

Species Chair Application



Species Chair position for which you are applying *

- Dairy Feeder
- Rabbit/Cavy
- Goat
- Dog

Name *

Beth Stephens

Phone Number *

2318836189

Email Address *

stitch2stitch4231@gmail.com

Complete Mailing Address *

7101 Wilson Rd, Buckley, MI 49620

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 in 4-H for 27 years and been Species Chair for 4 years. I also have been co-chair for the Differently-Abled program for the last twelve years.

We have had goats since 1997. Starting with a kinder goat that was purchased at the Livestock Auction, we currently have meat, dairy, and fiber goats on our farm. We have been supporting and educating youth in this program for 6 or 7 years, starting with dairy goats. Then we added meat goats as there was a need for them in the area. We have now added fiber goats to provide a hands on experience for youth. We will also be educating youth on pack and draft and other fun aspects of owning a pack goat.

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

I will continue education on all branches of the goat industry to include meat, fiber, and dairy. We plan to do fiber education at fair 2023. This will include cleaning (carding), spinning, and finished product. I also plan on holding a clinic to include cheese making and butter churning. I have a speaker that will be educating youth on showmanship and would like to have a session on meat cuts and benefits of eating goat meat.

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

Continue to learn about the species and benefits of having a variety of breeds in a heard. We have not had fiber goats in the goat barn. If re-elected, we will have angora goats in the barn for the first time in many years. I will be learning the process of harvesting, cleaning, and processing fiber to include spinning. I'm also learning the process of making aged cheese.

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

While it is important to have meat goats and have the experience of auctioning, we have approximately 75-80% of the barn is not in the market program. These youth typically have a year-round project. We need to look at having judges that are more versed in all aspects of the goat industry to include meat, dairy, fiber, pack & draft.

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

Demos and education for fiber breeds. I would like to look at the potential of marketing more than just meat breeds. I would also look at the opportunity of increasing the number of youth breeding their projects and benefits of using the milk and potentially auctioning a project that they bred and raised on their farm. I would also like to tailor the record books to the project the youth is raising i.e.. a market book, dairy book, fiber and pack.

What additional information would you like to provide?

I'm dedicated to the goat program and my team along with myself would be honored to continue to serve the youth in this program. We welcome feedback from families and youth on how we can make changes to the program to better suit the needs of the youth in this program.
We live by the motto "To make the best better."

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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