

**State Ag Judging Committee****Minutes****March 6, 2024****10:00 AM, ET, Indiana Farm Bureau Building****225 S East Street, Indianapolis**

Call to order – Tony Carrell

Introductions and welcome – What are you looking forward to this spring or summer?

Attendance- All listed below were present.

Area	4-H Educator	FFA Advisor
Area 1	Jill Andrews-Richards	Greg Curlin
Area 2	Taylor Chastain	Anna Hall
Area 3	Mitch Wagoner	Myia Bromm
Area 5	Mark Evans	Janna Oxford
Area 6	Heather Dougherty	Diana Arellano
Area 7	Julie Wilson	Gabe Nobbe
Area 8	Heather Smith	Jim Wildermuth
Area 9	Emily Ade	Erin Gilley
Area 10	Robert Kelly	Lynnette Markley
Area 11	Matt Dice	Jamie Earnhart
Indiana 4-H Youth Development Specialist		Tony Carrell
Indiana 4-H Youth Development Specialist		Courtney Stierwalt
Indiana 4-H Youth Development Specialist		Cara Harbison
Indiana FFA Assistant Director		Amanda Mullins

Minutes from the September 2023 meeting – Amanda Mullins

Mark Evans moved to pass the September 2023 meeting minutes as read, Mitch Wagoner seconded.**Motion passed.**

Financial report – Courtney Stierwalt

- Balance is \$29,891.28 as of February 26, 2024.
 - **The Meats CDE bills have to be paid out of this balance.**
 - **As well as we have some of our more costly contests coming up.**
 - **Financially we are in a good position and can handle the increased costs we are facing with food, facility rental, and materials needed for the events.**

Fall 2023/Winter 2024 state contest and subcommittee reports (include review of this past year's contest, issues/concerns addressed and proposed changes for next year)

CDE	State Contest Participants	Notes
Milk Quality and Products 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change number of exam questions to 20 each and problem solving to 10, and CMT to 4 samples, matches current practices. Eliminate cheese characteristics 	96	Winter weather hindered our participation. We had around 160 youth registered. Due to weather and inability to travel we are not charging those teams who could not attend. Mitch Wagoner made a motion to adopt the recommended changes from the subcommittee and Greg Curlin seconded. Motion passed.
Horticulture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes recommended 	224	We did not have many stay for the awards session. This contest will be a part of discussion of a new committee that evaluates all of our events and the needs of our youth.
Soils	354	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes recommended Scantron answer sheet will have pit columns color coded 		Scantron will now cost \$1.50 but pits will be color coded. 2024 State Contest is in Southern Indiana on October 12th
Meats 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee currently evaluating. 	135	Winter weather hindered our participation. We had around 180 youth registered. Due to weather and inability to travel we are not charging those teams who could not attend. Addition of junior division went well. Committee has not met yet. Will have a report at Sept meeting.
Skillathon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee currently working on recommended updates. 	199	Motion made by Gabe Nobbe and seconded by Julie Wilson to accept subcommittee proposal on the # of teams that advance to state contest per area. This will now be 5 Senior teams and 2 junior teams. Area 7 had lots of concerns about this contest. They were asked to use the Feedback form to submit their feedback for the subcommittee. There will be some overhaul and updating to the Skillathon packet. This packet will be updated and posted by early May.
Consumer Decision Making		Cara is going back to the drawing board around this contest due to the lack of interest.
Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes recommended 	251	
Entomology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes recommended 	225	
Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes recommended 	322	

Crops, Entomology, Forestry

- Is a morning and afternoon wave appropriate?
 - Forestry 2nd round contestants will not get their packet until the first round has begun, we have teams that don't follow directions and caused a huge space problem with too many contestants participating in the first round and not waiting until the second round like they were supposed to
- Do we continue using Stewart Center in 2026 and beyond, or move to a different location?
- \$1,066.27 Fowler Hall charge
- \$2,375.00 Stewart Center charge (25% discount)
- \$100.00 room AV charge (206 & 302)

We have developed a subcommittee to investigate locations and costs for future contests such as CEF.

Subcommittee will be: Julie Wilson, Courtney Stierwalt, Amanda Mullins, Emily Ade, Anna Hall, and Tony Carrell

- Handbook updates – Jana Oxford
- Area qualifying results posting to judging card recommendation.
 - Area soils will not be posted until both areas using a site have completed their contests.
 - Skillathon- area coordinators have leadway to pick their own ID from items provided by state staff. There will be multiple versions of exams with the same content and questions just ordered differently.
 - We do have an option to not post the answers to events on JudgingCard if we need to in the future.
- Awards and recognition committee updates – Amanda Mullins
 - We will continue to have awards presentations after contests, but we will NOT be mailing awards. We will do our best to get them to teams, but the costs of mailing then are getting out of hand.
 - Gabe Nobbe made a motion to switch to vinyl banners for our 2024-2025 awards for 4-H/FFA CDEs at the state level. Robby Kelly seconded the motion and it passed.
- Evaluation of event dates discussion – Amanda Mullins
- Lots of great discussion around this topic. Courtney Stierwalt made a motion to develop a subcommittee to do the research and further discussion to provide this committee with recommendations to move forward. Emily Ade seconded the motion and it passed.
- Subcommittee: Courtney Stierwalt, Cara Harbison, Matt Dice, Robby Kelly, Myia Bromm, Lynette Markley, Erin Gilley, Jamie Earnhart, Gabe Nobbe, Heather Smith, Taylor Chastain, and Amanda Mullins

Professional development – Diana Arellano, Julie Wilson, Amanda Mullins, and Heather Dougherty

- This group is meeting after the meeting to get rolling with plans for our Fall 2024 event. We are looking at the last week of August for the date. More details will be shared ASAP
- Mark Evans joined the committee

Subcommittee list update – Jamie Earnhart

We will be contacting folks to join these committees and ensure balanced representation on each. Each Ag Judging committee member is expected to be on one of the subcommittees.

Other items of concern

Matt Dice spoke on concerns around the team limitations for state livestock contest.

Several shared ideas and suggestions for Matt to handle his isolated situation in Noble County.

Future meeting dates

- Fall 2024 – September 4 Location TBD
- Spring 2025 – March 12, 2025, Farm Bureau

