A livestock committee meeting was held August 28, 2018 at the 4-H Food Booth building. The meeting was called to order by committee chair Carlena Quinn at 7:03 pm. In attendance were Dean Rau, Jessica Stroh, Sarah and Ryan Thorson, Bruce Smith, Chris and Sarah Undem, Amber Nentwig, Stefanie Meek, Tanya Gobbs, Leanne Hoagland, Ross Canen, and Desiree Hoffer.

The meeting started with New Business. Carlena as committee chairperson and Dean as vice-chair both announced they were stepping down from their positions. A motion was made by Sarah T. to nominate Ryan for committee chair and seconded by Jessica. There was discussion on waiting until the next meeting to hold nominations/elections for the open positions so the roles and expectations of the chair/vice-chair could be defined in hopes that this would limit turnover in the position. Carlena said she would help anyone taking on the chair position get started to ease the transition. There was also discussion that we needed to fill the roles right away as we have issues that will need to be addressed in the immediate future with changes to the fair in 2019. With no further discussion and no further nominations for chair, Ryan Thorson was elected chairman of the committee by unanimous vote.

Ryan took over chair duties at the meeting. Sarah T. then nominated Jessica for vice-chair which was seconded by Chris. No other nominations were made and by unanimous vote, Jessica was elected vice-chair of the committee.

Fair reports were then given by barn superintendents. Ryan reported on the beef barn. Overall, he thought things went well with very few issues other than some cleanliness in some of the stalls. It was noted that the swamp cooler in the beef barn was a lifesaver for the animals as we dealt with the extreme heat during fair weekend.

Amber reported on the pig barn. She felt overall things went well given how hot it was for the pigs during the fair. One issue was a family not watering the pigs frequently enough and having a dirty pen. This was also an issue in the past regarding the same family. There was discussion on having a policy in place to address issues that come up in regards to feed, watering, cleaning stalls, etc. Sarah read a policy example from the MT State Fair. The recommendation was made to review all livestock rules and policies at the next meeting and have any new rules/policies in place by the first of the year (January).

Leanne reported on the sheep/goat barn. Leanne mentioned there are no lights and limited access to power in this barn which is a safety issue. Lights and electrical were discussed as a needed improvement in all barns. More power would need to be run to the barns to make any improvements in this area. The suggestion was made to not take off the gates to the sheep pens because of the time it takes to remove gates and then put them back on. This year, even more time was spent putting gates back on to due to the pigeon issues in the horse barn where the gates are stored. Each gate had to be power washed to remove significant pigeon droppings. There was discussion on damage done to the gates/stalls when the gates are left on, and horses are penned in them during the year. It was suggested to contact Kortney Diegel with the DCC rodeo team to see how we could leave the gates on but also ensure that 4-H is not fixing and paying for damages incurred by non-4-Hers.

Clerking the buyer's’ table at the fair was then discussed. Dean reported that Marnie was done clerking the sale. There were issues with weight/#’s being transposed on the sale order which led to weights/prices being wrong on invoices. Due to our change in processing animals after fair, the processing fee wasn’t removed from some of the invoices. Marnie is still willing to cut checks, etc. to send to kids after the sale, but will not work the table. It was noted we need to have a sale order posted early Saturday morning so we can insure all weights are correct and all animals accounted for in the order.

Chris reported on the weigh-in and processing of animals. All animals were processed no later than Thursday following the fair. Overall, this was better than expected given the timeframe we had to change our plans to handle the processing. Chris said each of the processors told him they liked how things went. Ultrasound was discussed. One suggestion was to start ultrasounding animals earlier if we do, in fact, decide to continue with that versus a live carcass show.

At this point, some new business was brought forward. Showing thanks/appreciation to Hubers, Granmoes, and ladies from US Bank who clerked the sale with gift certificates was suggested. Chris made a motion to do the same as last year in regards to giving gift certificates to those mentioned and if Granmoes were given something last year to give them the same thing as Hubers. Dean seconded the motion. Motion passed. Dean was asked to have Marnie look back to see what/where she wrote checks for last year in this regard.

Friends of 4-H was discussed. Carlena motioned that the livestock committee nominate Granmoes for their many years of auctioning the livestock sale. Chris seconded the motion, and the motion passed. This nomination will be passed along to the Council.

There was then discussion about sending a letter to buyers who will receive corrected invoices to explain changes to the invoices. Carlena read the letter in current draft form. It was suggested to simplify the letter to indicate the council was refunding money due to a clerical error. Jessica said she would revise the letter, have the executive committee approve revisions, and send the letter to Marnie to send.

The final bit of business discussed was to once again look at the showmanship manual and finalize any revisions needed. It was suggested to have a sub-committee look at the manual. Due to a crabby and tired secretary, the meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will take place in October, time, date and location TBD.