Minutes for EKPA Meeting

January 6, 2019

Members Present: Barb Rossi, Jenn Bassman, Carol DeYoung, Kathy Brennan, Nick Pearson

We opened the meeting with the motion to accept Kathy and Nick to the board. Jenn Bassman seconded the nominations.

Barb had the form from the bank so that all the board members could sign. Barb and Jenn will go to the bank to open the account on Tuesday. Jenn will send out invoices and then members will be able to sign up using PayPal.

Jenn is working on filing form 501-C3 for New York State Not for Profit organizations. The filing fee will be $75.

We discussed the expansion of the website to include: Free ear tags from NY State Ag and Markets, Ranch Manager Open Software, Butchering options, punch biopsy for taint, euthanizing, health subjects, nutrition, marketing and shipping.

In addition to addressing the above subjects we would also like to include a contact page and a for sale page. Jenn already has this up and running…it looks great!

We discussed the SARE grant and Meat Coop. Hopefully we will hear the results in February. If the grant is not funded, we will still follow through with the marketing plan. Jenn discussed the need for the Coop to be an LLC either way, so we will need to look into what needs to be done for this. The importance of a uniform product was discussed with even back fat measurements and perhaps nutrient quality measurements for out meat.

Jenn will send Nick and Kathy the Grant proposal, so they can review what was submitted.

Barb had a copy of the CCE publication: Securing the Future of Ag in NY State. There is a lot of good info here and we encouraged everyone to read it. The swine industry needs a lot of improvement in NY State.

The EKPA Education Conference and Seminar which we scheduled for April 26-28 was discussed. Barb will talk to Dr. Mary Smith about coming to discuss herd health including vaccinations, iron injections, worming and so on. Carol will discuss this with Dr. Zeh and hopefully get him to come for a castration demo. Kathy agreed to work with Barb on the planning for this event.

Maria joined us via Skype and we were able to give her some ideas about designing a brochure for the association in addition to designing some materials for our youth members. We also discussed a video to promote the association or perhaps clips of the butchering demo to promote our educational focus. Maria agreed to work on getting these ideas underway. Barb mentioned that she had brochures for AKPR to hand out at our events.

Jenn gave a report on the ideas for buying feed as a coop. The ration that Mkona uses would cost $16/ 50 pounds. This ration has Field Peas, oats, alfalfa meal, sunflower oil and Fertrell minerals. She also said that we could get custom labels for our association. There was a 1 ton minimum for this feed.

Our other option would be to have Blue Seal make a custom mix for us. They could make a non-soy feed which would be Non-GMO and would have alfalfa meal, corn, oats and minerals. This would be a 20% protein pellet and would cost $10-12 per 50 pounds. There is a 2-ton minimum order.

We discussed the importance of collecting data for each farm to compare birth weight, growth rate, slaughter weight, and ages at slaughter. It would be a way of improving our animals for efficient feed conversion and growth rate without added feed costs and inputs. Jenn is going to investigate a grant for a feed study.

Our next meeting was set for 1:30 on March 3, 2019 at Jenn Bassman’s farm.