**Asotin County Livestock Committee Minutes**

6:30 p.m. in Boyd Hall

3/14/2016

Meeting was called to order at 6:37pm. The following reports were given:

* **Extension Office**
* Market Livestock Weigh-ins for the 2016 Asotin County Fair
* Beef- 35 youth
* Swine- 223 youth
* Sheep- 31 youth
* Goats- 3 youth
* Large and Small Animal Livestock Judges Expectations are available and posted online.
* Youth Swine Field Day- Saturday, March 26 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Asotin County Fairgrounds
* Register with the UI Nez Perce County Extension Office
* Enrollment capped at 100 participants
* Shearing of Asotin County Fair Lambs- Sunday, March 20 from 8-10 am in the Sheep Barn. Martin Dibble from Moscow will be shearing. $7/lamb.
* **Fairboard Report**
* There will be a special meeting held on June 1st. Grant intentions and raise the barn funds will be discussed.
* Camper spaces will go on sale on March 19th. First come, first serve and only one person per vehicle will recieve a spot. Please enter through the back gate.
* The livestock committee discussed with Gail Campbell the painting of storage sheds and blocking stands. Paint is available on Wednesday. There is hesitation from the livestock committee to have this done prior to this years fair.
* **Sales Committee Report**
* No report
* **Revised Ultrasound Steer Show proposal from the Asotin County Cattlemen**
* See information at the bottom of the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

**Proposed 2016 Asotin County Fair Ultrasound Steer Show**

March 9, 2016

Ultrasound is presently being used nationwide to indicate the carcass potential of livestock and is a method that provides a non-invasive technique to collect carcass data without having to harvest the animal. Actual carcass data is currently being collected on only the small percentage of Asotin County Fair Market animals that are processed locally. This tool allows for a live animal to be evaluated for important carcass traits such as ribeye size, intramuscular fat or marbling, and backfat.

**Ultrasound as a Beef Carcass Evaluation Tool**

The Asotin County Cattlemen’s Association has offered to sponsor an ultrasound evaluation of Fair Market Steers which would take place on Sunday AFTER selling. Certified Ultrasound Technician (Gary Neumeyer of Naples, ID) would collect data on all of the Asotin County Fair steers on Sunday morning of the fair (April 24th). Data collected would include ribeye area; backfat; and marbling (internal fat in the ribeye muscle) to determine Yield Grade (ratio of muscle to fat); Quality Grade (Prime, Choice, Select based on marbling) and cutability. To collect this data, 2 small strips of hair are shaven at the 12th rib, then vegetable oil is applied to facilitate the ultrasound pictures. Data for each steer is read & interpreted at the National Ultrasound Lab in Ames, Iowa, then entered into a formula used to estimate real live carcass value based on the previous week’s USDA carcass prices, plus industry premiums and deductions for Yield and Quality Grade.

**Educational Value of Ultrasound**

On Sunday afternoon of the fair, the ultrasound data and estimated value of each carcass would be shared at an educational program for 4-H/FFA youth, parents, leaders and the public.

The top 5-10 steers would be brought into the Asotin County Fair Beef Arena on Sunday afternoon as part of the educational program for discussion and possibly additional steers that exhibit traits worthy of discussion. The educational program would take approximately 60 minutes for the presentation and discussion. The goal of this program is not to replace the Friday live animal Market Show, but provide additional carcass information on each steer and discuss how each steer compares with industry standards.

**Cost of Ultrasound Technician and Cash Awards to the 4-H/FFA members**

It is anticipated that approximately $1000 will be needed to fund this program. Money is not being requested from the Asotin County Fairboard, Livestock Sales Committee, or 4-H/FFA Livestock Committee. This will be “new” money that will be secured from donors and sponsors. The estimated cost for mileage, data collection and data entry by the ultrasound technician is about $500 which will be funded by the Asotin County Cattlemen’s & Cattlewomen’s Associations.

The remaining $500 would be awarded to the top 5-10 youth based on their steer’s estimated carcass value; and possibly to additional steers that are estimated to grade Low Choice or higher for marbling.

**Proposed Timeline for this event on Sunday, April 24th at the Asotin County Fair**

7:00 - 8:30 am Collect ultrasound data on each steer in the beef barn wash rack area

8:30 - Noon Data interpreted and entered into a “Carcass Value” spreadsheet

1:30 - 2:30 pm Educational program and awards in the Beef Arena (before the

4-H/FFA Awards Program at 3:00 pm)

**Questions and Concerns**

Contact Mark Heitstuman at (509) 243-2009 or Larry Reeves at (509) 243-4410.