

The Meeker County Extension Committee met on February 18, 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 Barb Loch. Also present: Holly Nelson, Cassidy Martin, Karen Johnson, Emily Lindenfelser, Taylor Herbert, Kayla Huhn and Lori Vicich.

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

Motion by Jennifer, second by Tim to approve minutes from November 19, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion by Greg, second by Matt to continue with Corey as Chair and Jennifer as Vice-chair. Motion carried.

Committee assignments: Budget: Steve, Tim, Lori, and Holly

Farm Family: Cheryl, Matt, Jennifer, and Taylor

#### Lori Vicich, Regional Director

Reviewed the 2024 final spending and 2025 budget. All spending is on target. The year 2024 ended approximately 1% under budget. 2025 Farm Family nominations are due.

Lori gave a brief overview of what Extension has to offer and committee duties – connecting rural, suburban, urban, and tribal communities with the University of MN through outreach, marketing extension, budget, SNAP education, Economic Development, Youth 4-H programming, Ag, crop and livestock education and research. Encouraged use of their web site.

#### Program Highlight

Corey attended input management and research update seminars, Steve and Jennifer corn growers' group, Matt did research at Lamberton, Barb commented on educators doing a presentation for Commissioners/Township supervisors, and LeAnn on horse bowls.

#### Leadership Program:

Tim discussed Meeker in Motion - December tours in Eden Valley and Watkins, January joint with McLeod was a virtual event on conflict, February tours in Dassel area and March will be Litchfield area.

#### Cassidy Martin– 4-H Report

4-H fundraiser has many items to select from. Deadline to order is this Friday, February 21, 2025. Workshops for food review and public presentation went well, discussing partnership with Pioneerland Library System and Lamp program. Project bowls are actively practicing.

#### Karen Johnson, Livestock Program:

Poultry and dairy health issues and education are hot topics. Networking with food, information and networking has been a good combination. Everything equine and wine event was well attended with great speakers. Women in Ag Conference and Women in Dairy were held in February.

Emily Lindenfelser, Horticulture Program:

The first tri-county winter webinar series meets needs of beginning growers, well attended and available on youtube. Fourth Annual Pollinator Webinar series focuses on climate resilience. The new event was Essential Garden Tools with in-person hands on opportunities to see different types of garden tools. Winter Garden College offered for the first time in eight years with a three-part series held in Hutchinson. Master Gardener volunteers were highlighted for their dedicated hours. Garden Gala's are scheduled in March.

Taylor Herbert, Crops Extension Program:

Discussed 2025 Crop Management Input Seminar held in Hutch. Annual private pesticide applicator training highlights safety, making herbicides work better, and effects on human health and safety and aging on the farm. These were held in February.

Each team has email newsletters. If you are not on their list, let team members know.

The Tri-county Extension Committee meeting is April 14,2025, at 1:30 with Meeker as host.

Next meeting is June 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Extension Office.

Motion to adjourn at 2:55 p.m.

Notes by Barbara Loch, County Auditor