

**EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2022**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jenette Masarie – Weld County Fair
William Nelson
Rick Bowen
Erin Mathews
Lori Stevens
Pat Kindvall
Michelle Langston-Minutes

Hannah Swanbom
Sean Short
Sean Short
Gary Schaneman
Amy Cooksey
Josh Docheff

ABSENT:

Commissioner Buck
Mike Schwan

William Owsley

Amy Cooksey welcomed the group and called the meeting of the Weld County Extension Advisory Council to order at 12: 00 pm. The minutes were approved by Gary Schaneman and seconded by Sean Short. The board then introduced themselves and shared something they are doing this fall or have done since the last meeting.

Will Nelson – Livestock Member – currently putting up a new pole barn at the house.

Sean Short – Master Gardener/Horticulture Member – just published a new book called Thinking Outside the Soil. This book will give you the foundational knowledge to grow feed for livestock with less water using simple techniques, although this is not a complete guide to Hydroponics. The book presents proven hydroponic practices that save water and optimize fodder quality. You can use these simple principles and your current knowledge and animals to optimize your farm. He is also currently working on a grant with Amy on hydroponic farming. If anyone is interested in participating or have input for the grant, please let Sean know.

Rick Bowen – At Large Member – just finished a consulting meeting with JD Heiskell, which went well and they have a manufacturing plant in Platteville, and they focused on leadership development. The meeting they had last night was a guitar build, they had 5 teams of nine people and each team had to build a guitar using an I-pad, earning parts for the guitar by doing trivia or something like that.

Whoever got their guitar built first was a gold medal winner. At the last meeting in Ft. Worth, they did a wheelchair build. The builds that are done get donated to charities, so the wheelchairs went to the veterans and the guitars went to a music outreach program California.

Erin Mathews – Energy (Oil and Gas) Member – a couple of weeks ago Weld County held an energy symposium and she attend, which was very interesting. She would like to push them to get the word out more to get more attendance. The did a lot this year with energy efficiency and tiny home projects for veterans. It was a two-day event at UNC.

Gary Schaneman – Business Member – was looking at the environment this year and the trees in the fall looked awesome in the area. Crops have been good except for the dryland farmers who didn't have such a good year.

Lori Stevens – 4-H and Youth Member – Has been helping with the Highland FFA

Amy Cooksey – 4-H and Youth Member – just finished with Daughter's wedding, which went great, apart from getting a large amount of rain a couple of days before. They ended up having to change the

site because of it. Right now, they are in the middle of pumpkin harvesting which they then take to Walmart to be sold.

Pat Kindvall – At Large Member – She has been working with an overabundance of tomatoes this year and ended making a lot of salsas and sauces.

Josh Docheff – Livestock Member – Has been putting collars on cows that track heat, movement, respirations, eating time, etc., for some research.

Hannah gave the Director's report. The Horticulture position is now live after a failed search this Summer. Hoping to have someone here by the first of December. If this is possible, should be able to introduce them at the next meeting. In terms of Master Gardeners, there were 19 applications for incoming individuals to be a part of the program. Interviews will be next week.

It is now the start of the new 4-H year. We had recognition night a couple of weeks ago and had about 375 in attendance to honor our leaders and 4-H youth.

November 29th is our Mardi Gras and is our biggest fundraiser for the 4-H Foundation. Come and join the fun.

Also, if you noticed, we have decorated pumpkins up front. If you haven't voted yet, please do so as we had a little interoffice competition going on. It was a team building even and that was part of our team building.

We are closed on Monday as the staff will be in Ft Collins at the Annual Forum for the week.

As for the EFNEP position we had a failed search as both candidates we had chosen backed out of the position. Hoping to get it going again in the Spring.

Commissioner Buck was unable to attend the meeting so there is no Commissioner update.

Before turning the program over to Jenette, all of you bring a certain expertise/information in your fields to the council. Hannah would like to throw out an idea out to you all to think about. She, Kim, and others have been talking about trying to get the Council members more involved with Extension. We know how busy you are, but we don't feel like we're utilizing you all enough and would like to use your knowledge more. We were thinking of a project. 4-H used to do a career day where take kids around to different organizations to learn about what they do. The school used to do it and provide the transportation and it eventually ended up being Kim and others driving them around, then getting them back to school so it was eventually stopped. We were wondering about doing a sort of career fair for hosting people/organizations to really show off the industries here in Weld County that kids may or may not know that there is a career opportunity in a certain area and was wondering if that would be something of interest that you all would be able to assist with. We thought of putting something together for 2024 and house it here at Island Grove. We would like to be able to engage you all more, if possible, other than just at a meeting every other month, but would like to see you more and get involved with extension office. The reason for waiting until 2024 is that the schools already have their schedules planned for 2023 and this give them time to get it on their calendars. The districts are already booked out for the coming year, hence 2024. Our vision is to open it up for all Weld County youth and not just the 4-H. Also, if we need to budget for it, that will give us time to plan for the cost. One idea was to talk to some of the buyers from the Livestock Sale to see if any of them would be interest in having students come and hear about the business and what they do.

Jenette Masarie gave a program update on the Weld County Fair. She just finished her 3rd Fair, as she started in the midst of COVID. Jenette then showed a short clip that the photographer made about this year's Fair. The photographer was actually able to get PDC to sponsor the photography for the

fair. This made it possible for the youth to download their photo at no cost to them. That is why you see the company logo at the bottom of the photo. The fair began on July 24th with the Livestock Sale being August 1st. This year, we had a lot of entries. The Fair Sponsorship Committee raised over \$95,000 for the fair this year.

There were 900 projects entered in the fair and we had 340 exhibits. Our dog show, this year, had 65 entries between Trial and obedience, Rally and Showmanship. Between breeding and market beef, there were 172 entries and 97 exhibitors, and for the Dairy Show there were 45 entries and 17 exhibitors. For the market and breeding goat show, there were 168 entries and 90 exhibitors. There were 945 entries for about 65 exhibitors for the horse show this year. The events included Western, Green Horse, English, Showmanship and more. The poultry show was a little different this year due to HPAI. Sadly, we couldn't have any live birds on the grounds, but managed to still put on a showmanship and virtual show. We used stuffed animal chickens for showmanship and allowed the exhibitors to complete an educational display board for them to be eligible for Premier Exhibitor.

There were a total of 150 breeding and market entries from 40 poultry exhibitors.

For the rabbit show this year, there were 11 market entries and 15 breeding entries and all the exhibitors participated in showmanship.

In the market and breeding sheep show, there were about 150 entries and 75 exhibitors. The market and breeding swine show had about 350 entries and 150 exhibitors this year.

Better living and Agriculture Open Division had 950 entries this year. We were glad it's coming back since it was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID. This show is open to all ages, so please encourage people you know to enter in 2023! We had a large quilt show this year and there were about 70 quilts that came through.

We had our first Ranch Rodeo at the fair this year and was excited to add this event as it brought in more of the public to the fair. It was a very good event and there was a lot of interest, and it was free to anyone who wanted to attend. It was held on Sunday which is our community day and the event was after the BBQ. There were 10 teams that entered the event and we contracted with a gentleman from Wyoming. He did a great job and we were even able to get the awards sponsored. The contestants really enjoyed the Rodeo and would like to do it again.

Some other events we had included the following. The Royalty contest for the new Royalty court for the following year and also the Royalty for a Day where the youth can sign up and be with the Royalty for the day, doing arts and crafts, etc.

We had the all-around showmanship for small and large animals where the kids come on Sunday, that placed top in their showmanship classes during fair, and compete against others, and other species for the overall showmanship.

We also had the Bucket Calf Show which is always cute! The little kids bring their calf and parade them with a lot of the calves being dressed up in costume and the kiddos tell us about their calf.

We had the community BBQ that was open to the public on Sunday. We had about 1500 people that attended and followed by that, we had the awards ceremony where we present our Premier Exhibitor, the New Royalty Court and recognize Fairboard members, staff, and volunteers. Then we had the Rocket Fly Day and fun carriage rides going around the fair.

On August 1st, we had our Jr. Livestock Sale and broke another record. We finished out at 1.5 million dollars this year. The sale means so much to the kids, fair staff and volunteers, Weld County and so many more people. We could not do it without everyone's continued support and we are beyond grateful to give these kids this great opportunity.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Weld County Fair, please contact Jenette Masarie at jmasarie@weldgov.com or call (970) 400-2069. The 2023 Weld County Fair is scheduled for July 22nd – July 31st with the Livestock Sale being on the 31st.

With no further business or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on December 15th at noon at the Extension Office. Rick Bowen will be the chair for the meeting and the work session begins at 10 a.m.