

White County Ag Association Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

The meeting was held virtually over Zoom due to restrictions in place regarding COVID-19. All members were in attendance.

The meeting began at 6:30pm.

Miranda completed a survey after the conclusion of the last meeting. This survey was sent out through 4-H online. The survey questions and results were discussed. Guidelines from Purdue were also discussed. Miranda shared how things can change many times between now and fair time.

It was determined a lot of decisions moving forward would be completed in conjunction with the White County Health Department. Miranda discussed the safety plan originally sent out by Purdue and how everything the Ag Association plans to do will have to be approved through that safety plan.

Each member gave input regarding their decision, hesitations, questions, etc. with moving forward for planning of the 2020 fair.

There was some concern raised regarding the extra amount of stress being put on the animals in a show-and-go setting.

Jon Tebo shared how the majority of people who he talked to or who reached out to him expressed wanting an open show/in person show of some kind. There was one person who reached out to him who expressed concern about the increasing numbers for COVID in the White County area.

Chad attended a meeting on Sunday with a group of individuals who wanted to potentially rent the fairgrounds and have an open show of some sort. This group felt the numbers will decrease enough by fair time to have a normal fair. They also raised some concern about the non-for-profit organizations who use fair earnings as a way to supply money for scholarships.

There was discussion regarding how a "normal" fair was not completely out of the question at this point. Miranda felt there is no possibility of Purdue lessening their restrictions they have put into place.

Kyle Arvin wanted to move forward with an in person fair at this point as a virtual fair option is an option no matter what happens. He felt a lot of the restrictions/decisions might fall into the hands of the White County Health Department.

Luke and Andrew both reached out to the White County Health Department, Dr. Tribbett. Luke was able to speak with the Nurse and discussed some of the decisions the board was trying to make moving forward. The Nurse was going to relay this information on to Dr. Tribbett. Andrew spoke with someone at the White County Health Department last week and they said at this point White County is still on track with the rest of the state regarding the Governor's plan.

The Goat Club was reported to be in support with an in person fair as they feel the state is moving forward.

Individuals brought up how people who didn't feel safe, comfortable, etc. would still have the option to complete their projects virtually even if an in person fair were to take place.

There was discussion regarding the concern of having enough volunteers. Many people discussed how individuals will say they will be there, are willing to help, etc., but when it comes down to actually being there they don't show up. There was also some concern raised regarding who would have to police the stipulations, etc. and if that would fall on the shoulders of the Ag. Association members.

There were concerns expressed regarding people photo shopping their projects in the virtual fair setting.

The swine committee was able to meet and they have discussed plans A, B and C. If the fair were to go virtual, then they would have their project be a completion project instead of placing.

At this point, a show-and-go style would be the only option for an in person fair and it was not possible for a normal fair to occur.

Jared Baer made a motion to move forward with a vote. This was seconded by Sam Pinkerton.

A "yes" vote was for a live/in person fair, and a "no" vote was for a virtual only fair. A roll call style vote was completed and the results were unanimous that individuals wanted an in person fair. The motion passed to move forward with planning for an in person fair.

There was some follow-up discussion for those individuals who choose to complete the project virtually. It was discussed how these members should be included and able to participate in the project as "normal".

A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 3 at 7pm. There would be discussion regarding the custodian contract as well as volunteer of the year at the next meeting.

A motion was made by John Gooding to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Cindy Campbell and the meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.