year, and Erika is one of the chairs – “Taking Leadership by the Horns” is the theme
 - The shoot that the Ambassadors held was successful, and Erika could not attend, but she heard great things!
- Livestock Concerns
 - Cameron brought up that weights that were voted on by the livestock committee are low, and he thought it would just be for non-traditional breeds.
 - It was discussed that it is not a perfect system, but it is a way to include all types of crossbreds and most breeds in all species.
 - It gets hard to have a complete list with every breed that a member could potentially show, so the group felt like this is the best way to encompass the most species/animals that we can.
 - It was also stated that we can look at it again but keep it for another year to see what happens.
- Parade of Champions
 - Was wondering if members could write down what their awards are and they announce how they did – that gives them some public speaking ability and a little spotlight for the members
 - Krista motioned, and Julie seconded to give this to the static committee and see what ideas they can come up with. Motion Passed.
- It was asked what the checks and balances are for going through the premium sale. Heather said that sometimes things go through the cracks by accident. Julie then asked if there is a way to have someone help Heather go through the sale criteria, and Heather said that she would investigate it.
- **Budget Updates:**
 - The budget was approved at our June meeting, and there are a few updates.
 - Income – Top Honor Awards – Adjust from \$2500 to \$2480 (62 available @ \$40/each)
 - There was no cloverbud round robin, and so Melissa pulled together the project lists of the cloverbuds, and the one that did the most she sponsored a \$40 prize; then there was a tie for second place, and she gave both members \$20.
 - Julie motioned to provide a cloverbud award category sponsored by Melissa Vachal, with Melissa Vachal choosing the specifics of the award, up to \$100. The motion was seconded by Erika. Motion Passed
 - Income – Belt Buckles – Adjust from \$2100 to \$2300 (23 available @ approx. \$100/each)
 - Expense – Achievement Days Advertising – Adjust from \$450 to \$500 - Price increase

- Expense – Administrative – Misc. & Fees – Adjust to cover cleaning tablecloths and replacements – up to \$1,000
- CWF/Ignite – \$2,610.30 to attend the '28 year
- It was asked to provide something to buyers as an appreciation of their purchase. It was mentioned to do handkerchiefs that members can give them after they sell their animal.
- Erika moved to purchase handkerchiefs for \$200 for premium buyers for the 2027 premium sale. Breanna seconded. Motion Passed
- Erika moved to approve these changes to the '26-'27 budget. It was seconded by Breanna. Motion Passed

New Business:

2026-2027 Registration

- The new year starts 9/1/2026 – can start registering them!
- If any clubs have adults 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.
 - Must complete a background check every 3 years!
- Please send club meeting schedules to the Extension Office.
- Club Financial Statements – Must be turned in by September 30th to Lynnette – you can email it and/or send a hard copy in the mail.

National Judging Teams

- Hippology
 - Sidney was the only senior from Mountrail County and has been invited to compete at National Hippology at the Denver Stock Show. She will be attending with a team from Grand Forks, but they are keeping funding separate.
 - She has brought forward a budget of \$3,310 for a 7-day travel plan.
 - The council gave Hippology \$5,000 last year towards 6 members competing.
 - Sarah motioned to donate \$1,500 toward Sidney to compete at nationals – the motion was seconded by Julie. Motion Passed.

Achievement Days

- It was brought to the council to decide how much of a percentage to take from the premiums.
- The premium sale brought in \$117,400.
- Julie moved to use the 2% premium deduction for the 2026 premium sale. Breanna seconded the motion, and it was passed. The total is \$2,348 that will be deducted.

4-H Awards Day

- Event Date: November 8th at 2:00 pm
 - The buckles will most likely not be done until this time frame, and building availability issues on other dates.

- Deadlines
 - Git R Dun, Project Pin, & Year End Awards – Sept. 4th
 - Make sure to check the EYC box at the top of the form! – Council suggests trying to try and win the trip so it is free, but we pay for half if you choose to go.
 - Friend of 4-H Nominations – September 4th
 - Club of the Year Award – September 27th
- Award Recipient Selection
 - Schedule meeting date –
 - Awards Judged: Project Pin Awards, Year-End Awards & Friend of 4-H recipient.
 - Last year, a lot of the judging was online and happened beforehand, which made it a lot easier to judge in person.
- **National 4-H Week**
 - October 4-10
 - Lynnette would like to see some fun ideas from the clubs!
 - Bailey mentioned having 4-H members go down during this week to speak with elementary students.
- **4-H Club Annual Financial Statement**
 - Make sure to get them in by September 30th!
- **Programming & Other**
 - Jared Brown is going to get some dates set up for his electrical project days
 - Shooting Sports is going to look for a sponsor for shirts for this year
- **Election of Officers:**
 - President – Julie nominated Melissa Vachal – nomination seconded by Breanna. Julie moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Melissa as President. Motion Carries
 - Melissa Vachal was voted in as President.
 - Vice President – Erika nominated Lisa Uran – nomination seconded by Breanna. Motion passed
 - Lisa Uran was voted as Vice President.
 - Secretary – Breanna nominated Bailey Hawbaker (soon to be Bailey Howard) – nomination seconded by Erika. Motion passed
 - Bailey was voted as Secretary
 - Treasurer – Krista Littlefield nominated by Erika – nomination seconded by Breanna; Wendy nominated Sarah Brewer, seconded by Anika
 - Krista Littlefield was voted in as Treasurer.
 - Adult Representatives – Erika Littlefield nominated Chancy Mell – nomination seconded by Breanna, Pattilyn nominated Jennifer Oldrock – nomination seconded by Erika, Trinity nominated Amanda Hynek – nomination seconded by Breanna, Erika nominated Cameron Istilart – nomination seconded by Breanna, Erika nominated Cassie Burns – nomination seconded by Breanna.
 - Chancy Mell, Cameron Istilart and Amanda Hynek were voted as Adult Representatives.

- Breanna nominated Trinity Hynek – nomination seconded by Cameron, Jennifer nominated Pattilyn Old Rock – nomination seconded by Chancy, Axel nominated Breanna Istilart – nomination seconded by Erika, Pattilyn nominated Erika Littlefield – nomination seconded by Trinity, Erika nominated Kaley Uran – nomination seconded by Axel.
 - Trinity Hynek, Breanna Istilart and Kaley Uran were voted as the Youth Representatives.
- **Livestock Committee** – Robby Alford, Heather Braaflat, Barb DeTienne, Laura Fransen, Bailey Hawbaker, Cameron Istilart, Grady Uran, Curt Vachal, Jennifer Old Rock, John Woodbury, & Joe Hynek
 - Steven Littlefield will come off and Jennifer Old Rock will take his place.
 - Bailey Hawbaker’s name will change to Bailey Howard in November
- **Horse Committee** – Sarah Brewer, Ilene Enerson, Anika Istilart, Monica Sem, & Katie Steele
- **Static Committee** - Laura Anderson, Karen Babbitt, Laura Fransen, Rebecca Goettle, Amanda Hynek, Krista Littlefield, Melissa Vachal, Julie Woodbury & Lisa Uran, Anika Istilart
 - Anika Istilart was added to the static committee
- **Dates to Set:**
 - Awards Day – Award Recipient Selection –
 - Winter Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 13th at 6 pm.
- **Current Event Dates:**
 - Sept. 1 – New 4-H year starts & 4-H Enrollment Opens on 4-H Online
 - Sept. 30 – 4-H Club Annual Financial Statement Deadline
 - October 4-10th – National 4-H Week
 - Oct. 15 – ND 4-H Ambassador Application Deadline

Melissa adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.