

Columbia County 4-H Leaders' Council
November 20, 2008

(Prior to the meeting, representatives filled out a Youth Engagement Tool, assessing to what extent youth leaders are engaged in Leaders' Council.)

Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Angela Jensson at 7:25 pm. Seven clubs were present, and since eight are needed for a quorum to conduct official business, reports were given, but no action taken.

Correspondence: A thank you note from Karen Nelson was read.

Committee reports:

- Livestock Committee: Joanne Dalton reported again that members are very concerned about a proposed change by the fair board. She attended the last fair board meeting to present a recommendation from the Livestock committee that only youth 3rd grade and above, who live in Columbia County or belong to Columbia County youth organizations, be allowed to show the junior division of the county fair. It was noted that if our county fair allows outside youth to enter, we would be an "island" because no other surrounding counties do this. Leaders present also expressed concern that breed associations may allow youth to enter in their shows at younger ages, but it was felt that a uniform age of 3rd grade is more appropriate. The fair board did not take any action, so all 4-H members and leaders are encouraged to communicate with the fair board about this issue, or attend their next meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 2, 2008 at Pizza Hut in Portage.
- Ambassador selection: Three youth were interviewed and were selected to serve as ambassadors: Amanda Wendt, Rosie Herschleb, and Ben Ehlert.
- MES selection: 7 youth were selected for Youth Conference, and 3 for National 4-H Conference.
- Foods: A new event has been planned: an International Foods event for Foods, Food Preservation, and Breads project members on Friday, January 23, 6-8 pm. Members will make foods to display and sample.
- Clothing and Quilting: members recently held a service meeting, and made cat hammocks for the Humane Society.
- Cloverbuds: the event at the Damm farm was well attended and very enjoyable.
- Fair Board: There will be a judges' training in the areas of cultural arts and family living projects on Jan 12 at Chula Vista, in conjunction with the state association meeting.
- Arts and Crafts Committee: Chase Richards has contacted the Lodi Art Club, and they are willing to set up some learning sessions for all interested 4-H members in different techniques of drawing and painting.

Old Business:

- No report on the shelters for the 4-H Eat Stand.

- Visioning: Karen suggested, and members present agreed that we focus on forming goals and plans from the results of the Youth Engagement process.
- Awards and Recognition: this committee will look at attendance and activities associated with the Awards Day program for possible alternatives.
- Officer training: 34 people attended; participants enjoyed learning about team-building activities as well as ice breakers and officer skills.

New Business:

- Clarified that 2nd graders are to sign up as Cloverbuds, not Explorers, as stated in the Project Guide. 2nd graders may use Exploring literature, if desired. A change has been submitted for the fair book, to allow Cloverbuds to enter 6 items, instead of 3.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Becky Gutzman, Secretary

Clubs present:

Arlington Prairie Producers

Durwards Glen

Inch True Blues

Leeds Prairie Pals

New Directions

North Scott

Welsh Prairie Livewires