

Association of Iowa Fairs

Northeast District Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2008

The NE District meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. at Johnson's Supper Club in Elkader, Iowa by Lynn Dunn, District Chairman.

Roll call was taken asking each county present to introduce their members. The following fairs were in attendance: Allamakee Co. Fair, Benton Co. Fair, Chickasaw/Big Four Fair, Black Hawk Co. Fair, Bremer Co. Fair, Buchanan Co. Fair, Clayton Co. Fair, Delaware Co. Fair, Dubuque Co. Fair, Fayette Co. Fair, Howard Co. Fair, Jackson Co. Fair, Jones Co. Fair, Linn Co. Fair, National Cattle Congress, Winneshiek Co. Fair and the Big Four Fair at Postville.

Guests present: Iowa State Fair Directors Paul Vaassen and Dave Huinker, AIF Executive Director Tom Barnes and AIF Executive Secretary/Treasurer Sue Barnes.

Mary Esther Pullin read the minutes of the 2007 Fall District meeting. National Cattle Congress made motion accept the minutes as read. Black Hawk County seconded motion. Motion carried.

There was no Treasurer's report.

The Iowa State Fair report was given by Dave Huinker and Paul Vaassen. Dave Huinker stated that the dates for the 2008 State Fair are August 7 – August 17. County Fair Day will be August 8 this year and we were all encouraged to attend. The Iowa State Fair has a few the major renovation projects that are being carried out and will continue throughout the summer and during the 2008 fair schedule. There will be a lot of disruption and fair goers will have to be patient and think how nice it will all be when it is done in 2010.

Paul Vaassen's report gave a more in depth report of the progress in construction. The Swine Barn will have renovated pens and new electrical. The new Multi Purpose Arena will have air conditioning and be heated for year round activities. It will seat 3,500 – 4,000 people

AIF District Director John Harms gave the Association report. The 2008 Conference will be held on December 5, 6 & 7 in Des Moines at the Holiday Inn Airport. A full Consumer Protection Workshop will be held on December 5. John had handouts for each fair including the State funding reports which are due July 1, Iowa Speedway information and poultry handouts and DVD.

AIF Executive Director Tom Barnes reviewed legislative issues talked about the state funding forms and reemphasized the importance of every fair attending the Consumer Protection workshops. He announced that the State Veterinarians will be stopping by each of the county fairs while they are in progress checking for Avian Flu in the poultry areas. He talked about the premises ID form that needs to be completed and sent in and to thank the legislatures for the continued funding appropriations.

The next meeting of the NE District will be held on September 14 with Delaware County serving as host. The meeting will be held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

There being no old business nor was any new business, the meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Esther Pullin, Secretary