The November 17th meeting of the Dawson Livestock Committee was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by chair Carlena Quinn. Those present were Carlena, Chris Undem, Lorie & Kristy Cullinan, Dean & Marnie Rau, Desiree Hoffer, Tana & Alexis Canen.

**Under Old Business**

* December 28, 2016 4-6 pm is confirmed with Vaughn and he will be available and willing to run the weigh-in for us this year.
* Nothing has been done to certify our scale at the fairgrounds yet. Julie found out the cost is $64/year to certify. Gary Huber is willing to give use of his portable scale if we cannot certify ours.
* Kurt Froehlich is confirmed for both Showmanship day and Judging for 2017 at same cost.
* Melonie Oliver is donating her time for judging round robin this last year and offered to do a clinic for dairy this next year. Tana will send her a thank you.
* Cody & Lorie Cowan from Sentinel Butte were suggested last meeting for anything but beef. Lorie will talk to them and ask for goat and whatever else they would like to judge.
* Regarding lighting & electricity, there are a couple things left in the west wing to wire that were not completed prior to fair. Julie was talking to Shawn after last meeting about completing those. We have no update.
* Friends of 4-H who will be honored by the Council are our suggestions of Runnings and Farmers Elevator along with Enchanted Room.
* Chris Undem gave an update on animal processing. He visited with all of the processors. Powder River is the only one who has paid the kill fees collected. He will keep MQM posted with projected numbers as we have weigh-ins. Processors are glad to have 1 contact person as we move forward.
* A general flyer advertising the sale will be created for everyone to use and will be mailed out as has been done in the past along with brochure and letter. Kids will go to businesses as they wish. It was discussed that we should have the letter mailed out sooner (early to mid July) so we give about a month notice to businesses.
* Marnie updated us that she has invoiced the youth for fees. Very few have paid at this point.
* Record book requirement for sale of animals, as per the rule set by Council last year, if steer records were not in by October 3rd, member will not be allowed to weigh in a steer in December or take the steer project for 2017. We have 2 members who have not submitted record forms. One who had extenuating circumstances will be given until December 1st. We will have Jackie notify the member. The other has not re-enrolled so we do not expect any animals with that person.
* Dean Rau was voted as vice chair of the committee.
* We see having a liaison with the fair board as ideal. The person will go to fair board meetings after ours and be a contact person to keep lines of communication open. Carlena will be that person.
* A cleanup day to-do list will be put together by Desiree with Marnie’s help. Suggestions are welcome as people see a need.
* Termite damage to one sheep gate in the horse barn has us concerned that there may be a termite problem. Carlena will talk to fair board about it.
* Sale order was discussed. In past years, sheep were sold before the steers.
	+ Hogs will be sold first and steers last with lambs and whatever other animals sold in the middle.
	+ It was passed that we will have 3 livestock committee members set random sale order and insure that no member sells 2 of a given species before all species participants have sold 1 animal of that species. Those 3 people will be determined at our next meeting.
* Discussion of including small animals in the sale led us to recommend that the Small Animal committee manage their own animal sales.
* There was discussion regarding the order of judging on Friday as listed in the paper. We decided that the ad and fair book should state that livestock judging starts at 8 a.m. with hogs and list of other animals in order of showing, but no time listed for each as it really depends on the judge and the number of entries in each class. We will be sure to set an outline and let all exhibitors know the exact order.
* Carlena called American Bank Center to thank them again for the meal and to ask if they would like to do that again or possibly clerk the sale. She has not yet heard back from them. Marnie stated that she would prefer to not do the checks for the livestock sale.
* Marnie will draft a spreadsheet for market animals as a final checklist for confirming project completion for each member. The form will include: beginning wt., ending wt., check box for having completed the series book, stall fees, brand inspection, check off fees, BQA completion, etc. The indoor judge will sign off that the series book was judged as complete on Monday.
* Anyone who is a new junior or new senior must complete the Beef Quality Assurance. We will ask Jackie to check into this, notify members, and set a due date for completion (committee suggests March 1st).
* Ultra-sounding sheep again for the carcass competition was discussed. We would like feedback from sheep members to help in making a decision. We will also plan to have a judge for the carcasses at MQA as decided two years ago – possibly the USDA inspector or the butcher at MQA.

**Under new business**:

* We discussed the idea that at NILE, before the animal check is handed out, a thank you note to buyer must be handed in to office by the youth. Desiree stated that GLE receives very few written thank you’s for the animals they purchase and that is a LOT of money.
	+ Committee passed the motion to have the same requirement in Dawson County. Members will have to hand a written, stamped thank you to Jackie before they will be given their check.
* A budget for 2017 will be required for the committee to ensure that the overall county budget works. Marnie will put material together. People are asked to send her their ideas.
* A North Dakota livestock showmanship manual was handed out to everyone to look at and we will compare to Montana regulations and move forward in creating a new one for our county.

February 16 will be the next meeting at 7 p.m. at the Library Basement.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tana Canen, Secretary