



**Asotin County 4-H Leaders Council
Minutes
October 12th 2020**



Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & 4-H Pledge

Reading of Mission Statement

Reading or disposition of minutes and correspondence: minutes approved unanimously

10/12/2020

Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm

Judy Floch was a special guest and reported on the Nez Perce county fair saying that it went “real well” and explained that wrist bands were handed out to only 4-H members, parents/ step parents, siblings and grandparents. Their enrollment is roughly 400 kids and gave out around 1200 wrist bands. Kids were asked to wear masks when social distancing wasn’t available. Everyone was very accepting of this policy.

Idaho Forest Group streamed the event with 3 cameras in different arenas and they were able to get showing done in one day. They were streaming in both the swine pens and the beef pen at the same time. The whole thing was very well received with a grateful audience.

They used social media to feature 4-H members and their projects and posted pictures of them to their fb page. Had lots of buyers and supporters enjoy this option.

Did not have the closed hospitality area so they did move it to an area in the fair pavilion to help buyers feel welcome and they were able to social distance. They had an espresso ice cream vendor and offered one evening meal. The buyers were invited to eat that or were able to order off a menu.

Sale was a live auction streamed and offered on- line bidding and in person bidding with social distancing. Youth were not allowed up into the stands to give buyers their handshake and gift.

Parents were asked to keep their numbers low in the barns. At one point, the Wi-Fi went down, however they were able to transfer to a hot spot so fast that hardly anyone noticed.

Representatives from the Casino also participated in buying and were sitting at the Nezperce fair pavilion for bidding.

Prices held very well through the entire auction. Livestock numbers were down a little bit. Sold 16 lams, 22 goats, 139 swine, 55 steers, and 27 feeder steers.

Average prices were \$8.75/lb for lams, goats were \$7.50ish, fat steer were \$3.50/lb and feeders about the same. Overall it was very relaxed and laid back.

Everyone put a lot of extra work in the event and were very thankful to participate.

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Cami Browne asked if there were any delays with the on-line bidding. Judy said no and that their tech focused completely on the screen; there was enough broadband and wi-fi that there was no more than a second of lag.

Kopper Blunt asked about the expense to the youth to participate in the on-line market. Judy said that they collected their normal \$25 per youth to sell their animal at auction. If this style of auction continues in the future, but they may have to raise this rate. Added that the service provided was spectacular.

Kim Belanger asked about Idaho Forest Group streaming. Idaho Forest Group has a huge unlimited zoom and they can do a one way zoom in order to do this event. A person has to register and can watch. Link was advertised everywhere along with the instructions to live auctions on their main website.

Kim also asked how the static (still life) items went. Judy explained that Wednesday AM when they brought in their items, they brought them early as there was no one in the pavilion. Judges came in after 10 AM and maintained social distancing. They had Fashion Revue on the typical Saturday where the kids come in at an assigned time, which kept the flow going and kept the crowd down. Family was only allowed with face coverings and were spread out.

Another option they had looked at for the auction, was just using a picture of the youth with their project.

Cami asked who was in charge of putting on the auction. Judy said that it was their livestock leaders sales committee which is headed up mainly by about 5 people.

Community Questionnaire

Kim showed the results of a community questionnaire that was conducted by the Fairboard and directed to participants and livestock and market supporters and the results showed an overwhelming support of having a hybrid or virtual fair if we are unable to have an in-person fair.

Kopper expressed how things may work in Washington State as opposed to Idaho. Mark Heitstuman posted the Phase 2 Agricultural Events Covid-19 Requirements. Guidelines have already been established. Garfield county had to limit the number of participants i.e. one member could have one parent...etc. Using different barns etc., like Nez Perce county did by using all of their arenas and spread out animals all over the barns/pens etc.

They split the steers with all the smaller ones in one area (the annex) and the fat beef in the pavilion, swine in their typical place and also took over 40 pens in the sheep barn, moved all the bunnies to the petting zoo. The lambs and goats went into the red barn (they had 38) with a show ring and people were able to stay spread out. The overflow steers were in the sheep barn and the beef were shown outside. The judge just ran back and forth between arenas.

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Overall, it took a lot of re-arranging but it worked. They kept lines of communication wide open to accomplish this.

Due to the proximity of the camera, they had to make the show ring smaller which they think they will keep that size due to the ease of flow.

Cami expressed concern over the growing number of pigs and how we would be able to spread them out. Kopper expressed similar concerns but also mentioned that it still may be do-able and that it would just take a lot of work.

Mike Cooper mentioned that it may come to doing the pigs one weekend and the others the weekend after. Kopper mentioned that the sale would be very interesting if that was the case. Mike mentioned that we will have a lot to think about when coordinating this.

Cami mentioned that once animals were at the fair it would be better to keep them there than risk bringing any disease etc., back home if everyone transported one weekend and then auctioned the next.

Keith Weissenfels asked if anyone had talked to the sales committee. Kim said that Warren Benner was at the county commissioners meeting and that he committed to making it happen by hosting a youth livestock auction.

Reopening Plan:

Mark showed a power point that reflected the plan produced by a committee of 12 and addresses directives from WSU central admin, Extension and the 4-H program.

Safety is paramount so remote groups are recommended and that we will follow the stages phases. Participation of any activity is optional.

There are numerous steps for groups to meet including the volunteers watching a re-opening power point and will need to complete health screening attestation before face-to-face meeting etc. There will most likely be a waiver for everyone to sign and everyone will be expected to follow social distancing guidelines.

They will get all info to us as soon as finalized.

Janice Reed discussed the new registration system stating that it seems easier to use however they have changed some of the terminology and there is a new project list. Leaders are asked to send Janice member information. This site is under construction and if there are any questions, Janice will contact you. Youth can sign up if they are still undecided however they will need to pay by the end of November to be an official member. Payment needs to be brought in or mailed as there is a fee associated with on-line payments. Janice is looking at the option of a pay-pal account for the future as it is less expensive than the on-line option.

Brenda Ziegler asked if the enrollment fees would be the same and at this point, they are however scholarship applications are being encouraged. Kim will send out info to leaders about this option. Mike discussed the option of dropping the \$10

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fee and at this point, Kim mentioned that most state programming will likely be cancelled, making room in the budget for enrollment scholarship assistance.

Mike expressed opinions regarding both waiving the \$10 or reducing to \$5.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56

Adjournment – Next Meeting: Monday November 9th, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m

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4-H 

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