

4-H Animal Project Committee By-laws

PREAMBLE

In order to develop, promote and execute the 4-H program in Livingston County, the Livingston County 4-H Animal Project Committee herewith states its purpose, aims and objectives.

Livingston County 4-H Animal Project Committee programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Livingston County 4-H Animal Project Committee (“Animal Project Committee”).

PURPOSE

The Animal Project Committee was organized with the following objectives in mind:

1. To promote, educate and develop interest in the 4-H animal project areas, including swine, sheep, beef, dairy, goat, poultry, llama/alpaca, rabbit, and companion animal projects.
2. To provide leaders, members, and parents with a voice on how the 4-H animal program should be run.
3. To provide leadership opportunities for 4-H members in the animal projects.
4. The committee will provide the Fowlerville Family Fair with feedback on changes in breed standards, specie norms and show norms after each fair. The committee will pull these items from the post fair survey, the September Animal Project Committee meeting, and from the project area specialists.

***The committee will understand that the Fowlerville Family Fair does not have to take this feedback into consideration.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Animal Project Committee follows the Michigan 4-H guiding principles to ensure that:

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
4. Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
5. Youth develop skills that help them succeed.

6. Youth recognize, understand, and appreciate multiculturalism.
7. Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

A. 4-H Members 9 to 19 years as of January 1 of the current program year, and enrolled in an animal project in Livingston County.

B. 4-H Adult VSP Gold Level Volunteers enrolled in an animal project area.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

A. Twelve adult volunteers who have obtained a VSP Gold Level volunteer status by the time they begin their position. Members will be elected each for a two-year term on a staggering basis. Committee members are not subject to term limits.

B. Up to fifteen active youth representatives from the animal project areas will be elected to the Animal Project Committee for a one-year term. Youth must be at least 9 years old.

C. The 4-H Animal project area specialists will be asked to assist the committee for special educational workshops or when creating resources. They will be designated as ex-officio committee members without voting rights. 4-H Animal project area specialists will be Gold level volunteers with knowledge in a specific animal project area that is willing to answer questions on a county wide basis.

D. 4-H staff will be designated as an ex-officio member without voting rights.

E. The President of the current year will serve on the 4-H Council as an ex-officio member with voting rights during their term of office. If the President cannot serve, they may turn the position over to the Animal Project Committee membership to elect a member to this position for a one-year term.

F. If a committee member has been inactive for three consecutive meetings, the committee will appoint a person to complete the remainder of that year.

G. Animal Project Committee funds will be held by 4-H Council as a budgeted line item each year for committee projects. A budget will be approved by the Animal Project Committee and presented to 4-H Council with no additional approval to be required from 4-H Council.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

A. The officers will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Youth members are encouraged to serve in officer roles.

B. The election of officers will be immediately following the October general meeting.

C. The term of office for officers will be one year, and officers may succeed themselves in their respective offices upon election.

D. Officer duties:

1. President – Shall preside at the meetings of the Animal Project Committee and shall have the right to vote only to break or make a tie vote. They shall perform such duties as are necessary to the office of chairperson, appoint all committees, call special meetings, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees with voting rights. If no youth member is nominated, an adult member may serve as president.

2. Vice-President – Shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of the president. If no youth member is nominated, an adult member may serve as vice-president.

3. Secretary- Shall keep correct records of the proceedings of the committee. All committee papers, records and property in the secretary's possession shall be turned over to the successors. If no youth member is nominated, an adult member may serve as secretary.

4. Treasurer- Shall keep a record of all money received and paid out for the committee, give a report of money received and paid out at each committee meeting and prepare and distribute an annual financial report. If no youth member is nominated, an adult member may serve as treasurer.

MEETINGS

A. Meetings shall be held according to Roberts Rules of Order as a guideline.

B. Regular meetings shall be held the first Tuesday of every month February, March, May, and September.

C. Special meetings can be called by the 4-H Staff or the Executive Committee through the 4-H Staff.

D. The general Animal Project Committee meetings will be held in October and April.

1. Election of Animal Project Committee members will be held annually at the October general meeting.

2. The Animal Project Committee will appoint a nominations committee to submit a slate of candidates for the October meeting.

3. Additional nominations to the ballot will be accepted from the floor at the October general meeting.

E. The committee will coordinate workshops and other educational opportunities for the animal project areas throughout the year.

F. Meetings will be held in person when feasible but may be moved to either virtual or a hybrid model when necessary. Virtual is when everyone meets virtually, or hybrid is where participants may join either in person or virtually.

QUORUM

A. Seven or more members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Animal Project Committee.

RESTRICTIONS

A. Should the Animal Project Committee dissolve, the treasury of the organization will become the property of the Livingston County 4-H Council.

B. Any decision passed by the Animal Project Committee that conflicts with the policies or practices of the Livingston County 4-H program or MSU Extension may be vetoed by the 4-H Council, 4-H Staff or Extension District Director. The veto will be put into writing within two weeks and submitted to the Animal Project Committee President.

C. Any decision passed by any 4-H Animal subcommittee or association that conflicts with the policies or practices of either the Committee, MSU Extension and/or Livingston County 4-H Council may be vetoed at the next regular meeting of the Animal Project Committee.

AMENDMENTS

A. Amendments to the by-laws shall be presented at a regular meeting and voted on at the following meeting.

B. An amendment must have a majority vote of the membership present to pass.

Adopted 3/8/2023