Sale Committee meeting October 14, 2009

Those in attendance: Lee McConnell, Angie Ketscher, Rachael McNealy, Dustin Johnson, Tiny Pederson, Rob Fisher, Erik Davies, Michelle Tummonds, Shana Withee

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

Additions to the Agenda: Since we only have an hour to discuss agenda items this evening we should definitely have another meeting in November when we can allow time for more detailed discussion.

Minutes: Minutes from the September meeting at the fairgrounds were not available.

Fair Book: Members asked when the final deadline for changes to the fair premium book was. It was noted that it would be nice to have all changes done for next year’s fair premium book by May 1, 2010. We asked Sue Pedersen it all changes were submitted by that date if it would be possible to proof read the book before it went to print. Sue thought that would work as long as everyone had their changes in on time. Angie Ketscher noted that it is important to have “everything” in writing for next year’s fair.

Carcass/Rate of Gain Contest & Awards: Shana announced that $1050.00 was paid out for carcass of merit awards. $925.00 was donated so there is $125.00 shortfall. Harney Electric awarded $300.00 for carcass of merit awards. It was asked if there were any prizes for the Rate of Gain contest. Not at this time as we are still figuring things out and there was no sponsor this year.

In theory a better rate of gain produces better animals for less expense to the producer. How do we base the contest on this theory?

There was discussion of add-on dollars designated for only the grand and reserve champion carcasses. The extension office received the checks this year and it was unclear how things were supposed to be designated so they were split evenly between all carcass of merit winners. Perhaps it would be better for the Stockgrowers to handle the add-on dollars? Rob Fisher moved to table this discussion to the November meeting, Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed.

Grounds/Livestock shows:

Who is in charge: A question was brought up as to who is the ultimate person in charge of the show, and it was concluded by the group that the “buck stops” with the Fair Livestock Director. If Rob is no longer the director then who will be in charge next year?

Arena: There was much discussion on the show arena and how to split things up to make the show move along faster. The one solutions that keeps floating to the top is to create a new arena for the swine on the south side of the sale barn where the Llama’s have previously been, and to move the llamas to the other side. Tiny felt that it would be fairly easy to set up a separate arena using the panels. It was suggested to try this for the next two years and then consider something permanent if it works out for the best. Things to consider will be that we will then need three judges, and we will need a second set of clerks for the additional arena. We will also have to get the word out and make sure to change the times in the premium book so that Swine and either Beef or sheep will be showing at the same time. We also need to be mindful of seating for the new arena as swine usually are the most
popular animal shown. Angie Ketscher moved to create a new arena for swine for 2010, Rachael McNealy seconded and the motion passed.

Grandstands: It was noted that we really need the grandstands replaced before next fair. It was thought that Ed Herrera could help with rounding up help to get the work done. Karen will continue with the grant to seek funds. Tiny Pederson moved to table further discussion until November, Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed.

Swine barn drainage issues: The Swine barn continued to have serious drainage issues this year. Rob Fisher was confident that with fixing the other issues (pump being cut off this fair) and removal of a plastic bottle from the drain that it should drain better. Karen Moon still has doubts that the 2” drain in the middle of the wash rack is sufficient when all four stalls on the far side are being used. It only takes a small amount of sawdust to plug the drain. Karen will bring up the subject at the fair board meeting.

Sheep wash rack: The wash rack worked well this year; however more gravel is needed before next fair.

Judges: Both judges did an excellent job, however they were quite long winded. The consensus was to invite both judges back for next year, and to hire a third judge for the swine.

Showing multiple animals in conformation/market classes: It has been the practice for kids to be able to tag two animals over the past several years, however, kids are supposed to declare at weigh-in which animal they are showing and selling. The second animal (of any species) is NOT to be shown in any conformation/market class. They may be shown in showmanship (such as one FFA and one 4H) but the practice is to be discouraged if at all possible. The premium book needs to clearly state that participants may only show ONE animal in a MARKET class. It was noted that we should make sure to use 4-H/FFA everywhere possible in the premium book.

Armbands vs. Ear Tag Numbers: It is VERY IMPORTANT that exhibitor’s arm band numbers MATCH the ear tag number of the animal. There were several serious problems that arose because of mismatching numbers this year. Several other things brought up to help keep this from becoming a problem next year was to include an ear tag number on the stall card and to number the stalls and have barn superintendents record what ear tag number/participant name is in each stall next year. There was also discussion on what to do when animals lose their ear tag. It was felt that just waiting until weigh-in is NOT ok. Tags should be replaced as soon as they are lost.

Universal ear tags: This discussion was tabled until the November meeting.

Stall cards: Using a universal stall card with both emblems on it was again discussed. It was suggested to include a place for an ear tag number as well.

Stall numbers: It was suggested that at one time stalls in the swine barn were numbered. This could be very useful and is suggested for all species if at all possible, at least the large animals for sure.
Sale:

Do we allow exhibitors to market white ribbon animals? It was felt that this should be NO, as a white ribbon denotes an inferior animal that is NOT ready for market. This NEEDS TO BE IN THE PREMIUM BOOK.

Do we need a floor buyer? There were several problems selling floored animals this year. Discussion was tabled until the November meeting.

Sale Order: Next year’s order will be Swine, Sheep, and Beef. The question was brought up about selling in order of placing with Champion, Reserve, blue ribbons then red ribbons. Buyers asked about this. If we keep up with the random draw should ribbon color be listed on the sale order? Discussion was tabled until November.

Refreshments: This will be discussed at the 4-H leaders meeting. But a question was brought up if the Stockgrowers should provide refreshments rather than try to haul them over from the BBQ. There was a question of providing drinks? (as in something harder than lemonade), perhaps the Stockgrowers could have a gathering before the sale? This is not something that 4-H can do.

Slide Show: The consensus was that this was very nice and we should do it again next year.

Sale Sheets: They need revising before next year. Phone numbers of the buyers should be included on the form.

Add-on forms: Need to be reviewed again before next fair.

Photos of Supreme Champions/buyers/producer: This was well received. It would help to have a pan of feed available to distract the pigs for pictures.

Top buyers/donators banner: Yes, do it again next year!!

Supreme Champion Banners: Yes, these were very nice.

Next meeting date will be Thursday, November 19th 2009 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm