

Officers (2022-2023)

Chair- Nicole Tholt

Vice Chair- Cody England

Secretary- Maggie Barth

**Small Animal Committee Meeting
Wednesday September 20, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Nicole at 6:49 pm

Members present were:

Chris England (Creative Critters/Extension Office)

Hailey Gallagher (Creative Critters)

Josiah Plouffe (Snowy Mountain Trailblazers)

Hadassah Plouffe (Snowy Mountain Trailblazers)

Delcie Plouffe (Snowy Mountain Trailblazers)

Angela Berger (Moore Barnstompers)

Nicole Tholt (Shamrocks)

Minutes/Notes from the last meeting were read by Chris. Hailey moved to accept minutes as read, Josiah seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Correspondence was a thank you note from Judith Basin 4H for the use of our dog agility equipment for their fair.

Treasurer Report was read by Chris. Hailey moved to accept the treasurer's report and file it for audit. Hadassah seconded it and a vote was done and passed.

Announcements there was none.

Old Business**Year in Review**

The Winter Workbook Workshop was noted to have gone well and the facility worked just fine.

The June Showmanship Clinic was noted to have gone well and a good turnout was had.

Dog Clinics were busy but had 8-10 kids each time. Nicole is thinking of doing some winter clinics.

Rabbit Clinics went well concerns of having the practice ring be the same size as fair since the rabbits had been practicing in a smaller area and when they had a bigger one, they ran around.

Poultry clinics were new this year and well received. Families would like to see time for more practice with other species other than right before fair and round robin.

Fair

Barn set up went fine some concern about netting leaving it on or off.

Other, Chris will work on having a tote with a staple gun, scissors, zip ties available in the barn office for use during the fair.

Shows

Judges were reported as follows:

The cat and pocket pet judge was good and gave great feedback to the kids.

The Rabbit and Poultry judge will not be asked back due to unprofessionalism in dress, no feedback to kids except a select few, and not even touching the market birds. The dog judge was inconsistent and too easy on the kids, she will not be asked back again. Nicole reports that she has someone set up already for next year, she was an avid 4her and Nicole will send Chris her contact information.

Clerks/Ring Steward/Announcer and set up all reported to have gone well with all species. It is noted that during the poultry show it was hard for the kids and audience to hear. The sound system was muffled, and it was brought up as a solution to maybe look at a second speaker for the other side of the show ring. Chris will also educate others on the set up and use of the system as that was a problem at the beginning of the poultry show.

Petting Zoo did well again this year bringing in \$467.72. Chris will write a thank you note to NGS for donating a bag of pellets for the kids to feed the animals with. Angela remarked that the petting zoo is a great outreach to our community. She also reports on a few issues we need to address before next year. 1st one being that early in the morning the 4h kids there to feed their animals were entering the petting zoo and letting animals out, the horse, goats, and sheep. The solution is to maybe lock the gate so they cannot be let out. It was brought up that the pen was taking up the entire area making it hard to not go through to get to the fridge for the water bottles and tiles for the rabbits. The solution to this is to revamp the size of the pen and Chris will investigate moving the fridge to the office at the front of the barn. Also came into question if the animals needed more feed because that could have been a driving factor to them wanting out of the pen and that the animals were fighting over the food adding a safety issue to the mix during open times. Solution to this would be more feed available and in several different areas spread out from the other animals. Also, safety issue of needing an adult to be there overseeing the animals and visitors. It is great to have older members taking some responsibility but if there was an accident and the members were in a position to need an adult for help, they at this time do not have that. A solution to this would be to better staff the barn, maybe having a sign up for both the front of the barn and the back of the barn. Also adding safety signs to the petting zoo like with photos of what an animal looks like when they are angry, needing space, happy etc. Also, more education to the animals in the petting zoo eg. breeds of the sheep and goats. Another issue was 4H kids kicking the animals. Need a sign unfortunately about proper animal treatment.

Purchase netting for over the poultry pens – none was purchased as the existing netting was found in good shape.

Swamp Cooler Fan was a great addition though it did not cool the barn down from the middle to the end. Maybe consider moving it or placing something else there.

Tables for show ring it is reported that this did not happen before fair. The design and a picture of the table we can get was passed out and the go a head to get one and try it was made. We will use it and see if this is going to work for us.

Prizes went well this year all the kids are excited to have the jackets, buckles and metal art. Chris reported an update on the jackets. They are being worked on at this time, they are a little behind due to family emergency in Martin family. Chris will contact kids when they are done.

It was brought up by families that opening the barn at 8 am is not always working for those that must be to work at 8 and need to care for animals. Discussion of leaving a key somewhere for those parents or just giving them a key for the week. It was decided to let Chris work with them individually about the key.

New Business

Professional Pictures Chris brought up having Amanda do pictures for the small animal shows as she is already doing the large animal shows. Chris reports she has reached out but has not gotten any prices currently. Chris will keep the committee posted when she gets some prices.

Policy Changes – please see attached forms for the proposed policy changes.

Show attire, what do we do?

Tear down of small animal barn either an hour before or after large animal barn.

Taking off the heritage breed? (I can't remember the rest of the conversation, sorry)

The discussion of how old a turkey has to be, came up and it was decided that in the fair book it noted under 1 year old to sell as market.

The question of how we handle the replacing of a bird also came up and most people have 2 and that covers if another one has an issue. It can also come to the committee and be decided on if need to change animals out. This is not to be abused, just available if needed.

Barn improvements/changes

A few ideas brought forth are:

Would like and find it beneficial to put a larger fan in the middle of the barn to allow continued air flow from the cooler in the front.

For the top of the bird cages have the netting stapled to a frame and then if those would like to use it could without all the work and frustration of the netting being placed on the top of the fences.

Dog would like to get new rally sign holders. Nicole brought forth the idea of a small ½ inch 3 ring binder and sheet protectors. She will need 40 of these.

A motion was made by Hailey to have Chris purchase a fan for the small animal barn using her discretion on the amount paid. Josiah seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed to purchase a fan.

A motion was made to buy the supplies needed to make frames for the poultry pen netting by Hailey seconded by Josiah, voted on and passed to purchase the supplies and at a later date we will put them together.

A motion was made by Josiah to buy binders and sheet protectors for the dog rally signs. It was seconded by Hailey. A vote was taken and passed.

Officers for 2023-2024

Officer nominations were made Nicole to remain as President, Hailey as Vice President and the Plouffe family to be Secretary. Angie motioned that the following be the 2023-2024 Small Animal Officers. Josiah seconded this motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Winter Fair

- Rabbit/Cat Show will proceed as did last year

- Dog Show will proceed as did last year

- Poultry show was brought up and Chris will talk to Chris Cooler about it.

- Chris will send out information closer to the time with dates for practices of all species.

Any other business?

It was brought up by Nicole, if we could make a sub account for the money that is for sponsorships and prizes (like the livestock have) to keep our money separate from the money to do barn improvement and supplies. Chris will talk to Stacie and see if we can do this.

Announcements: Chris announced the following

The School Traveling Farm will be at Garfield on Sept 29th at 1 pm if anyone would like to join. Also, the Fall festival will be at the Farm in the Dell on Sept 30th and Oct 1st if anyone would like to take part in this as a petting zoo or a project explanation.

Date of Next Meeting Will be January 13th following the small animal workbook workshop. Chris will call and reserve the facility for the workshop and the meeting.

Josiah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Hadassah a vote was taken and passed the meeting was adjourned.