

KENT COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOARD MEETING

February 11, 2009

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Sr. and Jr. Directors Present:**

Dennis Brown, Bruce Doll, Kay Grinage, Kevin Haase, Jason Hofman, Glenn Jonker, Dick Lee, Jessica Marks, Nicki Patterson, Ron Wenger, Cody Acker, Luci Shaffer

**Sr. and Jr. Directors Excused:**

Ted Mager, Dean Olin

**Sr. and Jr. Directors Unexcused:**

Ethan Malski

**Areas Represented:**

Beef, Dairy, Goat, Horse, Swine, Sheep

**Areas Not Represented (excused):**

Cavy / Rabbit

**Areas Not Represented (unexcused):**

Dog, Poultry

**Others Present:**

Glenda Kilpatrick, Pat Mager, Julie Blodgett, Kristi Caine, Jim Steketee, Brenda Blough, Gord VanLaan, John VanLaan, Monica Burt, Cathy Acker, Dave Simmonds, Monica Burt, David Pachulski, Paul Meyer, Dave VanderBoon

**Call to order**

The February 11, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Ron Wenger at 7:30 p.m. at the King Memorial Youth Center and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call was taken with 12 directors present, 2 members excused, and 1 member unexcused.**

**Review of Minutes:**

2009-2-1 Moved by Kevin Haase and seconded by Dennis Brown to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Balances**

Savings - \$390.09

Premium Checking - \$1,127.73

Checking - \$647.47

Livestock Checking - (\$4,259.14) (negative)

Petty Cash - \$35.15

2009-2-2 Moved by Dennis brown and seconded by Kevin Haase to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Carried.

2009-2-3 Moved by Kevin Haase and seconded by Dennis Brown to pay the bills. Motion Carried.

**Extension:**

See attached report.

**Committees:**

The following had no report – Exhibit Building, Camping, Parking / Shuttle, Safety, Trophies and Ribbons, Brochure, Nominating, Guest Services, Fairbook, Rodeo, Dairy, Dog, Poultry, Rabbit / Cavy, Shooting Sports

**Finance** – Kay Grinage – Please see attached report.

**Fair Manager / Buildings & Grounds / Midway** – Ron Wenger

Water is coming up from the river but is has stayed South of Bowes Rd so far.

The King Building is being rented on the average of once per week.

We have secured everything with the carnival. We will offer the 5 day - \$48 Mega Pass along with a 3 day - \$36 Mega Pass. The Rodeo is all set now too.

**Sponsorship / Commercial** – Monica Burt

Sponsorship is coming in slow but sure. It has not been as easy as last year.

**Entertainment** – Ron Wenger

Most of the entertainment is lined up and we have gotten it at about \_ the cost that was spent in 2008.

**Publicity** – The Day of Kings had a lot of people in attendance. It was great publicity for the Fair.

**Technology** – Bruce Doll

The website has been updated with the sponsorship information. We are working on a mailing for sponsors. Bruce has gotten a router for the office so he can organize the wires. Bruce is working on the traveling exhibit.

**75<sup>th</sup> Celebration** – Bruce Doll

We will be having a meeting on Wednesday, February 18. We have some events we need to get to work on. Everyone is welcome to participate.

**Livestock** – Dave VanderBoon

Dave VanderBoon thinks we should consider splitting up the sale. Eventually it would be a good idea. Jim Steketee, Dave Bielema, and Gord VanLaan will donate hogs for the buyers dinner.

Cathy Acker has found someone from Ada that wants to come on the Sunday after fair to butcher the Poultry on the grounds. The Poultry people love the idea because they usually have to take them home and either butcher them themselves or have someone else do it. All he would need is water, electric, and help cleaning up. Are there any regulations on this? We need to look into it.

**Leader Meeting** – Nicki Patterson

If you have information that you would like included in the Leader's Packet, please make sure I have it by the March meeting.

**Still Exhibits** – Ron Wenger

Stephanie Miller will no longer be doing the Still Exhibits after 2009. Trisha Haase is interested in taking over and would like to train with Stephanie this year. Trisha Haase was appointed by President Ron Wenger to be the Assistant Superintendent for 2009.

**Beef** – Jim Steketee

The January 31 annual meeting was well attended with 101 exhibitors and parents. Declarations were also turned in with 85 declared. This is down by 20 from 2008. Projecting about 70 for the sale. Some declare an extra steer which causes a decline for the sale. February 21 is the weigh in / freeze branding at Jim Steketee's house and on February 27 it will be held at the Fair Grounds.

**Goat** – Julie Blodgett

The Developmental Committee met February 10. Their current treasury is at \$307.04. There will be a Goat Fun Day on March 21 and it is free to the kids. There will also be a sampling of Goat products. On June 13 there will be the Lowell Goat Show with a professional judge. Check in is at 8:00 a.m. and the show begins at 9:30 a.m. This show will be formatted like the Fair's Goat show. On July 18 there will be a Showmanship Clinic beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Goat Developmental Committee would like to sell a Goat as a fundraiser at the sale. There are some new requirements from the USDA which Julie Blodgett is working to get more information on.

2009-2-4 Moved by Nicki Patterson and seconded by Jessica Marks to allow the sale of the Goat Kid at the Livestock Auction. Motion Carried.

**Horse** – Dave Pachulski

The Horse program costs about \$24,000 to put on. At least \$10,000 of it is for ribbons and judges. They have told potential judges of the financial issue the Horse Leaders are facing and some have helped by dropping their fees by 30%. If the Horse Leaders chose to have the kids cover the expenses it would come out to about \$130 per exhibitor based on the same number of exhibitors from 2008. This is not a feasible option and they would be looking at about a 20% drop in exhibitors. They are looking at raising the entry fee to \$50 from \$35 and having each club come up with \$300 in revenue by using one or more of the following 3 options:

- 1.) Banner Program (Banners are \$150 each so a club would have to sell just 2)
- 2.) Class Sponsors for \$10 per class. The sponsor would be announced during the class.
- 3.) Have an Auction at 6:30 p.m. on Monday of Fair week or ahead of time in the Horse Arena.

The Auction would be for services, i.e. Training Services, Snow Plow Services, etc.

2009-2-5 Moved by Jessica Marks and seconded by Kevin Haase to allow the Horse Leaders to pursue all 3 avenues to generate extra funds. Motion Carried

Dave VanderBoon said he could get clerks to clerk the auction. It was asked if they would have to pay the same 5% commission. The Horse Leaders will pay the 5% commission to the fair which is equal to what the Livestock exhibitors pay. However, the board will not be involved with the Horse Leaders Auction where as with the Livestock Auction the board supplies everything.

2009-2-6 Moved by Nicki Patterson and seconded by Dennis Brown to include a 5% commission on the Auction by the Horse Leaders. Following further discussion, this motion was struck down. Motion NOT carried.

**Sheep** – Julie Blodgett

The Leaders Committee is planning a Show Lamb Clinic on March 14. There will be speakers there and information on nutrition and lamb selection. Lamb tacos will be served. This event is free.

**Swine** – Gord VanLaan

The request for ear tags is due March 1. Tags are \$1 each or \$2 after the March 1 deadline. March 28 is the PQA meeting. Swine declarations are due May 15.

**Public Comments:**

**Kristi Caine** – On behalf of Sparta Livestock, they appreciate our efforts and recognize the situation we are facing. The members of Sparta Livestock would like to address the rumor that Livestock exhibitors make money from the auction. This is not the bottom line for these kids. Some lose money or make very little from it. The profit, if any, does not reflect the work put into the project.

If the proposed price increases are for cost of living reasons they can accept that and would like it noted. If they are for debt reduction, please note that and make it temporary. They would like to challenge everyone to come up with other revenue options. Such as, having people stand where people walk in and ask for a donation and maybe set up an area where commercial exhibitors could come in for one day (theme day supporters). A sample Newsletter has been sent to Nicki Patterson. Maybe a newsletter could be sent to all clubs to help them stay informed as to what is happening at the Fair level.

**John VanLaan** – Appreciates the effort from everyone. Could we look at cutting costs. Have clubs sponsor and put on the buyers dinner so the board does not pay for it. (The Buyers Dinner is already paid for and put on by the 4-H Council.) Talk to the city to enforce no parking on the side streets. Need more volunteerism from the clubs.

**Gord VanLaan** – Where can we cut some costs? What does the King Building cost us for the year? Do not raise the fees.

**Dave Bielema** – Core business is to have a fair. Expenses through the rest of the year are high.

Superintendents are trying to make their areas self sufficient. Leaders are trying to help. Everyone is here for the same reason, one week in August.

**Dave Pachulski** – Doesn't think the proposed increase will solve the problem. Attendance will be down. Number of exhibitors will also be down if the proposed increases are put into affect.

**Jim Steketee** – We all have the same goal – The Kids. It is a business and we need to balance the books to sustain it. The increases will be a short term fix to a long term problem. We are incurring expenses for 51 weeks outside of the fair week. We need to restructure everything. Need to put trash, port a johns, etc out for bid. Opposed to any fee increases. Called a few other fairs to check their fees.

Barry County – Sale commission is 0. Fees are Beef - \$18 per head, \$2.50 for manure, \$2 Emergency Fee. Swine is \$13 per head, \$2 for manure, \$2 emergency fee. Camping is \$80 with water and electric. Rates to rent the facilities are \$2105 per day excluding the grand stand and \$14,735 per week.

Ionia – No stall fee. Parking is \$10 for 10 days. Camping is \$180 for 10 days. Sale Commission is 4 – 6% on large animals and 3 – 5% on small animals.

Allegan – Camping for 9 days is \$100 with water and electric. Parking is \$10 per week for exhibitors. No stall fee. Sale commission is 3%.

This is Lowell's property, let them run it. Why should we carry the burden for 1 weeks use?

**Old Business**

**Proposed Increases:**

2009-2-7 Moved by Kay Grinage and seconded by Jessica Marks to remove the Proposed Price Increases from the table. Motion Carried.

We tried to be fair and not put all of the increases on one group but rather spread it around to everyone.

2009-2-8 Moved by Kay Grinage to accept the increases as proposed. The motion died due to lack of support.

2009-2-9 Moved by Nicki Patterson and seconded by Jessica Marks to accept the increases for the Commercial and Independent Vendors.

Per Monica, some businesses will have a hard time with the increased funds too. Jim Steketee noted that Barry County gets \$60 per day for their commercial vendors and suggested we look at the budget first.

2009-2-10 Moved by Kay Grinage and seconded by Dick Lee to table the increase for Commercial and Independent Vendors until after the budget. Motion Carried.

**Budget –**

We will work on the budget some more at a workshop and invite those that have offered their help and our accountant, Linda Graff.

2009-2-11 Moved by Jessica Marks and seconded by Dick Lee to table the budget and proposed increases to go over at a workshop and bring back to the March meeting. Jim Steketee, Dave Bielema, Gord VanLaan, Kristi Caine, and our accountant will be invited to join us. Motion Carried.

The workshop will be on Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.

**New Business:**

**Survey –** Luci Shaffer and Kevin Haase

A questionnaire has been passed out to the board members to fill out and then meet about. We need to get on the same page. This goes with the plan that Ron Wenger is working on. We will have a workshop on Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. to go over it. Once we are done with it, a copy will be sent out to the superintendents, etc.

**Correspondence –**

No correspondence.

2009-2-12 Moved by Dick Lee and seconded by Jessica Marks to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the King Building.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicki Patterson  
Secretary

**Explorer Excitement                      February 28                      New Branches School**

Calling all 5 to 8 year olds, we are holding a special event just for you! Come on out and make fun crafts, have a snack and meet new friends! To register call Farris at (616) 336-4761

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**Beef Weigh In & Freeze Brand Dates**

Saturday, February 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Steketee's Farm

Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lowell fairgrounds

Each steer being exhibited must be weighed and branded. For more information please contact Beef Superintendent Jim Steketee at (616) 437-3338 or email [bigredtrck@aol.com](mailto:bigredtrck@aol.com)

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**Goat Fun Day                                      March 21                                      Kent MSU Extension Office**

Join your 4-H friends or make new ones! Learn new things about your goats. Get advice from the visiting vet and visiting judge about your goat. See a soap making demonstration. Taste food made with goat products. Make connections, share stories and eat a free lunch. Check out your goat knowledge in the quiz bowl! Contact the MSU Extension office to register.

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**Swine Mandatory Meeting and PQA Training                      March 28                      King Building, Fairgrounds**

Every youth planning to exhibit swine at the 2009 fair must attend this meeting. Each youth must also be PQA certified, and certification training will be held that day. The schedule for the day is:

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. PQA for ages 9 – 11

10 to 11 a.m. Mandatory meeting

11 to 12 noon PQA training for 12-14, 15 – 18 and 19 year olds (concurrent sessions)

For more information contact Glenda at 336-3273 or [kilpatri@msu.edu](mailto:kilpatri@msu.edu).

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Want to learn more about your interests? Meet people from all over this great state? Consider attending a **State 4-H Workshop at Kettunen Center**.

Kettunen Center is the state training conference center for Michigan 4-H Programs. It is located south of Cadillac. It has a beautiful lake, miles of trails and great food! Workshops left this season are:

March 14–15     [4-H Family Science Weekend: Science & Technology Exploratorium](#)

March 21–22     4-H Environmental & Outdoor Education Training Workshop

April 4–5         4-H Rabbit & Cavy Teen & Adult Volunteer Leader Workshop

April 17–19     Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference

April 24–26     4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training

Complete information and registration materials can be obtained from the MSU Extension office.

The Kent County 4-H Council provides partial scholarships to 4-H members and leaders for attending these workshops.

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**Michigan Livestock Expo                      July 17 – 19                      Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason**

This new event is debuting in July! The Michigan Livestock Expo is a multi-species event including beef, sheep, swine and goats, designed to enhance the livestock industry, educate youth and showcase Michigan's agriculture industry. Champions in each species will be sold at a special evening auction. The Expo will also raise money for youth scholarships and help young people earn money for college. To find out more go to [www.milivestock.com](http://www.milivestock.com) or call Earner Birchmeier at (800) 292-2680, ext 2024.

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE SUMMARY**  
**January 27, 2009**

Attendants: Ron Wenger, Nicki Patterson, Kay Grinage, Bill Bowers, Beth Bowers, Dennis Brown

1. The finance report for January was presented for review to the Finance Committee.
2. It was agreed by the committee to ask that the Proposed Price Increase be removed from the table, at the February Board Meeting, for action to be taken.
3. The committee met to put together the proposed 2009 Budget which will be presented at the February meeting.
4. The committee agreed that, in an effort to cut costs, the hours of Monica Burt, as office personnel, will be cut from 20 hours per wk to 8 hours per wk and the hours of Ron Wenger, as Fair Manager, will be cut from 40 hours per wk to 32 hours per wk. These hours will be in effect from February 1, 2009 to May 1, 2009.

With no further business, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on February 24 at 7:30 pm at the Fair Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Grinage  
Treasurer

## Proposal to increase funding for 2009

### Parking

Monday	531	\$6.00	3184	
Tuesday	754		4524	
Wednesday	966		5796	
Thursday	1034		6204	
Friday	943		5658	
Saturday	794		4764	
Weekly	580	\$18.00	10,440	
Prepay	329	\$18.00	5922	
			46,492	
		2008	38,342	
	Projected Increase			8,150

### Camping

Campsites	274	\$80.00	21,920	5478
		2008	16,442	
	Projected Increase			

### Commercial Merchants

Inside	19	\$200	3800	
Outside	7	\$400	2800	
		2008	5100	
	Projected Increase			1500

### Independent Vendors

	\$750 Plus			
8	Elec.		7300	\$1/amp
		2008	6141	
	Projected Increase			1159

### Livestock Sale

1% Increase		3650	
Credit Card Surcharge 3%		3000	
Projected Increase			6650

### Rodeo

Advanced	\$12.00		
Gate	\$15.00		
Kids	\$6.00		
	2008	12386	
Projected Increase			1585

### Still Exhibits

5000 @ .50		2500	
	2008	977	
Proposed Increase			1523

<b>Total Proj Increase</b>	<b>26,045</b>	<b>28,785</b>	<b>31,525</b>
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Entry Fees:

Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy – from \$5.00 to \$7.00

Dog – from \$2.00 to \$3.00

Goats – from \$3.00 to \$5.00

Rabbits/Cavy/Poultry – from \$2.00 per cage to \$3.00 per cage.