Introduction
In attendance were:
- Rhiannon Beauregard, State Program Coordinator
- Julia Blood, Cheshire County
- Jolee Chase, Hillsborough County
- Kim Hudson, Cheshire County
- Guy LaRochelle, Merrimack County
- Alaina Seavey, Cheshire County
- Julie Walker, Work Study Assistant

Representing:
- Merrimack County Livestock
- Switch’n Horns
- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

After introductions Ms. Beauregard thanked all for attending.

Announcements
Ms. Beauregard wished to remind all members of the upcoming:
- 4-H Animal Science Bonanza
  - Will take place on January 11th, 2014 in Walpole, New Hampshire.
  - The clinic will encompass workshops tailored toward the 4-H beef, goat, horse and poultry programs.
  - Activities will include guest lectures, quiz bowl competitions, a scotch auction and a scavenger hunt.
  - Speakers may include a veterinary ovine ultrasound specialist, a veterinarian discussing biosecurity, nutritionists and other specialists. Further recommendations and suggestions for speakers are welcomed and encouraged.
  - The flyer and entry form will be sent out soon.
  - The program is highly recommended by all participants and serves as an excellent preparatory activity for those who wish to attend Eastern States Exposition.

2014 Recommended Preparation Activities
Every year in order to better prepare exhibitors for Eastern States Exposition the committee compiles a list of recommended activities that 4-H beef participants are strongly encouraged to attend. Projected 2014 activities include:
Be A Champ Show Cattle Camp
- Held in June at the Eastern States fairground in West Springfield, MA.
- Those who attended had an excellent experience and give the program rave reviews. Many wish to attend the program again, but it is unclear whether or not the program will return in 2014. To rectify this, Ms. Beauregard will reach out to the coordinators. UPDATE: Rhiannon called

UMASS Massachusetts 4-H Beef Camp
- Will run in May at the Tri County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA.
- Professional instructors will provide hands on instruction to exhibitors of all ages and experience levels.
- Past participants highly recommended the program.

Judging Clinic
- Mr. LaRochelle intends to host the clinic on March 15th, 2014 at his farm.
- Tentatively, the workshop will offer instruction regarding the evaluation of beef cattle, sheep, goats and swine. This may change due to available of the livestock in question. More information will be forthcoming.

Beef Cook-Off
- Many members of the committee expressed interest in organizing and coordinating a cooking workshop for those interested in participating in 4-H beef cooking contests. Ideas include:
  - Creating an event that incorporates food safety and fundamental cooking skills.
  - May be combined with the 4-H dairy grilled cheese cook-off.
  - Ideas for the venue include the Stratham or Deerfield fairs.
  - It was suggested that funds for the event may be acquired through a federal Healthy Kids grant. Ms. Beauregard will explore this further.
- Committee members are encouraged to explore these options and bring any ideas to the next meeting.

Cheshire County 4-H Beef Field Day
- Set to take place in Swanzey New Hampshire sometime in April.
- This event is open to all counties and exhibitors are encouraged to bring their own animal.
- There will be a mandatory meeting for parents of youth intending to participate at Eastern States. This year, the parents meeting will be geared toward informing parents of the “Big E” agenda and participation requirements.
- The workshop will encompass proper fitting and showmanship techniques and other various topics concerning the production of a quality show animal.

Overall, it was reiterated throughout the discussion that more preparation should be offered for unseasoned competitors and for Eastern States delegations. The recommendation was made to offer an explanation of classes and preparation activities in
the Eastern States confirmation letter. Furthermore, it would be beneficial for first time competitors to attend a presentation given by “Big E” alumni to hear a peer’s perspective on the event. In the interest of time, further discussion was suspended and members were encouraged to submit the topic for debate at the next committee meeting.

**Review of 2013 New Hampshire 4-H Beef Program**

To say that the New Hampshire beef team competed well at Eastern States would be an understatement. This year the NH delegation had a record breaking year with excellent participation from all members and all had a wonderful team attitude. Many members attribute this to the preparation activities that allowed exhibitors to bond and work as a team in the pre-season. These events also lead to a remarkable increase in the confidence of the delegates both in and out of the show ring. But, this season was not without its challenges. Several situations brought to light deficiencies in the program that need to be rectified. In qualifying for Eastern States competitors need to only submit the proper paperwork on time and attend a mandatory orientation meeting. This often leads to youth coming to the show unprepared and overwhelmed, but it is not in the committee’s interest to limit participation in the event. In order to better prepare participants the committee moved to amend the intent form to include the statement that: “Exhibitors are expected to attend a majority of the preparation activities. Attendance is essential to build a competitive team.” Participation will be emphasized at the mandatory orientation and parents will be informed that the committee will monitor youth preparedness and will take action to remedy any perceived deficiencies appropriately. Furthermore, with any Eastern States entry form proof of ownership must be provided. This new requirement will be stated on the intent form.

**Eastern States Exposition 4-H Beef Committee**

The current youth delegate to the council is Erik Fredrickson but it is unclear if he will continue his role on the committee. This will be discussed further by the committee. Ms. Beauregard made the motion to remind members that youth participation is essential to these meetings and youth input is invaluable when making decisions. Committee members are urged to encourage youth participation on councils.

**Future Meetings and Ideas**

It was decided that the committee meet biannually in February and again in November. The group also brought to the table the idea of participation at the national level. The subsequent discussion touched upon formalizing judging qualifications, applying for funding, and developing a plan for preparedness. In the interest of time the discussion was suspended until the next gathering. At that point the meeting was adjourned.