

## Survey Results are in Blue

## Additional comments in Black

## Feedback/Actions from Oct. 2 meeting in Green

### Annual Survey and we will rotate program areas.

- 77 responses out of 235 (30%)
- 28 Exhibit Day only out of 90
- 22 both Exhibit Day and Fair out of 62

#### 1. Exhibit Day –

- General:** *"Love seeing the kids work. It is always awesome", "Overall this was a fantastic experience!"*
- Timing:** *"I think that the awards ceremony should be held earlier in the evening", "Move the date from Friday night", "Got working families it would be helpful to have a Wednesday evening and Thursday morning option-awards could be on Thursday evening to allow for scoring and a free weekend"*
- Fashion Revue:** *"fashion show seems to be dwindling", "Drop the fashion review from the awards ceremony. Have it during the judging portion!", "The 45 minutes between the Fashion Revue and the Ceremony are not long enough to do anything and too long to just sit there. It would be better to have them either separate days or right before the Ceremony."*
- Attendance:** *"few people", "It would be nice if more participants (winners) would actually show up to acknowledge their awards at the ceremony."*
- Announcers:** *"In the name of speed names were poorly pronounced and it felt very rushed. While we don't want it to drag on, kids put lots of work and learning into their projects. I also wonder if it might be better without the stage", "Please have the youth announcing practice the pronunciation of names", "there was some confusion and disorganization with calling names", "Hard to hear"*
- Length:** *"I appreciate the quickness", "Overall the award ceremony seemed a little long"*
- Coordination:** *"Kids didn't know if they needed to walk on stage or floor to get awards", "Having some sort of fencing around the robotics table would be helpful. There were a few instances where the kids needed to go around the table to control the robot but onlookers were standing too close to allow for speedy transitions around the table"*
- Exhibit Day in office interviews will take place before Exhibit Day for legitimate reasons only on July 6 & 13 only. If you do not attend Exhibit Day, and do an In Office Interview instead, you cannot qualify for state fair (take first place).
  - Action Item – enter this change into handbook
- Consider moving Fashion Revue later to shorten up time between fashion review and awards evening.
- We are moving to follow the Colorado State 4-H format. We will put the award structure in our handbook and in the Exhibit Day program. We received encouragement to follow state fair requirements.
  - Action Item – add award structure to handbook

- k. Look at the interview time schedule and see if we can change to better accommodate families with their schedules
  - l. We have moved the Exhibit Day Awards from Friday night to Thursday night – July 23.
2. Livestock Weigh In/ID Date -
- a. **General:** *“relatively well organized”, “Tagging and retinal scans went great”, “it was a fun event”, “weights were made public immediately”, “liked the mandatory meeting”, “liked the person calling out the weights – seemed to go smoother”, “I really liked having the gentleman call out the weights”, “Muhme’s are awesome at poultry weigh-in”*
  - b. **Timing:** *“If you don’t want people to show up to weigh in “late” do not put an hour and half timeslot. it is misleading that you can weigh-in whenever”, “Easy - Not a lot of time waiting”, “Beef weigh in should be longer than two hours to accommodate people going to church in am then having to run to get animals.”*
  - c. **Day of logistics:** *“the only problem is trying to get the animals onto the scale and getting all the way around the paneling to pick them up at the other end”, “tell kids before which direction they will be going”, “I do feel that the process could still benefit greatly by investing in a smaller large animal scale for the sheep, goats and swine. A smaller scale allows for the animals to be more confined and for less movement to occur making the weigh in more accurate and the process smoother.”*
  - d. **Poultry:** *“why have a poultry weigh in before the show when they are going to weigh them at the show? No other species weighs them the day of. If they lose weight between weigh-in and fair, that's how life rolls”.*
  - e. Look at the costs to purchase a small animal scale to use at fair weigh in for goat/sheep/swine.
  - f. Poultry should be weighed in once only.
  - g. Swine Weigh In in May will be required for all swine next year unless the animal is sick. A beginning weight is important to be on track and for the record book.
  - h. During weigh in in May and at fair – pig members should be allowed to move their pigs to the scale.
  - i. We need to get some more leadership in place for the swine project throughout the year.
  - j. Anyone with ideas for a judge for the Routt County Fair are encouraged to share these names/ideas with Todd.
  - k. We are going to look into the state fair regulations on who can help with animals in the holding pens.
3. Livestock Show –
- a. **General:** *went smoothly, great judging, very well-organized, like different judges for different species, “Everything we saw with the swine show went well. It went on forever but that was the judge. He was good with the kids, “I felt like the shows went well”*
  - b. **Breeding class:** *“seems like to many goat awards and classes, and less incentive to show breeding stock”, “It is sad to me that the breeding program is almost non-existent. I feel that Routt County should appreciate the youth that raise their own (they own the ewe and ram) lambs with a “best of Routt County class”. Giving them almost as much praise as the grand and reserve. A good model to look at is Mesa County.”*
  - c. **Timing:** *“I did feel that the Round Robin was very rushed. Again, showmanship is an area in which kids can succeed through their efforts. We have kids who take pride in showmanship, are honored to participate in RR, get up early and get an animal fitted and ready. Having each round be so short dishonors the experience, makes it difficult for judges to appraise the participants well. I love the time change too early in the am but feel like going back to an appropriate amount*

*of time would be good”, “The pig show should be earlier in the day to accommodate for heat in barn”, “We need to look for the health and safety of our swine and move that show time to a morning time. The hottest part of the day is not ok”*

- d. **Day of Logistics:** *“Needs better organization at the entry gate for the sheep show”.*
  - e. **Announcer:** *“Announcing first and final calls needs improvement for the hog show”, “It’d be nice to call the upcoming class a little later so that their animal isn’t walking around the holding pen for 20 minutes before going out into the show ring”.*
  - f. **Judges:** *“strongly disliked the horse judge... The goat and sheep judge was phenomenal”, “Great judging, but a little slow. But that’s hard, because you want them to be thorough”, “For next livestock- Releasing the judges names. The Purina Rep was related to the judge and he sat there and placed all the hogs for the judge during the show. I think different counties should choose our judge and that judges should make their own decisions not the feed reps or parents that talk to the judge before the show- way inappropriate”, “I really liked the swine judge being younger and more current with industry trends”, “The judges should not be connected to Routt county or Routt county families through other events, it has led to many unfair decisions. The judges should be picked by neighboring counties and only used one year”, “The judges need to be rotated every year, I did like that there was one judge for each species”, “The judge made the kids stay in the ring for a VERY long time. It made the show night go slow”, “We need to find judges who are more objective yet still know what the current market trends are. It’s an honor to ask back past, local members as judges, but I feel they have a hard time staying objective and unbiased. Judging animals from your past breeder and coaches puts the judge in a tough position. The beef judges need to be current on market trends”, “I felt that the judges were a fresher quality and more in tune to the current market and showmanship trends making for a better show in all the species”, “I am amazed that our extension staff continually fails to seek the opinion of our livestock judging coaches when it comes to suggested fair judges”.*
  - g. **Facilities:** *“Livestock ring needs to have spectators elevated”, “barn should invest in more large fans, barn was tested at 113 in am before doors were opened”, “It was really stuffy”, “I think the way we hold the pigs in a muddy area before the show is stupid. Some people purposefully make sure their hogs feet are clean and then all the poop that gets scrubbed on the side of the other pigs is ridiculous”*
  - h. **Superintendents/rule implementation:** *“I feel that the superintendents are biased and help/hinder certain people. I also feel that the rules should be in the fair book and member have the responsibility to know them”, “I do have to say that when implementing new rules that more isn’t always better and when there are more rules they need to put more consideration into not just the contestant but overall animal husbandry to be considered. For example, we had pigs being overly stressed and overheated all day during the swine events and the superintendents were more concerned with who was spraying down the pigs rather than about the animal’s health”.*
  - i. *Queens need to be in the arena at Dress Your Pet – (share with fairboard)*
  - j. *Can we offer the members additional award options – if they don’t want a buckle, jacket or vests? We will look at this again – in the past the answer was no because the awards are also advertising for our Routt County Fair and 4-H program.*
  - k. *Create a Routt County Raised class for all species.*
  - l. *Start the swine show at 2pm instead of 3pm*
4. Sale & BBQ -

- **Overall:** *“ran super smooth”, “It was great”, “Love the earlier start time for sale”, “great food, good speed, good auctioneers”, “The event seemed to go well”, “great food, good speed, good auctioneers”, “I loved that they made more seating by making the ring smaller, I feel that was an improvement. BBQ was great and the timing all seemed good”*
- a. **Sale:**
- i. **Buyers:** *“we need new buyers”, “More members reaching out to potential buyers- more thank yous to buyers”, “I didn't realize that the 4H office sends all buyers BBQ tickets. What's the purpose that the kids have an invite and BBQ ticket at record book checks if the 4H office has already done so. Also, our buyers commented that the amount of tickets they got...from 4H office and then the kids marketing their animal seemed a bit much”, “target more of the local restaurants”*
  - ii. **Keep the audience engaged:** *“Keep members (kids) engaged in some activity is key”, “Consider making ring flip alternate way for shows and but right up to rolling door”, “mix up sale by doing all species grand and reserve first”, “dress your animal contestants perform at the beginning of the livestock sale and maybe a couple midway through”, “rotate animal species”, “mix up sale by doing all species of grand and reserve first”*
  - iii. **Exchange Stall:** *“Healthy snack options vs the candy options that Exchange sells”,*
  - iv. **Ring:** *“I would like to see sorter panels so you could actual see the animals”, “More room in show rings”*
  - v. *“Limit the amount of kids that make the sale so there is better prices for kids,*
  - vi. *“I would like to see the sale pictures turn out better”*
  - vii. Lock the west water spigots as early as possible to avoid puddles draining through pig walk area. Need bigger bidder numbers. Also need break for clerk.
  - viii. Comments from a first time fair goer: So exciting to walk in when you have never been there but so intimidating. More signage! If you have never been there how do you know where to get a buyer #- what are add ons and where do you go to get an add on card? Big easel sign at the entrance to the barn showing where the table is to get your buyer number. Maybe some ambassadors in purple shirts that you can go to and ask questions- on the sign it could say to find someone in a purple shirt who can walk you through what to do. It's true- we have all been there doing this for so long we don't think about the new people who have no idea what to do and where to go. Be inclusive and don't make people feel like outsiders- be welcoming. Everyone is really busy but if we want new buyers we need to make them feel welcome and a part of what's going on.
  - ix. Get a Save the Date Sale mailing out early in the year (Jan., Feb.) and include average prices and how to buy information so businesses can plan.
  - x. Flood Day ideas: Make it mandatory for first year members, Could we incentivize participation in Flood Days, find a sponsor to do add ons for all who participate in Flood Days, give discounted BBQ tickets to those who participate in Flood Days
  - xi. Have Club Leaders share the flood days workshops at club meetings to teach all members how to market themselves for the Sale.
  - xii. Create a Jr. Leader mentor marketing program for new members.
  - xiii. Tami will get the BBQ tickets and record book check info to club leaders by June 1. This way members can get the BBQ tickets in the mail to their past and new buyers before the Extension Office sends out their BBQ mailing in July.

- xiv. Sale order will remain the same. Too hard to rotate species. Pigs are the easiest to sell and beef cost the most. Our prices are very high and have been increasing for 7 years now. At this time our sale order is working for Routt County.
- xv. Continue to look into shorter panels for the sale. The blue panels look very nice and will make it easier for everyone to see the animals.
- xvi. Sale photos – new background looked great. Look into bidding out the pictures for next year.
- xvii. Better instructions for new buyers. Table top tents with new buyer instructions. Signs pointing buyers to 4-H office to pick up numbers.
- xviii. Processing will be put out to bid. Tighten up declaration sheets. Buyers will sign off on sale rules when picking up a buyer numbers.
- xix. Sale Committee will look at overall budget of BBQ/Sale to figure out how to make this event a break even event and not loose money.

b. **BBQ:**

- i. **Logistics:** *“Less kids in the beginning shifts at BBQ”, “BBQ needs to go longer while sale is going on. Alcohol/bar option would be a good addition to the sale”, “I would like to see a cash bar for our buyers”, “The transition from the BBQ to the sale is too close for the poultry kids. Would be great, both for kids and adults, if you could make an announcement over at tent/bbq that the sale will be starting in 10 min”, “Have chairs and tables rounded up before the BBQ so the set up club doesn't have too!”, “No place to sit and people are spending a lot of money to sit and eat on bleachers”, “bigger/sturdier plates”*
- ii. Comments from a first time fair goer: Need more tables outside. When entering the BBQ have an ambassador to show you where to start in the line and encourage you to taste each meat. Two kinds of BBQ sauce- mild, spicy. Maybe it’s time to change the food up a little- keep the potato salad and coleslaw but add a green salad-something that’s not creamy based. Also add cornbread. Watermelon and beans are good.
- iii. See what we can do to get a bigger tent to more tables can be put under the tent.
- iv. Add healthier choices to our BBQ menu – maybe a green salad.
- v. Look into more and/or nicer bathrooms for sale.
- vi. Have scholarship kids/parents helping to direct traffic to BBQ, answer questions, to the 4-H office.

c. **Facilities:** *better/cleaner bathrooms, more room in show rings, more seating, “need more seating and bathroom were not cleaned well this year”*

5. **Ag Experience**

- a. **Overall:** *“The people who came to Ag Experience really enjoyed it. Keep adding to it every year”, “heard lots of positive feedback”.*
- b. **Suggestions:** *“one more thing to do at fair, difficult for clubs to man (boring)”, “doesn’t need constant supervision”, “it would be great if the building was closer, master sign-up (issue with club to county level communication)”, “Friday was the only active day”, “more hands-on exhibits and petting animals would make it better”*
- c. Comments from a club leader: Most parents who brought their kids over looked at the exhibits as just play areas and not a learning experience. Are there tips on how to be more interactive or could someone with some training on Ag Experiences assist next year?
- d. Shifts need to be supervised – clubs can staff as they see fit.
- e. Need to have a master shift list with cell phone numbers so we know who is coming next.

- f. Need instructions posted at each exhibit and placed in a master book.
- g. Need to set exact set up and break down times and have each club help.
- h. Can we do pony rides?
- i. Continue to add and update exhibits. Create a more defined space for each exhibit using hay bales.

## 6. General Comments

- a. **Extension Staff:** *"Extension staff needs to be unbiased and objective to 4-H members and encourage healthy competition", "Is it true that no one from the extension staff personally drove down to Craig or had an in-person conversation with Brothers after they backed out? I am aware that a few concerned parents made personal pleas to Brothers, but understand our agents didn't do so?"*
- b. **Information sharing/Rules:** *"Maybe if we had an livestock meeting at the beginning of fair to tell the members expectations and the schedule for the week" (this is already being done), "I think a syllabus would be good for the clubs to make sure the right information is passed. It seems at times we were at the mercy of the personality of the club leaders" (the Livestock Fact Sheet and Horse Fact Sheet posted on the website has all the information a member needs to know about bringing an animal to fair), "there needs to be a rule about people in livestock pens that aren't theirs. We had people in our steer pen that weren't invited", "Communicating, BEFORE FAIR that steers were allowed to be tied out at night would've been greatly appreciated - rather than half way through fair" (steers are always aloud to be tied out at night – ask your superintendent where the designated area is), "I think some volunteers need to read the rules prior to assuming they are right, saw many kids get yelled at by a volunteer when the rules were clear but the volunteer just kept at it saying this is how the rule should be", "Let the hogs get sprayed by family members even if it is a senior they can only carry so much and keep track of their hog. yes the kids need to be caring for their animals but it is the whole family that helps each 4-H member all year so holding a water bucket is not the end of the world"*
- c. **Facilities:** *The facility needs improvement, and the ground in outdoor arena wasn't very good. After the fair, the arena wasn't drug for almost 2 weeks, and those of us that use the arena year round are still pulling out metal/plastic/bolts, etc. from the arena, and charred wood", "Animals need fans (113 in am before doors were opened)", "There are too many animals in the multi-purpose barn", "They really need to spend some money upgrading the electrical camping", "A fair board member has been telling folks that Phase II of the expansion is at a standstill because of the 4-H staff/members. Is this true? If so, then what can we do to move Phase II forward???? Perhaps it's time to revisit a coalition between extension staff and fair board to resolve these long-standing issues and modernize our fairgrounds", "More coverage for small bleachers during horse shows"*
- d. Comment from Club Leader: Assign was area to 1-2 clubs each day of fair. Although pigs make the most messes, there were comments that other small animals don't help out with wash area clean-up. Could we purchase and store a few cleaning supplies in the wash area? Hose with spray controlled nozzle, manure pan and an old broom/rake to encourage the kids to clean right away.
- e. Comments from a spectator (no kids in fair, first time fair goer): The buildings are very spread out with nothing in between. How do you know where the Exhibit Hall is? How do you know that the chickens and the rabbits are in the little? If not on a tour, do you know that you can walk through the animal barns? All the buildings are so spread out without any signage. Need more connectivity. Could there be daily tours? More outreach to the community about coming out to

the fair. Things that they want to come see and do. Games? Kids in 4-H that are not raising animals could host games like Corn hole, horseshoes, toss the ring on the bottle, throw the ping pong ball in the rings in a kiddie pool, etc- be creative. Need more food on the Fairway and NO human trafficking truck- super inappropriate for the Fair and made a lot of people really uncomfortable.

- f. **Load Out/Bread Down:** *“Barn clean up went better than expected with the issue that was upon us at the last moment with Brother's Processing”, “I think you should plan/prepare for animals to be shipped out before barn clean up. If animals won't be gone at 9am, then start clean up at 10am. Having the county big equipment help was much better too”*
- g. Add BBQ area to the clean-up/break down list.
- h. 4-H Schedule linked to Google calendar.
- i. We must present to the commissioners a growing need for facility improvements.
  - i. Action Item – draft a letter to share with 4-H families to encourage letters to commissioners.
- j. We moved Tuesday night dance to the stage in the midway.
- k. Suggest to the fairboard to provide a walking map of the fairgrounds to fair attendees. This would help bring people out to the small animal and ag experience. Include instructions: yes you can go in livestock barn, no you cannot walk near cattle.
- l. Add to the FM Light & Son signs – Small Animal Barn