

Jefferson County 4-H Council Minutes

March 23, 2026

The March meeting of the Jefferson County 4-H Council was called to order by President Aurora Hoffman at 7:00pm. The flag salute was followed by the 4-H pledge.

Roll call was answered by 8 clubs. The minutes from the January meeting were approved as posted online

There was not any correspondence.

Hadley gave the treasurers report.

Morgan reported that she had submitted a report to the local newspapers.

Fair board report - Amanda relayed the following information from the fair board: Ben Winsor is the new fair board member, they're discussing a community development grant, discussing airflow options for the Rabbit and Poultry down in the hort building, discussing a different lock system for the building door, they meet the second Thursday of each month, typically over in Oskaloosa at the Extension Office, and any club who is interested in taking on a fairground improvement project to let them know ASAP.

Under unfinished business Catherine Leitner presented a report from the Carnival Committee. Reporting the want to get youth involved with social media promotion. Move the date to earlier in February. They liked the longer ticket selling window. There was little to no impact on not having the added prizes typically provided by 4-H Council. Would recommend dropping inflatables back to two and advertise the baskets for the auction prior to the event. We need to list the estimated value of the baskets and that would be the starting point for bids. It is recommended that we go back to cakes instead of cupcakes and that maybe a dance party might be a good addition. Also, the survey needs to be promoted so that we can get real feedback.

On the 2026 County Club Days, Amanda reported that 214 ribbons were awarded. Only 6 people took the survey. In general the rooms and layout was good, the date needs to be moved off of Jr Producer Day. Also suggested for youth to do shorts that can be shared out with clubs promoting the various categories that members can compete in.

Amanda gave an update on the upcoming Spring Project Fair slated for April 1. Members were encouraged to pre register to be eligible for 4 fair survival kits. There will be passports for members to get signed off on as they make their way around the room. Livestock showmanship demonstrations, record book workshop, fashion and wardrobe tips and tricks and a make and take food session will be available.

Under new business committee A gave a list of suggested judges for royalty, herdsmanship and the parade along with recommendations for the grand marshal. They were as follows:

Potential Royalty Judges: Mindy Young, Matt Young, Haley Kelly, Kendra Stover, Anita Fry, Charlene Patton, Sheri Wehner, Sheryl DuFrense, Deanna Wagner, Brooke Wagner, Joy Brown. Potential Herdsmanship Judges: Gene and Anna Barrett, Phil Perry, Jim Phillips, Phil Korb, Eric and Caryn Vaught, Any FFA instructor from JF Co.

Grand Marshal suggestions were: Diane Heinen, Bill and Diane Heinen, Chuck and Linda Gantz, Frank Boyce, Matt and Georgia Hollis, Gary Seifert.

Potential parade judges were: Jo Tichenor, Dawn Kennedy, Jan McNight, Dr. Wolfmier, Stephanie Steinlicht, Jerry Clark.

Committee B discussed Fair Entertainment. A dunk tank could be a fun addition and the ambassadors, senior members could be dunked. Funnel cakes, cotton candy, popcorn all would be great to have. Bull riding and inflatables were nice to have in the past. Adult showmanship, chair massages and the hair tinsel lady were fun. It was recommended that we have a line dance instructor again. Instead of having a DJ have someone create a digital playlist or maybe do karaoke and borrow some lights maybe to save on expenses. Other new ideas were doing a concert or a movie night in the horse arena maybe. They would like each club to ask for volunteers to serve on a committee to do research and make formal plans. These need to be sent in to the office before May 1 so they have time to meet prior to the May meeting.

Committee C discussed suggestions for youth development needs within the county. The suggested record book workshops, fall and spring project fairs to help people decide what they want to do. Maybe do a presentations boot camp, open it up to everyone not just royalty. First part could give general etiquette for any judging then second half could be for Royalty. They shared that food and snacks are always good at events and Kahoot was liked by some. It was stated that 4-Her's should teach other 4-Her's about the offices, making more connections for the kids.

Announcements were handed out and Joe Kabus moved with Morgan Casto seconding the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be May 18, 2026.