

2007 Dairy Evaluation Meeting

August 21, 2007

8:00 p.m.

BUSINESS:

This meeting was called to order by Ray Halbur at 8:10 p.m.

Paul demonstrated the location of the Dairy Youth site on the Fond du Lac Extension web page. Our goal is to have one source for dairy information for 4-H and FFA youth in Fond du Lac County. A calendar of events with due dates for county and state fair entries and round-up information will all be found here. A link will also be established to the Wisconsin State Fair web site in order to download required forms.

Youth were asked to reflect on State Fair, what they liked and what could have gone better or been done differently.

- All good; really hot.
- Went well except for getting pooped on.
- Participants need to remember that they elected the herdsman and need to respect the decisions they make and back the herdsman up.
- Teams worked well together
- Did a very good job and worked together.
- Everything went well.
- Things went well; no major disputes.
- Went good.
- All fine, all worked together.
- Went good
- All fine. All worked together.
- Nothing
- Herdsmen are really good people.
- Went smooth. Shirts on barn duty.
- Got along better; too many meetings down there, every hour!
- Nice job this year. Younger ones need to step up and take leader roles – don't quit!
- A lot of fun.
- Good year, all worked together.
- Liked it and had fun.
- Fun.
- All good. Need to measure bank.
- A lot of fun. Went smoothly.

Adult comments:

- The guys behaved well.
- Things went exceptionally well.
- One suggestion, if you are going to play cards for money, maybe play for smaller pots and out of public sight. Girls were respectful of the chaperones and each other. Suggestion for the supply committee to obtain a couple of more water pails to speed up watering the animals as more people could be watering.
- I am a better person for knowing the guys. Get uniform shirts for barn duty next year.
- Kids behaved, up kind of late playing cards.
- Kids were phenomenal. Reflecting on herdsman, it is somewhat political and subjective. Chaperones had been told there would be no herdsman judging during the show, but that was not the case.
- Bank was a little high; State Fair has to look at disposal costs; catching the manure is one way to save on that cost by reducing the amount of straw in the manure.

Selection Process:

Discussion revolved around a qualification process in order to show at State Fair for Fond du Lac County. Motion was made and seconded to require participation in three activities: a hands-on fitting type workshop, an educational event, and a community service activity. After some discussion, the motion passed. Attendance must be documented by an adult in charge of the activity. A committee will pull a list together of qualifying activities which will be posted on the Dairy Youth site. The committee members include: Paul Dyk, Linda Burton, Dave Kafer, Rae Nell and Ray Halbur, Chad Ryan, Brandon Ferry, Julia Hansen.

Transportation: Rae Nell asked for clarification with regard to 4-H youth driving other 4-H youth in their vehicles. It is a bit of a hassle while at State Fair to find a 21-year-old to drive youth to the off-site locations to get supplies. Apparently youth who are 18 and have a valid license with insurance can drive during a 4-H activity, which eases the burden.

Dairy Day of Learning: The feeling of those present was that it is a valuable event, but is difficult to make valuable presentations for ages 9 to 18. Suggestion was made to have one general session where everyone is present and then divide the group into two age-wise for two rotating sessions, like they do with PQA age levels. Volunteers to plan this year's event include: Liz Drendel, Kyle Zimdars, Kelsey Waldschmidt, Jenny Kindschuh, Linda Burton and Paul Dyk.

Dairy Bowl: Randy Julka is looking for more kids to participate, especially younger members. Any age is welcome to join. They meet at Rolling Meadows Dairy Barn starting in October.

Dairy Judging: Chad Ryan, Amy Ryan, and Chris Pollack are the coaches. They have a group attending a national competition in Harrisburg, PA and need to raise about \$3500 in the next month. They have received semen donations to sell at the County Sale and the Holstein Association is helping fund this trip. This group meets approximately once a week. FFA youth are welcome to join in. Dairy judging helps with interviewing for scholarships or jobs as the youth learn to give oral reasons. It is never too late to start.

Dairy Project Records: There was no discussion about this subject.

Dairy Management Project: Irv Possin initiated this project 14 years ago and the project has had varying degrees of interest and participation in the ensuing years. Last year there were two active project members. The project had three meetings and a big tour. In order for this project to continue it needs more participation. Paul discussed the activities the project members participated in this year. They met with several producers who are at the top of their game for management practices. Paul would like to go through a three-year rotation of topics. FFA members are encouraged and welcome to join as well.

Fond du Lac County Fair:

- Quality Milk Auction – The rules for the Quality Milk Auction are in the fair book. Must enter properly. Must be showing the animal.
- Double-dipping/jumping county lines – discussion revolved around youth who double dip by showing at one fair under FFA and another fair under 4-H. Some FFAs have a requirement to show at the county fair for grading purposes; 4-H also has a similar requirement in order to achieve. Any rule change needs to be supported by the Fair Board. Chris was urged to attend a Fair Board meeting (first Wednesday of the month).
- Dairy Herdsmanship Judges – Suggestion was made to have more businesses do dairy herdsmanhip judging. Paul's goal for next year is to have the herdsmanhip schedule completed more in advance of the fair. Clubs need to be more specific as to how they want to be considered for herdsmanhip, especially when there is a single individual or the dairy group is small.
- Dairy Judge for 2008 (2 days) – Suggestions for the judge include Craig Krohlow, Brian Behnke, Craig Cairncross, Todd Wendorff, and John Powers.
- Associate/Showmanship/Futurity Judge (1 day) – Brian Behnke, Perry Pfend, and Todd Borgwardt.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion then covered how it was decided which animals/kids got to go to State Fair; was it done fairly? At the mandatory meeting in March, it was emphasized that 40 youth were interested in participating at State Fair; Fond du Lac County's dairy quota was 35 animals; someone was not going to be able to go. There was also some misunderstanding with regard to entering alternate animals with Wisconsin State Fair. Suggestion was made to include the statement that if you are selected as an alternate to be sure to complete the paperwork; this is especially important for first-year/new State Fair exhibitors.

Ray Halbur was unanimously re-elected as Dairy Committee chairman for 2008.

There was no other business. Motion was made to adjourn, seconded and passed. This meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Schneider
Ag Secretary