

INDIANA STATE 4-H RABBIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 12, 2004

The Indiana State 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee met Saturday, June 12, 2004 at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Kokomo, IN. President Mike Young called the meeting to order at 4:17 pm. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and committee members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Bill Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Jerry Garber and seconded by Jeff Young. Motion passed.

Bill then gave a treasurer's report. We have total funds of \$1368.54 in the checking and \$2169.90 in savings as of June 7th. We have one bill for awards to be paid next week. A report on the auction will be given later in the meeting. Jerry Garber made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Jeff Young. Motion passed. Jeff Young asked if we have received a report from the "payroll fund". Bill explained that it was decided a report was to be given annually at the October meeting. We will require a report and bank statement at that time.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

State Fair Director Don Whicker gave his report. Dorms will be ready for workers to use with opening ceremonies scheduled for Opening Day on Wednesday. The Indiana State Fair expects 50,000 people for the event. All rabbit posters will be located in the Exhibit Hall but demonstrations and Illustrated Talks will remain in their present locations. He encouraged any and all who are interested in assisting with setup to join them at the barn on July 1. Don has been contacted by various groups who would like to use the barn during the fair (feed sales, etc...). All judges have been signed for the show, some for the events like posters and illustrated talk still need contracts. Don will follow-up with the Fair Office. Every year, Don tries to get feedback from our judges regarding likes and dislikes about the fair. The judges always rank our fair near the top of all state fairs. Don will work with the committee to establish a time to review the computerized testing. The timing last fall did not work out, but we are still interested in exploring this idea. There will be no major changes in the Spotlight Sale. All pictures will be taken in the order animals are sold. The Indiana State Fair is looking into various traffic issues. Huntington Hare Raisers will provide rabbits and the Boone County Poultry Club will provide poultry in order to have animals in the barn between the time of 4-H checkout and the open shows. If we have room, Championship Row will be setup and Don is working on the picture area. Don reported that \$ 2500 was spent on new caging for this year. Ribbons, pins and plaques have been ordered and will be ready for the fair. He feels that the State Fair is very fortunate to have 4-H people working in the barn.

Colleen Brady, 4-H Youth Extension Specialist, spoke about the State Fair website. 4-H entries will be taken online for rabbits this year. Open entries are not ready to go online. The program is to be user friendly. Payment may be made by credit card or check.

We proceeded to review various State Fair preparation issues. As far as we know, Jane DeCamp has all her staffing ready for the fair. Don Whicker reported that the barn has had improvements made to it. We will be watching the rabbit sale bunnies closely this year. Additional signs are being made and we will continue to post the show order the night before the show. This seems to help the 4-H exhibitors with preparation. The biggest drawback will be that some will miss the morning meeting. Mike Young will continue as our announcer.

Vice-President Tony Poe passed a list of this year's sponsors for review. He has a few sponsors to collect from. He also expressed a concern as the number of sponsors has decreased. Tony has ordered a few awards that can be used in future years if they are not used this year. He has bills totaling \$1440.65 which should leave \$ 192.05 to carry forward to 2005.

Jerry Garber reported on Action Demos and Illustrated Talks. He asked Colleen to follow-up on contract issues for judges. Plaques and medallions have been ordered based on last year numbers.

Paula Foster gave her report on Rabbit Royalty. The showmanship form is getting upgraded by removing the title "Miss" from 2 columns. The breed ID will not have the column title "group/variety" but will be "showroom classification". This will hopefully clear up confusion as to what is required. She is working on the tests. Paula is forming a committee to work on developing a new Royalty video. This will be a 2 year project. She has received notice that the ARBA will be sending information concerning Royalty soon. Discussion then centered on the problems of last year with scantron sheets, labels, entry, and resume scoring. Paula will be working on staffing in the next few weeks. She requested additional help on Friday night to set up for Saturday's contest.

In general, everything should be ready by fair time. Signs are ordered, flags will be on site, judges are signed, and staffing is mostly in place. A question was raised as to why the judges were listed in the fair book. Don replied that almost all species are listing judges with the exception of the steers. He did not feel it was a problem. Signs announcing our fall meeting will be posted as last year.

Colleen Brady reported on a very wet Animal Science Workshop. Paula Foster and Mike Young helped during the week. There were 237 total in Animal Science with 21 participating in rabbits. There were 3 winners of the Doc Reed scholarship. 2 boys were from Oregon and 1 girl from Oklahoma. 2 girls were honorable mention and were from California and Wisconsin. All of the people from out of state did not care for the Indiana humidity. Last year's older royalty winners were invited to participate. We discussed how we can improve attendance from Indiana. It was decided to do some advertising especially at the awards ceremony on Saturday.

Paula Foster gave a report on the Farm Animal Care Commission. It is still in existence and sends her minutes and announcements. We decided to remain a part of the commission as many present knew of instances where the commission might be able to intervene, especially with carnivals giving unhealthy rabbits as prizes.

Pleasant McGuire reported that the next ISRBA meeting will be June 13th at 2 pm in Frankfort.

Mike Young and Bill Hunter gave a report on the Indiana 4-H Rabbit Auction held in White County in April. We grossed \$ 240 and after \$ 100 of payouts, netted \$ 140. Attendance was down because of other things going on that weekend. We will have the auction again next year and will decide on date and location changes. Jeff Young motioned to continue the auction, Jerry Garber seconded and the motion passed.

President Young appointed the present directors to serve as the 2004 Nominating Committee. The directors are Jeff Young, Paula Foster, and Jerry Garber.

President Young asked if there were any announcements. Discussions revolved around the 2005 ARBA National Convention. Carl Broady will serve as the youth contest liaison. He is looking for volunteers and for judging rabbits. He will need 360 rabbits for judging classes and breed identification. Tony Poe gave a brief report on his position of youth show superintendent.

We also discussed the 4-H Foundation Scholarships. Jeff Young asked if someone from our organization and from the ISRBA shouldn't be on the selection committee as both groups assist in funding the scholarship. As it is now, extension people are the only ones serving on the selection committee.

The next meeting will be 1:00 pm on October 3, 2004 at the Administration Building on the State Fairgrounds. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm after a motion was made by Jerry Garber and seconded by Alicia Garber. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hunter
IN 4-H RAC Secretary