

KENT COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOARD MEETING
October 10, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Sr. and Jr. Directors Present:

Dennis Brown, Bruce Doll, Kay Grinage, Dawn Haase, Kevin Haase, Jason Hofman, Jessica Marks, Nicki Patterson, Lindsay Bielema, Jim Crosby, Luci Shaffer

Sr. and Jr. Directors Excused:

Dave Bielema, Steve Vickers

Sr. and Jr. Directors Unexcused:

Gary Jonker, Dean Olin, Morgan Olin, Thomas Pfaller,

Areas Represented:

Beef, Cavy/Rabbit, Horse, Swine, Poultry, Dog, Goat

Areas Not Represented (excused):

Areas Not Represented (unexcused):

Sheep, Dairy,

Others Present:

Bill Bowers, Jim Steketee, Ron Wenger, Sarah Crosby, Mary Crosby, Pat Mager, Dave Simmonds, Gord VanLaan, Jeff Haase, Maruszka Hufstader, Marilyn Lomashewicz, Candice Russell, Terry Iler

Call to order

The October 10, 2007 meeting was called to order by President Jason Hofman at 7:34 p.m. at the King Memorial Youth Center and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with 11 directors present, 2 members excused and 4 members unexcused.

2007-10-1 Moved by Lindsay Bielema and seconded by Jessica Marks to accept the minutes of the September meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

A profit and loss sheet was presented showing a net income of \$22,915.11 for November 1, 2006 through October 10, 2007.

2007-10-2 Moved by Dennis Brown and seconded by Lindsey Bielema to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Current balances are:

Savings – \$3029.20	Premium Checking – \$8764.81
Checking – \$33,764.67	Livestock Sale - \$107,611.31
CD's - \$10,000.00	

Extension:

Fall Kick-Off Meetings

The first of these meetings took place this past Sat., with the next two coming up on Tuesday the 16th at Sparta Public Schools Admin. Building and Thursday the 25th at the King Building. Both of these meetings will start at 7:00. There is a gift for everyone who

attends, and food is also served. Club participation at one of the meetings is mandatory, as this is when clubs will receive their re-enrollment packets and pertinent info for the upcoming year. Also, please remember that the packets are due to be returned to the office on Dec. 14th.

Committees:

The following had no report – Sponsorship/Commercial, Exhibit Building, Trophies/Ribbons, Still Exhibit, Camping, Parking/Shuttle, Safety, Publicity, Entertainment, Guest Services Office, Technology, Beef, Dairy, Poultry, Dog, Horse, Sheep

Fair Manager/Buildings & Grounds/Midway– RonWenger

Blue Grass Festival went really well. The Wright Sisters were one of the bands and were very good. It was suggested that they would be super at the fair and they are interested. October 11 is the last regular Farmer’s Market. It will also be held on October 13 during the Harvest Festival. The Farmer’s Market is real close to making budget.

The Harvest Festival Craft and Antique Show have 60 vendors. There will be Ghost stories in the Beef Barn.

Storage goes in October 19, 20 and 26, 27.

Livestock – A survey will be sent to buyers to find out their opinions on splitting large and small animals and changing the order of the sale.

There will be an addition added to the fairbook which will be in the packet for fairbook change approvals at the November meeting. It will be in regards to showmanship and having to have your own animal to show. A call had been received from someone asking if they could show in showmanship with out owning the animal. They were not enrolled in the fair and wanted to use one already on the grounds for just showmanship.

Future Livestock Committee meetings are scheduled for November 1 at 7:30 and February 13 at 7:30. Both will be at the King Building.

The Livestock Committee has recommended that the release time be changed to 10:00 from 11:00. Reason being that 11:00 is late and no one from the general public is going through the barns from 10:00 – 11:00.

2007-10-3 Moved by Dennis Brown and seconded by Lindsey Bielema to table the release time recommendation to November so we can evaluate the affects of the change on all areas before deciding. Motion Carried.

Finance – A donation was received in honor of Dave and Jill Bielema for \$100.00. A thank you card will be sent to the donors.

Nominating – Dennis Brown

More people are needed to run for the fairboard. We need new people with ideas and more energy. Please talk to your clubs. It is a commitment. Elections will be in November. The ballot so far is: Seniors-Dennis Brown, Jessica Marks, Dawn Haase. There are spots open. Juniors-No one on the ballot with 3 spots open.

Need to check with Extension to see if they will e-mail the Leaders about the board positions.

Goat – see attached

Rabbit/Cavy – Bill Bowers

The National Rabbit Show is being held at DeVos Place Monday, October 15 – Thursday, October 18. There will be upwards of 22,000 rabbits and all breeds will be represented. Cavy will also be there.

Swine – Gord VanLaan

Weight in will be changed to 7-5 on Saturday.

Public Comments:

Dave Simmonds – The Blue Grass Fall Fest went well. The music was great. The grounds were excellent and the food booth was great. Dave recommends bringing the *Wright Sisters* to the fair. They are already planning for the Spring and Fall Fest for 2008.

Old Business:

2008 Fair Theme – The suggestions were:

“Fair Friends Forever”

“Bushels of Fun....”

“Rural Heritage and Traditions re-emerging to Reshape our Suburban Lifestyles”

“Harvesting Traditions”

The 2008 Fair Theme is “**Harvesting Traditions**”.

Lease – We made some changes to the lease that was presented to us by the City. The revised copy has been turned back in. We need a copy of “Exhibit A” which shows the outline of the fairgrounds from the City.

Fair Book Changes – Changes were due to Kay today, October 10. A packet of all recommended changes will be presented at the November meeting for approval.

Blue Grass Food Booth – Pat Mager

There were not a lot of volunteers to help in the Food Booth which the proceeds go to the Fair. It was a cold weekend, 27 hot chocolates were sold in 2006 and 150 were sold this year. Pinkney Hill donated all of the meat. After all the bills were paid there was a profit of \$1066.31. It was requested that the money go toward the small animal barn fund.

New Business:

Country Cowboys – Terry Iler

There are 4 registered instructors for Shooting Sports and they are interested in getting this category up and running. Shooting Sports is the fastest growing segment of 4-H. There are currently about 20 kids interested in this program. It is thought that this program would be held prior to fair before the animals are brought in. Back stops are movable. There would be different age divisions. Air Rifles and Archery could be held on the fairgrounds, the rest would be off grounds. The instructors are working with some of the Sportsmen’s Clubs. Right now they are looking at having an educational exhibit and maybe have an exhibition during fair to get some more interest.

We checked past fairbooks and found that this program had been in the 2006 Fairbook. Terry will meet with Kay to review it and possibly have it added back into the Fairbook for 2008. We can then work out the logistics.

Carnival – We have not yet signed a new contract with Elliott’s Amusements. They are interested in having a long term relationship with us. Ron suggested signing a one year contract so we have something secured before convention. The contract is to state what is to be brought, no substitutions, and a cost for defaulting on the contract.

2007-10-4 Moved by Jessica Marks and seconded by Jim Crosby that we sign a one year contract with Elliott’s Amusements for 2008.

Ron will put together a contract and bring it to the November Meeting before signing it.

2007-10-5 Moved by Jessica Marks and seconded by Lindsay Bielema to amend motion to have Barb Helsing with Michigan Department of Agriculture review the contract before signing. Amendment Carried.

2007-10-4A Motion carried as amended.

Matching Money – Fairs receive matching money from the State each year. We usually get just over \$14,000.00. We did receive our first payment for 2007. Unfortunately, due to the new budget, we will not be receiving our second payment for 2007 and no payments for 2008. Matching Money has been removed from the State Budget. The State is still paying for Premiums. Please write your legislatures and representatives and tell them how important fairs are to you and our community and how important it is that they continue to fund them.

Pancake Dinner – This year we are having a pancake dinner rather than the breakfast to coincide with the new Lowell Night Time Santa Parade. We will start serving at 4:00. Volunteers are needed and welcome!

Workshop – There will be a Fair Board member only workshop on Monday, October 15 at 7:30.

November Meetings – There are TWO meetings in November. The regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 14 and the annual meeting on Wednesday, November 21. Both are at the King Building at 7:30 p.m.

Correspondence – The following were received:

A letter was received complementing the work Ron does for the Fair and keeping the grounds nice.

Steve Vickers came through surgery and is expected to have a full recovery. We have sent him a basket.

2007-10-6 Moved by Dennis Brown and seconded by Bruce Doll to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicki Patterson, Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the King Building.

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON A SEPARATE NIGHT THIS YEAR. IT WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:30 AT THE KING BUILDING!!

Goat Division Fair Report
10/2/07

I have a good report regarding the goat division. For fair we had 52 exhibitors and 61 goats. The number of exhibitors was about the same as last year but we had about 9 less goats. Declarations initially were higher than last year, but we had a few exhibitors who scratched and a few who brought less goats than they declared.

Vet check went well and Dr. Hart reported that each year the goats have looked better. I have seen more evidence of good health care as reflected in the record books. More exhibitors had health information listed showing good herd practices.

I was very happy to see more exhibitors taking care of their pens as opposed to their parents. Events ran well and all our trophies were sponsored before fair. I also saw an improvement in barn duty and more presence in the barn by exhibitors. The barn rules listed on the declaration form (new for 2007) were very effective.

This was the first fair since the GDC was formed and I can't begin to say how much that impacted the fair. Club leaders and parents helped so much and I am especially grateful to Kathy Trapp for taking charge of the flowers outside the goat barn. It looked great!

Our Goat Developmental Committee met on Sept. 11. We reviewed Fair and planned for our 2nd Goat Fun Day, the day was set for March 29. We will be having it at the extension office next year as we are planning some smaller breakout workshops and will need some smaller rooms besides a big room.

On a personal note I would like to thank the fairboard for all they did during fair week. Considering the loss of E.L. Phelps right before fair and the personal loss many of you were feeling, I was so impressed with the perseverance in running the fair. In a time such as this I think we all saw the measure of our fairboard. Speaking for the committee we thank you!