

Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leaders Council | Meeting Notes

June 30, 2025 | Fergus County Sheriff's Complex, Lewistown, MT

Call to Order: The Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Leader's Council was called to order by President, Corry Arntzen at 5:30 pm on June 30, 2025. Attendees participated in the Pledge of Alliance and 4-H pledge.

Introductions / Attendance / Roll Call:

- Corry Arntzen – *Christina Busy Bees, President*
- Sonja Gregory – *Independent, Vice President*
- Karly DeMars – *Christina Busy Bees, Secretary*
- Gisele Yaeger – *Christina Busy Bees, Treasurer*
- Shelly Van Haur – *Hilger High Goalers*
- Yvette Hersel – *Creative Critters*
- Hailey Gallagher – *Creative Critters, Ambassadors*
- Amber Arntzen – *Christina Busy Bees, 4H Foundation Representative*
- Davey Storfa – *Independent Member, Ambassador*
- Nicole Tholt – *Winnett Shamrocks, Ambassador Leader (Virtual)*
- Virgil Tholt – *Winnett Shamrocks, Ambassador (Virtual)*
- Sarah Mauws – *Ubet (Virtual)*
- Chris England – *4-H Program Assistant, Creative Critters*
- Allison Smith – *Extension Office*

Secretary's Report / Approval of February Minutes

Gisele Yaeger moved to approve the minutes from April 24, 2025 as submitted. Amber Arntzen seconded the motion and the April minutes were approved unanimously.

Correspondence - None

Treasurer's Report

- Ending Balance as of 6/15/2025: \$126,299.57 (all accounts)
 - Leader's Council account (as part of entire account) \$59,158.85 (\$20,000 was moved to a CD)
- Nicole Tholt moved to approve the Treasurer's report and file for audit; Hailey Gallagher seconded the motion. Consensus approval of Treasurer's Report was passed, and the report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports

- **County Ambassadors:** Reported there will be not pig kissing contest this year. Ambassadors plan to hand out ribbons and awards at the fair shows. Hailey will be stepping away as a graduating senior. Congress will take place next week with Hailey, Johnnie and Virgil planning to attend.
- **Livestock Committee:** Next meeting will be July 15 at 5pm in the Livestock pavilion. Subcommittees are working to make sure the livestock sale is ready. Will be sending postcards to past buyers and notices to members for photo submissions.
- **Small Animal Committee:** The showmanship clinic went well. The barn set up was done this past weekend. The small animal barn is 90% ready for fair. We are excited for the new porta-cooler and grateful to Farm Bureau for their generous donation.
- **Horse Committee**
 - The Montana 4-H Working Ranch Horse Finals and the State Horse Show are coming up in September. We have several Fergus 4-H youth planning on attending and look forward to seeing new members participating as well. The Working Ranch Horse Finals are scheduled for September 12-14. The State Horse Show occurs from September 25-28. Both shows are being held at the 406 Arena in Vaughn, MT.
 - The Fergus/Petroleum 4-H Horse Program is seeking someone (local, 4-H member, or FFA member/chapter) to build a 4-wheeler trailer for us to carry all the trail poles and supplies on. It will make set-up and tear-down much easier and more efficient. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for building this, have them contact Riley at the office to discuss more details.

- Our Livestock and Horse Judging teams are selling Wild Rags as a fundraiser in collaboration with Brandi Iverson at MT Wild Rags. She worked hard on a unique black paisley design with 4-H clovers in the corners. It's a great way to stay warm in the colder months while also promoting 4-H. The funds raised help our teams travel to clinics and competitions as they continue to grow in their judging skills. Contact the office if you would like to purchase one!
- **Static Committee:** We are on course for the indoor auction. The indoor auction is Thursday, July 24 at 4pm on the other side of the Ag building. Arranging the fair entries in the trade center will take place July 17 at 5:30pm.
- **Food booth:** Clean-Up Day is scheduled for July 16 at 8 am. Riley is in charge of food booth scheduling this year. Most of sale day is open (Friday), so Club Leaders should double check to make sure all members have signed up for a shift.
- **Scholarship Committee:** Scholarship applications were reviewed, and the following individuals received scholarship awards:
 - Open Box \$750 Award - Recipient: Hailey Gallagher
 - Leaders Council - \$750 Award - Recipient: Hailey Gallagher
 - Leader's Council - \$500 Award - Recipient: Kate Martin
 - Leader's Council - \$500 Award - Recipient: Addison Vanek
- **Extension Office:** Chris England has submitted her resignation, and her last day will be Saturday, July 5. Allison Smith has submitted her resignation, and her last day will be Wednesday, July 2 or Monday, July 7. Corry shared her heartfelt thank you to both Chris and Allison for all their hard work, commitment, and dedication to the 4-H program in Fergus & Petroleum counties. The summer intern, Ashley Fracker, will be here at least through the fair.
- **State Leaders Council** (Nicole Tholt): Actively working to finalize the Leaders Institute taking place this October 3-5, 2025, at Billings Hotel and Convention Center.
- **Montana 4-H Foundation:** Nothing to report. Congress is taking place next week as is the annual meeting on July 10. Amber is unable to attend this year, so is looking for someone to represent Fergus/Petroleum County.

Old Business

- Evaporative Cooler Update
 - Larger unit – Chris England submitted grant to Farmer's Union in May but hasn't heard if we were awarded – she will follow up this week.
 - Smaller unit: a requested for financial aid was submitted to Fergus County Farm Bureau for the smaller cooler needed for the livestock barn. Fergus County Farm Bureau – has agreed to fund that – there is a letter going around. Fergus Co. Farm Bureau donates the water at the sale.

New Business: *None*

Announcements

- Camp Registration Deadlines - Tween Camp July 28.
- Clubs need to email club meeting minutes into the Extension Office
- Radio spots (can be prerecorded) and Shout Outs – please encourage members to help with this effort.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, August 25, 2025, 5:30 PM, tentative location – Fergus County Sheriff's Complex. We will plan to review fair operations as well as prepare for the leader's council banquet in November. TABLED BUSINESS:

- 1) Policy Discussion regarding missing scheduled fair booth shifts – the committee chose to postpone this discussion until the November Meeting. (Originated from April 2025 meeting)
- 2) Review policy wording regarding independent members and County Public Speaking Day requirements prior to November meeting with a potential proposed policy change/vote in November. (mentioned during June 2025 meeting)

Adjournment was moved by Amber Arntzen and seconded by Davey Storfa. Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Karly DeMars, Leader's Council Secretary

Karly DeMars