

Species Chair Application



Species Chair position for which you are applying *

- Dairy Feeder
- Rabbit/Cavy
- Goat
- Dog

Name *

Gretchen Elaine Sauvage

Phone Number *

2318833378

Email Address *

ges5250@gmail.com

Complete Mailing Address *

ges5250@gmail.com

County in which you are a registered 4-H volunteer *

- Grand Traverse
- Leelanau
- Benzie
- Kalkaska
- Antrim

Describe your experience with 4-H in general and with the 4-H Livestock Council in particular. What other experience do you have with this particular species?

I have been involved with 4-H for about 18 years with the dog project and a regular attendee of the Livestock Council. I have been dog specie chair for six years and a member of the State Companion Animal Committee for 5 years.

Describe how you will actively develop and promote your project area, both during the fair and the rest of the year.

Since Covid reduced the number of participants in the dog project, I have been working to increase participation. I instituted doing the Farm Dog certification at Fair in 2021 to help encourage 4-Hers to think about doing the dog project. I have done 2 intros to the dog project for Benzie County to help promote a dog club in the county.

What specifically do you plan to do to keep up-to-date on your species?

I hope to attend a dog training with some AKC dog trainers to better teach positive reinforcement training and to learn dog warm up exercises.

What do you see as the two most important issues currently facing your species or the 4-H Livestock Council?

Right now the most important issue is expanding participation in the dog program to bring it back to pre-Covid numbers.

What specific ideas do you have for your species' program that you would like to implement during your term in office?

I would like to do at least one Fun Match for dogs before Fair so youth can have a "dry" run for Fair and have additional opportunities to earn dog project patches.

What additional information would you like to provide?

I am also a member of the Grand Traverse County 4-H Leaders Assoc.

In addition to this application, please be prepared to give a 2-3 minute speech at the October meeting of the 4-H Livestock Council. This should include comments regarding your willingness and ability to serve as a 4-H Livestock Council Species Chair, what you feel you can contribute to your particular species' program, and what you feel you can contribute to the 4-H Livestock Council in general.

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