Small Animal Association Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm on June 11, 2015 by association president Denise Shears.

Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledges were recited.

MSU Extension Report- Jessica informed the group of the latest developments with the Avian Flu. Several cases have been detected in Michigan. The cases involved wild birds; therefore the risk is higher for chance of contamination. The State of Michigan announced their support of a complete ban of all poultry in group settings including fairs, shows and exhibits. Several options were offered up by other currently ongoing fairs and how they have adjusted to accommodate the lack of birds. Suggestions include using the model birds for showmanship, quiz bowls and photos.

After much discussion regarding the options available to us it was decided that each child with a poultry project should present a photo collage poster explaining different things about their birds. It should include items like weight charts, food options, tell about the specific species of the birds as well as include photos of the member handling the bird and caring for it throughout the life of the project. Those posters will be put on display in the small animal barn for visitors to view. Currently known, we have 11 broiler projects, 2 pheasant, and 3 turkey. The exact numbers will not be available until sign up closes on June 24. There was the suggestion of laying the poster flat on the top of the cage allowing the member to decorate the inside of the cage with everything from more photos to stuffed bird displays.

The posters created will be allowed to be entered into the still exhibit barn for judging and removed on Sunday for placement into the small animal barn.

To participate in the auction you will need to provide an 8X10 framed photo, preferably with the member in the photo if possible. The member will carry his or her photo into the auction ring for the night of the sale. The meat projects will need to be clearly marked in a cage and taken to Corey and Jeremy Cuddie’s home at 5424 Renus Rd. on July 23rd between 4-8 pm. They will be loaded directly into a stock trailer for transport to Muncell’s slaughter house in Fowlerville. Corey will have tags to mark the birds and aid in keeping track of whose is whose. The fair board has applied for a special permit for transport and storing of the birds from the state. Due to the time frame there are concerns the permit will not be received in time. A call was made to Muncell’s and they said if the application and other documents were present they would honor the transfer and processing. This is the only approved facility by the state for dealing with the birds. They will be processed on Friday morning at 7am. The process is includes flash freezing and vacuum sealing them. The frozen product will be clearly marked with each members name and weight of the bird. Corey and Jeremy will bring the birds back and put them in a freezer, which has been donated, for keeping until the night of the sale. We are asking members to provide a small Styrofoam cooler for their buyers to transport their frozen birds in. It is felt with the buyers knowing the weight of the birds that may help to increase the price. There is a process fee per bird that will be subtracted from the final check to the member. $3.50/broiler, $4.00/chicken and $8.50/turkey.

Kim Abbas made a motion to pay for the gas to transport the birds to and from Fowlerville and Claudia seconded. The motion carried.
Motion was made by Claudia that the association would cover the initial cost of processing the birds and recoup the cost from the members before their checks are cut. Seconded by Corey. Motion carried.

Per State requirements no live birds can be present at the fairgrounds. When live birds are sold at the auction, the member will carry the photo in the ring and make arrangements for the buyer to come to the member’s home to pick up the live birds. It will be strongly stressed that the new purchases will need to be quarantined for 14-28 days.

Pheasant buyers will be responsible to picking up the birds from the member’s house and releasing them. The member will not be allowed to release any birds.

Record books will still be required for animals selling.

Claudia would like rabbit families and members to set the barn up on July 7 at 6:30 pm. Breakdown and cleanup will be done by poultry families.

Feed Store had an outstanding bill of $41.40 from last year. Per previous meeting Corey will send check to cover those costs. This year’s total is $30.80. Denise plans to contact Lisa to find out who to notify at Pheasants Forever to have that bill paid.

Jaylynn and Joylynn Slavok approached the board with an issue regarding broilers. They did not know the rules of the broiler project and did not get paperwork in on time. They purchased their own birds on the Sunday after members picked their preordered birds up. The Resolution committee agreed the birds should not be allowed in the fair. After some discussion a motion was made by Kim Abbass to purchase 6 pullets for the girls to replace the broilers so they would be able to participate and still sell their projects. Second was made by Julie, motion carried.

Better communication was stressed again to all leaders to their groups.

Corey suggested having a fun show for clover buds to show goats. She is thinking of some ideas for fun rewards for at least trying. More to come.

Reviewing of letter to send to members so they are aware of the changes this year in the poultry exhibits. Jessica will be working on it and finalizing it with Denise to be then distributed to all poultry members.

9:07pm, motion to adjourn made by Kim, seconded by Corey, motion carried

Respectfully submitted by Julie Jines, secretary
Denise reminded everyone that forms needed to be turned into Claudia by June 17 to be able to participate in the auction.