

Extension Board Meeting - April 4, 2024

Present: Daryl Obermeyer, Tim Nichols, Ryan Bohling, Leigh Wakulinski, and Ritika Lamichhane

President Obermeyer opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. The Open Meetings Act posted on the wall was acknowledged. Wakulinski called roll.

There was no meeting in March. Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. Nichols moved to approve the minutes. Bohling seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Financials were reviewed; no concerns.

Lamichhane provided an update on her recent activities:

- Participated in the crop production clinic in Beatrice.
- The Ag Line newsletter was issued in January. The next newsletter will be in May. All subsequent newsletters will be issued electronically.
- Attended a NRD meeting where she met with the NRCS local working group.
- Pesticide and chemigation training was held in all four counties.
- Helped present at an on-farm meeting in Beatrice.
- Attends regional meetings to learn and do a little presenting.
- Spoke with Nemaha and Richardson County wheat producers and visited their wheat fields with Nathan Mueller.
- Drone training - Lamichhane completed a class. She is now eligible to take a test and become certified to offer local training for producers.

Lamichhane's future plans: Diversified Ag Tours - She is currently collaborating with Cailyn Winkelman. She intends to visit Cailyn's farm and learn about her operation. She intends to invite a lender such as Farm Service Agency to discuss loan options and Natural Resource Conservation Service to discuss high tunnels. She is looking to promote other enterprises in future years.

Nichols inquired about Obermeyer's Mesonete weather station. Obermeyer stated he dropped the idea because of high maintenance costs. Nichols met an individual who stated weather stations may be available for free; however, this weather station is different from the Mesonete station, which is on a national system. Nichols will inquire to see if Nemaha County can obtain it at no cost.

Sheena Davidson was not present, so Lamichhane shared Davidson's activities:

- In March, attended the 3-day Spring 4-H Training in Lincoln.
- Helped with the First Lego League Championship in Lincoln for 2 days.
- Continues to do lessons at both school programs.
- Marathon Kids running program has continued with the Auburn 5th grade classes.
- Meet with 50-60 homeschool families every other Friday this semester to do lessons.

- Leading a Leadership Summit lesson series at all 3 Auburn 5th grade classes. Davidson goes once a week for 30 minutes to each class for 6 weeks. The last week is next week.
- Began a 3-lesson series on Money with the Auburn 2nd grade classes. It is also once a week for 3 weeks for 30 minutes.
- Davidson is planning on leading a STEM after school camp for the PTO on April 16th. Class is limited to 60 kids, and it filled up in 2 days.
- This month Davidson is planning on doing 2 lessons with Johnson Brock 2nd grade. One about popcorn and one about how pizza ingredients come from a farm.
- Shotgun practices are happening with the competition on April 14th.
- Spring fairground clean up is rescheduled for April 18th. (Rescheduled because of cold, windy weather.)
- Fair judges are hired.
- The Fair Board did not approve changing the fair schedule, but a few members really did like the idea of changing it to be more beneficial to the kids and school starting. Davidson believes it needs to be discussed each year.
- This month a Flower Seed Starting workshop led by Cailyn Winkleman will be held.
- Four take and make 4-H project kits were offered. Kids could sign up for a kit then make it when it's convenient and bring it to the fair. The kit includes supplies and instructions. Twenty three kids signed up for 44 kits.
- A Unified Showing program will be its own class at the Auburn Fair for the first time this year. Unified Showing was started by a teen in Lincoln. She has sheep and she has kids with special needs come to her house once a week for 2 months or so and practice leading and caring for the sheep. The kids are paired with a "buddy," another 4-H youth. They then come to the fair and show the sheep in a separate class...kind of like a showmanship class. Youth must fill out an application and be accepted. Aca Andrew, a local youth, has been involved with the program as a buddy in Otoe county. Her family is bringing the program to Nemaha using their own sheep. This first year they want to keep it to 2-3 youth and see how it goes.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse meeting room.

Obermeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Wakulinski