**Seward County 4-H Council Special Meeting**

**June 8, 2020**

Meeting called to order via Zoom teleconference at 7 p.m.

Members present: Chad Phillips, Allyson Krohe, Jon Dybdal, Ellie Tempel, Hannah Roebke, Jon Eberspacher, Kristi Ideus and Megan Vrbka

Staff present: Ann Dobesh, Cindy Wolverton and Emily Hemphill

The focus of discussion for the special meeting was county fair planning around COVID-19. The Seward County Ag Society announced June 1 that all large fair events (entertainment) were cancelled, but 4-H shows and exhibits would still be held.

Extension Educator Ann Dobesh gave a framework for county fair guidelines regarding COVID-19, based on what Platte County 4-H is planning. Platte County is one of the first fairs this summer in Nebraska.

The council was asked to consider a modified schedule and big picture plan, safety measures for livestock shows, static exhibits, shooting sports, fashion show, and health procedures (masks, temperature checks, spacing, etc.)

The modified schedule includes shows on different days than normal and longer timeframes for some events, including static exhibit check-in. Fair Clean-up Night will need to be spread over a week’s time instead of having all clubs on the fairgrounds at once.

Council members’ suggestions about livestock shows and handling included treating them like progress shows (arriving, showing, then leaving that day), scheduling specific times for families to unload animals, providing extra fans across the grounds and reducing stress on the animals related to heat and additional movement all in one day.

The council voted not to host a 4-H foodstand this year because of Directed Health Measures related to COVID-19. If a foodstand would be open, adults would have to staff it because it would be difficult to meet required health measures with children. Pre-packaged foods would be the best option to reduce handling of food. Concerns included not having enough adults to staff the stand since colleges are starting two weeks early this fall, higher prices for prepackaged foods, not having enough patrons utilize the stand since fewer people will be on the fairgrounds, it may encourage people/groups to hang around and make social distancing harder, and a potential financial loss instead of profit because of restricted hours, higher costs and lower attendance. The consensus was to encourage families to bring their own food and drinks with them. Motion by Kristi, second by Jon Dybdal. Motion carried.

Decisions on fair awards were tabled until the next meeting to give the awards committee time to meet. Discussion was had on whether to order some awards before the fair (after the July 10 entry deadline) or wait and order everything post-fair.

The council discussed ways to recruit additional volunteers, as more people will be needed to conduct health screenings, help with traffic flow, and monitor compliance with Directed Health Measures. Ideas included talking with Junior Leaders, Four Corners Health Department, Memorial Hospital, 4-H parents who are nurses or doctors, 4-H Foundation trustees, and asking parents to help with those tasks instead of working a foodstand shift.

The council and Extension staff will communicate more detailed fair changes with 4-H families during a countywide Zoom meeting on July 2. They will also utilize the Nebraska Extension Seward County Facebook page, newsletter, MailChimp, text groups and emails.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 6 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted,

Emily Hemphill

4-H Assistant