

Ag Committee Meeting 1/22/18 at Toole County Courthouse Extension Office at 6:10.
Present: Carol Fulbright, Barb Larson, Hope (4-H member), Kim Woodring, Kathlene Schumway, Ula Omdahl, Carrie Lerum, Kari Lewis, and Kathleen Barbie

Minutes were read from the last meeting and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Carrie reported that a check was written to the 4-H council for \$11.73 for the 1% (990). A gift card was purchased for Kathlene Schumway for \$50 to CHS. The ending balance is \$1111.52.

A letter was read from a possible judge for poultry and other classes from Oregon.
A Thank You card was read by Hope from the Blazing Saddles 4-H club.

A future dog showmanship clinic was discussed. The potential trainer from Chester is unavailable. Kenny and/or Danny Habets may still be available. Hadley Barbie has participated in the dog show and would be good for beginners. We can charge about \$10 per participant, then offer the Habets boys \$50 and more up to half of the registrations fees. Ula moved that we do this and the motion passed. The Habets boys will be asked about possible dates. We may be able to hold it at the Conrad Shooting Sports building. Showmanship and obedience will be included in the clinic. The primary focus will be first and second year member needs, all of which are on lead (novice and sub-novice). Kim will follow up on dates when Kathlene has talked with Kenny. The participants will be encouraged to bring their dogs. A group e-mail will be sent out to all Ag/Small Animal Committee members for confirmation on dates and planned agenda for the dog clinic. Some rules will include: no dogs in heat and vet records to verify vaccinations.

Poultry and Rabbit Barn Superintendent was discussed. Kathlene said she would continue to be a superintendent. Carol will help her during the fair. Barb will step in as needed to help with check-out.

Kathlene voiced concern about the organization of the poultry area in the barn. Some thoughts included investing in new chicken cages due to security concerns, concerns for bigger poultry and attaching cages to the shelf. A possible solution is to re-work the center rabbit cages for chicken cages. Funding may be available from People Partner Grants or Farm Bureau grants. Information needs to be found regarding costs and dates for construction. Ken and Jed W. from Glacier County may be able to apply and do the organization of pen area. Dates will be considered at the next meeting. We may be able to use extra sheep pens in the poultry building. The entire project may be too much for this year, a start on the project this year may be more viable. Also, if there is some construction accomplished, pen assignments prior to fair would be helpful.

Project enrollment was shared for all of the Small Animal groups by county. Pondera: 1 cat, 6 dog, 2 poultry, 6 rabbit, and 2 pocket pets. Glacier: 1 cat, 6 dog, 8 poultry, 2 rabbit, and 1 pocket pet. Toole: 1 cat, 2 dog, 6 poultry, 3 rabbit, and 1 pocket pet. Liberty: 5 cat, 4 dog, 1 poultry, 6 rabbit, and no pocket pets. Totals: 8 cat, 18 dog, 17 poultry, 17 rabbit, and 4 pocket pets. Due to the numbers, there is a need for a small animal showmanship clinic. Possible presenters are: Shane Samsal for poultry, Kathlene S for rabbits, including different levels. Kathleen B for pocket pets, Dane Barbie for cat, Hadley Barbie will bring her dog for exposition. Dates will be considered at the April meeting, in addition to dinner or food. The schedule for each portion of the clinic will need to be more solid.

Fair judges will be on a new rotation and will need to be secured by April. Possible judges include Cassidy Sheble for rabbit and possibly cat if she is comfortable judging. Vicki Stevenson for poultry. Ashley Belanger as a backup on rabbit and cat. Debi Bucholz for dog.

Judging standards and expectations need to be sent out early. A check will be done on what was sent out last year and will be evaluated by the April meeting.

Workshops that would be nice to have available would be training for judges for the small animals, making our pool of judges larger. It may be possible to have this at the Leader's Forum.

The possibility of purchasing learning kits was discussed. The kits that are available in Pondera County will be checked before decisions are made.

Form 990 should be filed in February to avoid fines.

Kathlene S's goodie bags were a hit, the kids really enjoyed them, also the judging contest she set up was awesome. We will be thinking ahead to help out as a committee so she doesn't do all of the work and purchasing.

A discussion on when pocket pets should be on display or where they should be was held with concerns voiced. Someone will talk with the Exhibit Building Committee to see if they can be displayed or shared in the exhibit building. The Food Booth Committee will be asked about putting signs up pertaining to only service animals allowed in the food booth.

The next meeting will be April 23, 2018 at the Extension Office or Conference Room in the Toole County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Ula Omdahl