

The Meeker County Extension Committee met on June 17 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the Meeker County Extension Office in Litchfield, MN.

Members Present: Cheryl VanOrt, Steve Schmitt, Greg Nelson, Tim Erickson, Jennifer Welling, Matt Johnson, LeAnne Lund, Corey Cervin and Holly Nelson. Also present: Cassidy Martin, Karen Johnson, Emily Lindenfelser, Taylor Herbert, Kayla Huhn, Lori Vicich and Mckenna Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Corey Cervin.

Welcome and introductions – Welcomed Commissioners Cheryl VanOrt and Steve Schmitt

Motion by Tim second by Greg to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve, second by Jennifer to approve minutes from February 18, 2025. Motion carried.

#### Lori Vicich, Regional Director

Reviewed the 2025 final spending and 2026 budget. All spending is on target. The 2025 year spending is on target. Budget for 2026 saw an increase on Postage & Box Rental.

#### Taylor Herbert, Farm Family of the year

The committee received lots of good nominees for Farm Family of the year. Ahlgren Dairy was selected as Farm Family of the Year and will be presented at the July 1 2025, County Board Meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

Matt - enjoys the Crop Cast Weiner.

Lori- Master Gardener Gal event was great.

#### Leadership Program:

Tim discussed Meeker in Motion – March tours in Litchfield, April tours in Glencoe this was the cross-county tours, May tours in Dassel and Darwin. May was the finally tour for this round of Meeker in Motion. Tim enjoyed watching the groups development from day 1 to the last day.

#### Cassidy Martin– 4-H Report

4-H day camps junior detectives, I wish I had a horse, garden explorers. The day camps were well attended. Upcoming day camp Junior chef- campfire cuisine. New youth opportunity “Dish it up”, youth can create a new dish to serve at the 4-H food stand at the fair. This would be a limited food item.

#### Karen Johnson, Livestock Program:

Automated Milking Systems (AMS) meeting was held in Paynesville over 145 attendees. At Meeker County pollinator education day, Farm jeopardy game was played with questions in the categories of livestock, crops, trees, and fruits/vegetables. This was a huge hit with the fifth graders.

#### Emily Lindenfelser, Horticulture Program:

Small farms needs assessment is currently looking for input about future Extension programs for area small farmers, foragers, and gardeners. Sixth edition of Gardening from the Ground Up. This year’s theme was “Climate Adaptation”. Total registrants 1,162 to this program. 2025 Meeker County

Gardeners Gala was held and had guest speakers Laura Irish-Hanson and LeAnne Lund. A co-education opportunity for Meeker County Extension Master Gardeners was held on March 31 at Stockmen's Greenhouse in Hutchinson. Wrap up on McLeod County gardening knowledge for free, they had three free sessions. 400 trees were donated to ACGC, Dassel, Eden Valley-Watkins, Litchfield, and St. Philips in celebration of Arbor Day. Litchfield community garden seek advice on soil health. They did soil testing and mailed out education program to community gardeners based on what the test result said.

Taylor Herbert, Crops Extension Program:

Tri-County Compaction Workshop hosted in partnership with Wright, McLeod, and Meeker SWCD March 25, 2025. On May 29, Taylor had 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who showed interest in agronomy shadow her (Taylor), Dave, and Nathan. Alfalfa scissor alert project completed the first cutting of alfalfa. A significant increase of Black Cutworm is being seen this year in Minnesota.

McKenna Wright- 4-H Intern

Mckenna has helped with the day camps and activities. She is very excited to be a 2025 Meeker County 4-H Youth Development Summer Inter.

Next meeting is September 9, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Extension Office.

Motion by Steven, second by Greg to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Notes by Holly Nelson, County Auditor