

Livestock Council Meeting

Draft Minutes

Monday, January 12th, 2026

6:30pm – Redeemer Lutheran Church

1. Welcome & Call to Order
 - Meeting started at @ 6:31 PM
2. Pledges
 - Pledges completed
3. MSU Welcome, Sarah Bye: speaking with youth about attending livestock meetings. Ideas on how to run a healthy meeting.
4. Roll Call
 - 5. Executive board members present: Keri Bancroft, Lisa Ralph, Hannah Gaither, Alyssa Tallieu
6. Additions to the Agenda
 - No Additions
7. Public Comments *
 - No public comment
8. Approval of the Minutes from November 3rd
 - **Motion by: Laurie Ashley**
 - **Second by: Greg Bancroft**
9. Treasurer's Report
 - End of November and December balances went over.
10. Fair Board News
 - 208 Days until Fair
 - Tom Looks is the new Vice President of Fair Board.
 - Working on premium book updates, no printed premium books.
 - 2026 Mega bands now for sale on NWFair website.
11. 4-H Staff Spotlight – Sarah, Danny & Ali

1/12/2026 Livestock Council Meeting-County 4-H Programming Outline

A. Antrim

Introduction of Liv Fox, New Antrim County PC

A. Benzie

1. Project Fish - Teaching Fishing - Upcoming Training & Benzie Conservation District partnership
2. Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers
3. 4-H Day at the Breslin
4. Horse & Pony Opportunities/Partnerships

A. Leelanau

5. Still Projects at Fair this Year - Theme to celebrate 50 years
6. Lambing half day workshop February 18th, noon to 4.
7. AmeriCorps Emma Hugg starting February 18th in Leelanau.
8. Babysitting spin club will start in March. Registration opens in February.
9. Beekeeping Spin club happening in March and April.
10. Animal Nutrition half day workshop March 22nd. One to 4 p.m.
11. Snowboard and Ski is happening now! We need more instructors lined up for next year; waitlist long!!
12. National 4-H Conference 2026 registration closes February 2nd.
13. Exploration days registration opens on March 22nd. Scholarships are available.

A. Grand Traverse

14. The Hobbit dress rehearsal is on January 15th at 7:00, Old Town Playhouse
15. The Barn Raisers, Jan. 29th, 6pm TADL
16. MakerFest April 25th
17. 4-H State Awards, March 1 st – April 1 st to register
18. Giveaway room – Free Items at the GT MSU Extension Office
19. Welcome AmeriCorps Member, Crystal Woodward – Turner
20. Paper Forms for 4HOnline Enrollment
21. Third Monday of the Month, 4-H at TADL - Inventing
22. Beyond Ready - Resume Writing, Job Applications, Scholarships Event
23. Learning Lab Kits
24. 4-H Spark and Share Summit
25. Recruit Teen Reps

Project FISH Contact: Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700, steph143@msu.edu

Early registration will ensure your participation, space is limited.
Registration info at <http://www.projectfish.org/pfworkshopanrweek2026.pdf>

4-H Still Projects

Objective:

To provide an opportunity for individual 4-H members to showcase and celebrate projects they have completed within the past year.

Youth may enter multiple projects, but only one project per class. Each participant must select only

ONE project class to be officially judged and placed in. Projects may be placed in sub-categories before

final overall placement in each class. Only projects youth choose to be officially placed will be eligible

to participate in the Still Project Auction. Youth may also choose to participate in a demonstration or

interview about their work.

First and second place projects from each class will compete for Grand and Reserve Champion 4-H

Still Project.

Cloverbuds are welcome to participate; however, Cloverbud projects will not be placed.

Still Project Auction Information:

The Still Project Auction will be separate from the livestock auction; participation in one does not

exclude participation in the other. As only one still project can be placed per youth, only one item will be

allowed to be auctioned off.

Still projects will be auctioned off live on the final Saturday of fair week. Lineup will be determined by

project placing, with Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Still Projects selling first, followed by

each project in class order.

Auctioned off still projects must be taken off fairgrounds on Saturday only after auction is completed

AND payment is secured by 4-H staff or designated volunteers.

To participate with-in the 4-H still projects youth must follow 4-H Staff posted 4-H guidelines and

procedures.

Contact 4H EXTENSION for more information.

· **Gretchen with leaders Association**

- GT Leaders association meets Third Tuesday each month in lower level of extension office. Contact Gretchen if you'd like info on joining.

12. Old Business

a. 2026 Budget

- November budget proposed
- Public Comment/Question: Ann Sites, Rickety rancher, Dance budget clarification explained
- **Motion to Approve Budget: Lauri Ashley**
- **Second: Elaine Tahone**

b. 2026 Committee Sign-Ups

- Lisa will be reaching out starting at the end of the week, will have sign up sheet at next meeting. All Clubs required to sign up to at least one committee.

c. Snow Day Policy

- If 5 county schools are closed, LS Council determines by 3-PM if meeting is closed or moved to Zoom via website and email.
- Request to Add SNOW DAY announcements to band app.

d. Positions that need to be filled – Swine Species Chair, Treasurer

- Swine Specie Chair, if position is not filled, swine program proposed to be halted for 2026.
- Treasurer also needed, Deputy acts in place of treasurer however posses fund issues without acting Treasurer in place. By laws being looked at, at how to proceed and what issues will be caused by no acting treasurer in place.

*Public question: Todd Brown: Swine Barn superintendent, asks is VP of LS Council steps in to fill swine barn Specie Chair. Answered no, they can assist but will not be required to run the barn itself.

*Sarah Bye Public Comment: If Hannah Gaither steps into roll of funds, she steps into Treasurer, which she does not want to do. Sarah requests that anyone qualified consider applying or helping find someone for Treasurer Position.

13. Species Chair Updates

Horse:

- Horses are in the planning stages for this year, other than that there is no report

Dairy Feeder/Dairy Beef:

- 7 Dairy Beef registered, 30 Dairy Feeder registered. 2/3 registered now have calves.
- Dairy Feeder Registration by March 2nd . Min Weight 350LB. Dairy Beef Min weight 1000lbs
- Tagging in April By Rick Tallieu.
- Calf coats needed for calves in possession right now.
- Make sure calves are staying clean and dry, water thawed and clean.

Jr Beef:

- Registrations are open! Registrations are due March 2nd @ 11:59pm. Also don't forget to complete your 4-H online registrations this needs to be completed before you can participate in any 4-H activities.
- Possession date is May 15th. but you should be contacting breeders now. There is a list of breeders on the Jr. Beef page on the website.
- Calves can be born after Jan 1st.
- Website documents are being reviewed and will be posted to the website as soon as possible.
- Hopefully I will have a speaker slated for Expo by the end of the week.
- Please reach out with any questions you may have, Amanda Wilkins 231-357-0777, Jrbeef4h@yahoo.com

Cattle program change: (Draft)

Project Limit

- Each 4-H member may participate in **one (1) 4-H cattle project** Dairy Beef, Dairy Feeder, Jr. Beef or Large Beef.

Additional Animals

- Any additional cattle owned by the 4-H member(s) may still be shown, but **only in the Open Class divisions** of the Northwestern Michigan Fair.

Project Declaration

- Members must **declare their official 4-H cattle project** to their species chair by the registration deadline of the Northwestern Michigan Fair.
- All other 4-H cattle project registrations must be **withdrawn before the fair registration deadline**.

The rationale behind my support for this change stems from the foundational purpose of the Jr. Beef program, which was established to provide younger youth with an opportunity to participate in showing beef cattle, particularly those who do not meet age requirements for the large beef program. (other fairs do not have age limits on their large beef projects). While it is encouraging to see significant growth in our cattle programs, this expansion has led to challenges regarding barn space. During our species group meetings, the suggestion to restrict Cloverbuds from bringing their own cattle was met with my opposition, as I believe it is crucial to encourage their involvement; they represent the future of our cattle program. It seems unjust to deny them the chance to showcase their own animals while other 4-H youth can have multiple cattle projects. The essence of 4-H is learn by doing, and I advocate for exploring alternative solutions before considering limitations on Cloverbud participation, as the Jr. Beef program was specifically designed to empower younger members in the beef showing arena.

Steer:

- 91 registered, 74 market, 16 market heifer, 1 show only
- Tagging and weighing in Nov went well, reach out with thoughts/reviews
- Min weigh 1000 lbs.
- Should be feeding out 2% of body weight for gain.
- Lice this time of year, lack of daylight, use over the counter products to treat.
- Dry bedding extremely important.
- Will be visiting homes end of Jan early Feb to check in with projects.
- 38 kids already received education credits through cattle shows.
- Additional education credits available for shows t MSU: Feb6-8 and Feb 20th-22

Swine:

- Registration FEB 2, get on breeders lists
- Contact Keri with questions

Lamb:

- Be sure to get on breeder's list for lambs a list can be found on our website.
Reminder lambs can be born on or after December 1.
- Now is a great time to work on education credits if you know that you're not going to be able to make it to the education expo. I have at least one speaker that we are working on final details, but he will be talking about cuts of meat for lambs and products that can be made from lamb meat . This topic was a request from other participants in the barn and we're hoping that it helps kids promote their project for more buyers. we hopefully will secure one more education, speaker more details to come at a later date contact me or Clayton if you have any questions and be sure to get your registrations turned in as that is already open.

Rabbit/Cavy:

- Breed for Roasters now.
- Breed for Fryers on May 2nd.
- Registration Due May 4th.
- The rabbit page on the website is a work in progress, but there is a document attached labeled "2026 Rabbit and Cavy Information" in that document, there is updated information about the rabbit and cavy project, showmanship guides, Summer and Winter care, ARBA shows, and fair week expectations.
- The Record Books will be updated for 2026, they are currently pending some minor changes before the final review.

- MI 4-H rabbit & cavy show & expo, registration for showmanship is due the 14th. The breed classes are day of show entry by 7am, and any additional classes are day of show entry by 9am. I will be arriving there the night of the 23rd and will be there on the 24th if there are any questions while there.

Poultry:

- Registration is open.
- Production Pullets must be in possession by February 1st.
- Please read all guidelines regarding this project, changes have been made. Please consult the livestock website for policy and procedures, and the table for possession dates.
- Text Lynn at 231-357-5132 or email 4hchickenqueen@gmail.com.
- Sending emails to all other poultry in March

Llama/Alpaca:

- Doing Great, no update

Goat:

- Registration due at the March 2nd meeting.
- Market Project Possession date is May 1st.
- Market Projects must be born on or after Nov. 1st 2025 and be a full meat breed (no dairy breed crosses).
- If you're having trouble finding a market project, please reach out to me and I can help you locate one.
- Minimum weight for market projects is still 65 pounds.
- You can tag a backup market project for a \$10 fee, due at tagging.
- Make sure your project has an official USDA scapie tag. This is for all projects, market and show only animals. Registration tattoos are accepted for identification with a copy of the official pedigree but you MUST still have a scrapie tag for the animal. The tag must be physically in the goats ear if the goat is not registered or tattooed with the full tag number. If the animal is tattooed the tag must be attached to the health paperwork for check in day at fair. Or if the animal is registered and has an official a pedigree, the tag does not need to be in the goats ear and can be attached to the health paperwork at check in the first day of fair.
- Education expo this year at the GT Resort March 1st. We have two sessions: a "Goat Milk Lotion Workshop" and a "Goat Trivia Bingo". Please let me know if you have any questions about either one of these classes. If you have any ideas for things you want to learn more about, please let me know.
- As always, I can be reached by phone, text or email:
(231) 883-2002 or info@luckyfarmsmi.com

Dog:

- Nothing new

14. Differently-Abled Program:

- Beth Stephens: Exciting news. Chose 3 record books for awards
- Most improved: Hadey Hayes \$25 Check
- Most informational: Angel Sherwin \$25 Check
- Best Overall: Gabe Norris \$50 Check

- No clinic at education expo, however will be doing a record book clinic at the fair grounds at date to be determined.

15. New Business

a. 2026 Animal Registrations

- All registrations open, Next is swine Feb 3rd ADD DATE
- DON'T WAIT until last minute to register.

b. 2026 Cattle Program Changes

- Recap: project limit within 4H program
- Each 4H member may participate in ONE cattle project, additional cattle can still be shown but only in OPEN show. This is to help with project space as the program is expanding. Also to help with younger kids and their cattle projects

c. Education Expo March 1st – Grand Traverse Resort

- Room blocks available the weekend of expo. Request code from Keri for discounted rate.
- Speakers list to be determined by Feb 1st. List will be released with sessions once available.

d. Teen Reps

- Currently have 2 teen reps. Holly Heiser and Thomas McKee.
- Jr Teen Rep application will be opened by the end of the week for ages 14, 15. See Livestock website for more information.

16. Public Comment *

- No public comment

17. Questions?

- Kayla Kreiser: At what point will we know about the swine barn being open this year?. Keri Bancroft: Register for specie regardless and updates will be sent out next week.

18. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned @ 7:37 PM

- **Motion by: Shannon Baynton**
- **Second by: Mike Barley**