

4-H Issues Committee Meeting

August 17, 2022

Members Present: Donna Machala, Libby Kelly, Lisa Nichols, Megan Eklund, Stacy Palmatier,

Members Absent: Amanda Madugno, Morgan George

Youth Advisors: Jessica Coleman, George Machala

4-H Camp Committee Advisor: Lindy Taggart

4-H/Cornell Cooperative Extension Staff: Emily Roach, Corrine Tompkins, Justine Bishop

After a pizza and salad dinner, the meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by President Donna

Guest Beth Holland, the 4-H Beef Superintendent spoke to the committee about the following concerns:

- Beef wash rack needs longer hoses to reach to the back of the animals
- There were over 80 Beef this year. The current barn and show ring are too small to accommodate this number of animals.
- Ceilings of the showring is low, especially for our older 4-Hers whose show sticks hit the beams.
- There are dark spots in the show ring; more lighting is needed.
- Fuse box in the barn keeps tripping despite families bringing their own generators to run high powered items like blow-dryers.
- Funds were raised at an auction prior to the fair to help with the cost of some barn improvements, but now need to be approved by the Fair Board

Stacey suggested approaching the Dairy Committee to see if more sharing could be done between the two barns to accommodate the growing number of beef. Currently some of the beef are being housed in the dairy barn.

4-H Camp update- Corrine

- Overall, very happy with numbers. There was 75% overnight capacity and about 30 kids per week for day camp over the course of 5 weeks.
- No trips to the ER this year!
- Staffing was a challenge. To address this, recruitment events will be set up for 2023. Also hoping to get some staff from the CIT program, which was strong this year. Few recruits came from CIT this past year as there was disruption in the program due to COVID. Corrine is also looking into bringing back international staff for next year as well.

- One week of camp started without power due to a storm. To address this issue, Corrine would like to purchase a generator to keep the kitchen running. She would also like to see the return of the 20-hr a week maintenance position.
- There were 16 cases of COVID at camp, but Corrine was in contact with Public Health and was operating withing the guidelines.
 - *Donna Machala asked why there were cases this year, but none last year. Last year a PCR test was required where this year the rapid tests were allowed , per DOH guidelines. The PCR is much more accurate. Also, campers who returned f or another week hadto stagger weeks last year. This year they were allowed to attend back-to-back
- Jessica noted that from a program standpoint, she had heard positive feedback regarding camp.

Fair Update-Emily

- Corrine is taking over operations in part of the Youth Building
- Emily and Kaitlyn Conklin will go over Fair book to go over (and look for) inconsistencies or contradictions
- Beef barn switched to giving out banners for top awards.
- Quite a few animals have gone home due to minor illnesses such as pink eye and ring worm
- Horse program is going well. The committee plans to meet this Fall to reinstitute the requirements like clinics and help everyone meet paperwork deadlines for the Fair.
 - *Follow up on partnering with Chenango County Horse program-Emily reached out again and hasn't heard back. The ball is in their court should they want to partner and extend their gymkhana program.
- Lindy brought a concern she had heard about a Wooden Horse contest. CCE Insurance won't allow it for Cloverbuds per NYS 4-H rules.
- Donna brought a concern regarding the scale used for animal weigh in. There were grumblings that a 4-H animal was rejected because it was off by one pound and wondered what the margin of error was for the scale. Emily assured her that no 4-H animal would be rejected if it were off by one pound. She also stated that the scales are professionally certified and therefore accurate.

Duck Race-Emily

- Just under 700 ducks were sold. Financials will be available at the October meeting
- Megan noted tickets were difficult for club members to obtain since many clubs find it challenging to get to the office in Hamden during business hours. She brought up that tickets used to be available to leaders in a newsletter so they could distribute them to members. She suggested sending numbered tickets to each club leader. The numbers would allow CCE to track who has what tickets. Clubs would be expected to return the money for the tickets OR return unsold tickets before the Duck Race. It was also

suggested that the early bird drawings for prizes be brought back to increase member participation and encourage tickets to be turned in sooner.

Member Concerns:

George noted that he did not receive some important, informational emails from camp. He even checked SPAM folders. Corrine suggested utilizing the SMS text option to ensure he got time-sensitive updates.

Stacey raised a concern about the number of members required for a club. This may be challenging for smaller clubs, especially when some of the older members age out of the program. We don't want to see the younger members lose out because they are one or two members short. How can we support them?

Megan asked if there was a way for parents to get a confirmation email when registering for 4-H camp. Corrine is currently exploring a new software called, Ultra Camp, that would streamline the camp registration process. It would send confirmation emails, reminder emails, track payment and use real-time data to show how many spots were available in each class.

Libby raised a question about the 5 item limit for Cloverbuds. She thought waiving this limit would encourage more participation from the younger members. She also noted that some families utilized the digital project record as an opportunity to TYPE responses, rather than handwrite them.

State Fair updates-Emily

- 4-H WILL be represented at the State Fair this year
- LOTS of new changes at the State level, including staffing
- All projects will be displayed by DISTRICT (we are one of 9 counties)
- Exhibit forms have changed to 3 exhibitor questions with the judge evaluation at the bottom of the page, instead of being separate pages. We will look into changing our forms at the County level for next year to be more in line with State Fair.
- No teens from Delaware County will be attending this year. Between COVID rules and the changes in Dorm Rules, Emily decided to wait until next year to bring youth. She will evaluate the situation when she attends this year.
- There are a large number of youth planning to present their public presentations at the State Fair.
- Fair entry tickets are digital this year, making it more challenging for Emily to get tickets to 4-H exhibitors and their families.
- Following the State Fair, all exhibits will be on display at the Delaware County Office Building in Delhi.

The committee connected with Amanda via video-chat to wish her a Happy Birthday

Motion to adjourn at 7:57pm by George, Second by Jessica

Next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022 at 6:30pm