

## NH 4-H Livestock Curriculum Committee Meeting

December 19, 2015, NH Farm Bureau Office, Concord NH

### Attendance:

Olivia Briggs, Youth Member, Cheshire County  
Wendy Bolles for Tiffany Briggs, Adult Volunteer, Cheshire County  
Kelly Wright, Adult Volunteer, Cheshire County  
Corie Bliss, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Tammy Cargill, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Jolee Chase, 4-H Program Coordinator Hillsborough County  
Lily Ciofrone, Youth Member, Hillsborough County  
Rose Ciofrone, Youth Member, Hillsborough County  
Vicki Ciofrone, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Chapelle Haggarty, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Carol Starkie, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Nic Strong, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Jennifer Winslow, Adult Volunteer, Hillsborough County  
Michelle Bersaw-Robblee, 4-H Program Coordinator, Merrimack County  
Jacob Fisher, Youth Member, Merrimack County  
Hayden Gardner, Youth Member, Merrimack County  
Lauren Gardner, Youth Member, Merrimack County  
Sarah Gardner, Adult Volunteer, Merrimack County  
Marianne Hromis, Adult Volunteer, Merrimack County  
Guy LaRoche, Adult Volunteer, Merrimack County  
Iris LaRoche, Youth Member, Merrimack County  
Erin Asselin, Adult Volunteer, Rockingham County  
Pattie Davis, Adult Volunteer, Rockingham County  
Daniel Chute, Adult Volunteer, Sullivan County  
Mary Davis, 4-H Program Coordinator Animal and Ag Science, State 4-H Office

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Jolee Chase

Introductions were made of all youth and adults present.

### Review of the 2015 Fair Season:

Stratham Fair: Marianne spoke about the variety of activities offered, including forestry, horticulture, livestock judging, and tractor driving. There were lots of opportunities for 4-Hers to work together. Jen said that is her son's favorite fair with plenty of activities; Marianne said they love showing the sheep at night when it is cooler. Being the first fair of the year, everyone is excited to be there.

Cheshire Fair: Wendy is the Open Beef Superintendent – there have been changes from Combined Open and 4-H to separate 4-H fairs then back to combined in 2015. There will need to be more open herds

showing before 4-H will be separated from the open show. There was a combined team fitting contest in 2015, and 2016 looking into a cook-off.

Belknap Fair: Sarah Gardner spoke about Belknap: It was very small; it was the first show for her kids to show goats. They also showed swine this year. It was not ideal due to the number of stalls and no swine ring. It is a good starter show. The show ends in the early evening. Wish they had more space for livestock. Overall it was a very positive experience. Jolee also mentioned there were 10 goats, 6 swine, 2 sheep a few dairy & 3 beef. The dog show was the biggest animal event. They do accept entries from other counties. Some people just want to come in for show day and do not want to stay throughout the fair. That has been one of the reason for the drop in the sheep numbers.

Cornish Fair: Jen spoke about the open and 4-H shows. They do a great job with judges. Kids love getting together to scope out the competition for bigger fairs and get some practice. Olivia mentioned that it is fun. She likes that they have skill-a-thon practices and the Farm Bureau does a general livestock test. Jolee mentioned that Cornish Fair has a sheep show that is open to other counties. They do not have a swine show. They offer very nice prizes in the sheep show.

Lancaster Fair: Jolee said that there was a small 4-H sheep show and a small beef show. Some participants were from Vermont. It is a very enjoyable fair, but a long drive for many.

Hopkinton Fair: Guy said that the numbers are growing. They offer forestry, skill-a-thon and had a parade with the animals that was new in 2015. There were some minor timing glitches, but overall it went well. They had nice prizes. The Beef show is trying to add Highlanders and Lowlines. They also had some educational events such as clipping demo and a judging clinic. Sarah said there were 5 swine. Other counties would be welcome if space allows. The public seems to enjoy the costume class. Marianne said that the sheep show was great. They had good prizes. The all species quiz bowl that was done in prior years was not held, and they would like to bring it back. There were a lot of new/younger participants.

Rochester Fair: Jolee said that people were paid to bring animals and make presentations. The visitors at Rochester Fair sometimes cause problems. It is not a 4-H Fair.

Deerfield Fair: Patty said that the kids like doing quiz bowl and would like it offered. There was a big goat and sheep show. Marianne said it was chilly but the 4-Hers had a great time. There was a poster contest (also at Hopkinton) that was enjoyed and helped decorate the barns. The fair went very well.

Hillsborough Fair: Vicki said that poultry was moved and there was not enough space in the poultry area. Biosecurity was much easier. The bird flu could affect the show depending on where it is next year. The sheep show went well and drew a crowd. The agility and costume classes were a hit. Chappelle said the swine barn was new and full. It was just going to be an exhibit, but the kids wanted to show. There was willingness among the volunteers to educate the kids. There is opportunity to grow more 4-H events. Jen said the beef show went well. The judge did some education with the kids – for some it was their only beef show. Beef group is hoping for more room for animals. Dan said the Market Lamb auction went well. There were good quality animals. More buyers are needed.

Sandwich Fair: Lauren said she showed pigs and goats; there were meetings for the youth and she enjoyed it. There is a nice big ring for the pig show. The exhibitors were asked for and gave feedback about the barn and suggestions for changes to the superintendent. They are going to add tents for tack and an area of crushed stone for washing animals. The open show was cancelled in 2014, but it was brought back in 2015. Need to keep the numbers up. Iris said that the sheep show had open and 4-H held at the same time. The superintendent was very nice. There was no quiz bowl. It was nice to get everyone together.

Judge evaluations: Jolee passed around judge evaluation forms, and asked people to please complete and mail or email with comments.

Educational Events at Fairs: Other than what was mentioned above, Michelle asked what different fairs were doing. Iris mentioned that Stratham had a demo of washing and blowing. Hopkinton had a fitting and clipping demo. Public would stop and watch the demonstrations. Sandwich had an opportunity for public to handle pigs, but it was not held in 2015. They may go back to it. Some fairs have impromptu actions exhibits/demos. Stratham Fair has demonstrations in the 4-H exhibit building. Marianne mentioned bock and trim demos where older kids are often teamed with younger ones; this is a great experience for the kids.

Kelly would like to see livestock judging at every fair. Have it with whatever species available. It would also be great to have a combined overall showman with the champions in each species showing all the species for the overall champion.

Jen would like to see more livestock judging and a culminating championship livestock judging event at a fair or a regional contest. This helps teach judging and animal purchasing skills.

Marianne mentioned that there are many videos available, some of kids teaching kids. Many judging clinic videos.

Kelly would like to see team showmanship with younger and more experienced youth paired.

#### Other Educational Opportunities

April 9<sup>th</sup>, Livestock Judging Clinic with Guy LaRochelle. This clinic will include Selection and Feeding of Market Animals (in preparation of the auction in September)

June Fryeburg Sheep Camp – free, and you can camp there.

Sheep Clinic 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in July (weekend before New England Youth Show)

Maine Beef Expo has a clinic

Big East Show at ESE has clinics with professional fitters. It is free and a great but very intense experience. Bring the entire family – parents and youth can all learn.

Cheshire Beef Field Day is a great local learning opportunity.

The Stock Show University Clinic held at Fryeburg is a great experience. For the beef youth. The clinic is sponsored by Sullivan Supply, Inc. and is a worthwhile free experience, with a lot of give aways. There is interest in doing this in NH, but would need a place with an indoor arena and plenty of electricity.

We could consider a clinic with our own resources. Guy, Louann Wilson, Olivia Briggs– Beef Kelly – Sheep; we have others not mentioned with the expertise to help.

Farm to Table Career trip: Mary: spoke about the event planned for summer 2016. It will be 2 days, 1 night with 4-Hers staying at the UNH dorms. The planning process is just starting; it is likely the group will visit farms, farmers markets, food related businesses, possibly fisherman's cooperative pier, and a farm to table restaurant. Maryann mentioned that PA and NJ have a similar event. The group was supportive of the event and several people offered to volunteer.

Changes in Intent to Show Process: Mary introduced the change from paper Intent to Show form to 4HOnline Intent to Show form. Members will be able to enter animals in 4HOnline by logging into their account and selecting animals. The process is quite easy; animals that are shown for multiple years can be set up to persist over the years, so they would just reenroll the animal without reentering the information. Those who prefer to use a paper form will still be able to do so. The 4Honline process will generate two options for forms to print – one is a chart with all the animals of a species registered to that member; the other is a one page per animal form. Once the deadline for a given species is reached, the record is locked and members are unable to alter the record. Examples of the 4HOnline forms were distributed. There is concern that the forms may not be recognized by fairs and shows as valid. We are working with fair superintendents to make sure that the forms meet their needs or to make changes if needed. Those with concerns can complete the paper form in the meantime.

NH 4-H Website: Jolee asked if people are able to find what they need. Sarah said it is often hard to find what you need. All the pages look the same, so if you have multiple pages open it can be hard to navigate between them and keep track of where you are. A change in design or background color would help. The search feature should be more prominent on the home page. Others agreed that there is too much information on each page, and rather than having so many bullets, they could be listed on separate pages.

Livestock Auction: Michelle said this came about because Guy suggested that Merrimack County have an auction. Michelle and Jolee decided to work together, since Jolee already works with the Hillsborough Fair to have the Market Lamb Auction. The consensus among the group is that this is a great idea as long as we have enough animals and enough buyers.

Mary distributed Fact Sheets supplied by National 4-H Headquarters: Livestock Sales and Prize Winnings: Frequently Asked Questions and Appropriate Use of the 4-H Name and Emblem in Regards to Livestock Sales, Auctions and Similar Events.

Guy spoke about having slots available at two or more processing houses. He also said we could have a finish auction and/or a feeder auction, especially for beef that might not be finished by the auction date.

Logistics:

In conjunction with the live auction, we should have an online auction so bidders could participate remotely.

Minimum bids need to be established

Required weights need to be established.

Should have 5+ of each species

For 2016 will not have beef ready for market that were raised specifically for the auction

Require show participation or not to sell animal in auction (Examples animal needs to be blue ribbon quality, shown at one or two 4-H shows before the show and auction, animal worked with not just taken out of the field or barn.)

Locating buyers

Location

Writing rules/guidelines

Promoting the event

Location: Hopkinton would host, but probably not during the fair; could have it at New Boston, and it could be during the fair. Wendy mentioned Cheshire, but buyers are a possible obstacle. Kelly and Jolee both have buyers in mind. The auction is probably not a money making proposition for youth, especially with beef.

Skills learned by youth participants: Managing money, animal nutrition, health care, work ethic, record keeping

Concerns:

Do we have the numbers to have a multi-species livestock auction?

There are different ways of feeding, especially hogs (grain, pasture and surplus food including baked goods). Some of these result in an inferior product. This should be addressed in the guidelines.

Fryeburg requires grain fed, and we may want to do that also. We must encourage proper nutrition and health care as well as positive youth development and educational goals.

Plan: Form a committee with youth and adult representation. Promote the auction at Farm and Forest (Jolee will work on having a brochure ready).

2016 Auction target September 11 at Hillsborough Fair to include Feeder heifers or steers, Meat Goats, Market Lambs, Swine and Beef if any. 2017 add beef if not done in 2016

Only blue ribbon animals from show would be allowed in auction. Those with a red ribbon may approach buyers privately.

Next meeting January 30, 2016 at 9:30 am at the Farm Bureau Office in Concord.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Davis