

Imperial County Livestock Leaders' Meeting
Minutes
March 19th, 2009
Farm Bureau Building
1000 Broadway, El Centro, California

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Carol George, President.

Flag Salute & 4-H Pledge – Carol George lead the Flag Salute and 4-H Pledge.

Roll Call – Roll was determined via sign in sheet.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Meeting on Last Day of Fair - Carol George asked if any topics brought up at the meeting needed to be discussed further.

Kelly Seacort had suggested that we replace top entry weights for market animals with top sale weights. This is still a possibility, but is unlikely due to difficulties making sure everything is, documented and calculated correctly at auction. Most agreed that the bigger problem associated with this issue is when animals are kept off water for longer periods for a perceived show advantage.

It was asked why judges could not be arranged for earlier in the year. Darrell Bostic reported that organization had been a big issue, and that judges will be contracted much sooner in the future.

Shannon reported that visiting fair managers were very impressed with our facilities, which are excellent when our budget is considered. The entry fees at San Francisco, among many other fairs, are close to \$50, while many others are shutting down.

NEW BUSINESS

Gift Baskets – Carol George reported that there were several major problems with items included in buyers' gift baskets. Alcohol is still commonly included, and at least one buyer received items of an embarrassing nature. A major change needs to occur, possibly the banning of gift baskets. Kristen Weekes mentioned that some sellers wait until they receive their auction photos and make the buyers plaques and other mementos, with a positive response. Banning gift baskets is a strong possibility, and everyone was asked to discuss the matter at the club level.

Fair Rehash Recommendations

- Beef
 - Move the show to Saturday, because the housing and lack of exercise is causing signs of poor foundation by the time of the show. Other possible solutions include moving the weigh-in date to Friday, and switching the Beef and Feeder Calf shows. The matter will be voted on at the April Livestock Leaders' Council Meeting.
 - Allow Breeding Beef to check-out on Wednesday. Kelly Seacort had suggested that all non-selling animals leave Thursday night and/or Friday morning. The matter will be voted on at the April Meeting.
 - Logistics of the Beef Auction need to be made clear and perhaps simplified.
- Feeder Calves
 - Many calves are still bawling for milk when they arrive at the feed lot, indicating that they were either taken off of milk the day before the fair or not at all. Despite efforts, feed lots are still reluctant to take our calves. Calves need to come off of milk at least a month before the Fair. A weaning document based on the Drug Withdraw Form may be implemented.
 - Bottom weight and age needs to come up. This matter had been voted on last year, and maximum weights had been adjusted—The Premium Book rule will be corrected for next year.
- Swine
 - Hoof trimming rule is obsolete and needs to be removed.
 - Simplify divisions and classes. Should enter under a single division, and allow the sifter to make breed class placements. This is to solve problems entering data into ShowWorks.
 - Need to make sure pigs are not fed on auction morning.
- Sheep
 - Hoof trimming rule is obsolete and needs to be removed.
 - More sifters are needed.
 - Those attending the meeting want single day show where all 4-H is completed, and then all FFA is completed.
- Poultry
 - Documents regarding Poultry and Waterfowl are attached.
 - Dr. Thomson does not see small animals, so Dr. Satow needs to be on call as well.
 - Transporting birds from the barn to the back gate was difficult. The check-out gate needs to be relocated, or a bird shuttle service needs to be implemented that night.
- Goats
 - Documents are attached.
 - Add divisions for new breeds of Dairy Goats.

- Pygmies should be able to check-out along with the small animals.
- Judge should not be shared with other species showing on the same day (with the exception of the three goat species).
- The Market Goat judge is not welcome in the future.
- “Swiss Breeds” division in the Market Goats is obsolete and needs to be removed.
- Add a Breeding Boar Goats division.
- Dogs
 - Rules in the Premium Book need to be adjusted – Document attached
- Dairy
 - Show needs to start at 6:00pm instead of 6:30pm.
- Buckles
 - Awarded for only one FFA division.
 - No years should be included on buckles for Horses, Dogs and Waterfowl.
 - Need to look for a different supplier, less expensive buckles.

Round Robin/Master Showmanship – Kelly Seacort had suggested a move from our current Round Robin program to a Master Showmanship program, the rules for which she supplied for consideration/incorporation. One major benefit is that it may make the competition run much quicker. Although there were some objections, the overall group was in favor of moving to Master Showmanship. The matter will be voted on at the April Meeting.

April Meeting – Carol George announced that the April meeting needs to be rescheduled in order to accommodate Easter week. It was decided to have the meeting on April the 23rd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to be given.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Leader Field Day – Carol George asked if anyone would be interested in taking the event on and continue having it. It was decided to do so, and a committee was established. Topics those at the meeting would like to see at the event include ethics and ring etiquette.

Novice Showmanship – There has been some continuing confusion over what constitutes a novice, and exhibitors have been entering in the wrong division. This is not really an issue with the rules, but rather enforcement.

4-H ADVISOR REPORT

Knowledge Bowl – Mary Harmon reported that the Knowledge Bowl went very well. She announced that M&M won the event, and passed around the perpetual plaque showing M&M as the first entry. There will be some tweaks for next year's competition, including separate categories for Juniors and Seniors. The issue was brought up that some were using the Knowledge Bowl study books to study for Round Robin under the impression that the judges were using that information.

Presentation Day – It was announced that entries for County Presentation Day were due on March 23rd at the 4-H Office, and the event would take place on April 4th with the location to be announced.

ADJOURN

The Livestock Leaders' Council Meeting was adjourned by Carol George, President, at 8:40pm.