

Home Economics Development Committee  
Minutes – Oct 5, 2009

**Members Attending:** Roberta Anderson, Patricia Dawson, Joan Hart, Janet Jordan, Nancy Kershaw, Melanie Mintkin, Pam Wiederholt, Mona Easley, Elaine Schrumf  
Guests: Maxine Day

Members and guests introduced themselves and shared their 4-H roles and county. One group connected by polycom and three by phone.

**Home Environment**

Approximate enrollment figures are available from the Access 4-H program. They should fairly closely represent enrollment in various projects for 2008-09. Home Environment had 229 members across the state. This was the second year of the consolidated exhibit classes (decorative item, organizer/storage item, textiles accessory item, and furniture) with separation of Jr, Int, and Sr. This year's total was 36 exhibits from 31 members which matches a previous high in the last 10 years. All classes had some exhibits except for furniture at the Junior level. Elaine reported that the types of exhibit items did not seem to differ much between Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. We decided not to change to exhibit classes by curriculum unit numbers at this time.

**Knitting**

Knitting has approximately 302 members statewide. Total knitting exhibits (110) and members (82) showed an increase over the previous 9 years of about 30+ exhibits. The new classes in loom knitting and felted knitting accounted for most of that increase. Items were entered in the beginning and expanding levels for loom knitting. New resources for loom knitting continue to become available. The newest books feature cables and socks made on looms. Felted knitting had 18 exhibits total with most in the beginning level.

**Crochet**

Crochet has approximately 227 members enrolled statewide. The total crocheted exhibits was increased over the last three year totals to 60. Most of this was in the lower phases and in felted crochet. Phase 5 (afghan/broomstick stitches) had no entries. Number of members exhibiting was about the same as the last three years.

**Home Economics Judging Contests**

This was the second year of having the county judging contest data reported for a state level contest. Sewing/Clothing contest had about the same number of members (154) but 4 fewer counties reporting this year. Foods and Nutrition had 136 members from 11 counties. Both these totals were lower than last year (164/14). Again, several counties didn't seem prepared to capture the scoring information needed to enter their members. Both contests had more counties participating than when members needed to travel to state fair. Counties have been notified of results and ribbons and awards are being sent to counties.

## **Sewing/Clothing**

Sewing/Clothing has approximately 968 members enrolled. This was the second year for the revised Sewing/Clothing exhibit classes. Total number of exhibits (552) increased slightly over last year. Skill level 1 showed the largest increase while most other levels showed some decrease.

Joan reported that lack of seam finishes on woven fabrics, especially flannels, was a problem (skill levels 3 and 4).

Participation in Fashion Revue was up – 42 Intermediate and 31 Seniors. The increase came at the Intermediates level. There was still a problem with at least one member expecting to use their garment from the construction classes in Fashion Revue. This has not been allowed for many years but there still seems to be difficulty in being sure the members and families understand this rule.

We discussed the possibility of developing a Fashion Revue division for outfits that are purchased rather than made by the member. This division would have a price limit (\$25) and emphasize clothing selection, skills in presenting the outfit and interviewing with the judges. Related issues that were discussed included requiring enrollment in sewing/clothing versus opening it to any 4-H member; having quotas separate from the fashion revue (construction) quotas; and whether members could be allowed to enter both construction fashion revue and selection fashion revue. Elaine will work on the details and send a proposal to the committee for reaction. We will try to make a decision and release information before the first of the year.

Adding more members to fashion revue would stress the judging times at state fair. They are already at the point of backing up. We discussed the possibility of hiring more judges so two teams could alternate to speed up the judging.

## **Foods and Nutrition**

Enrollment in foods and nutrition is approximately 1447 members. Total number of exhibits (450) was up from last year but still below the previous usual trend around 600. Food products were up (343) but food posters continued to decline (9) and recipe collections were about the same as last year (98). Even with quotas removed, food contest participation was still less than last year. Food Preparation contest (39) had an increase in intermediates (32) but only a third of the seniors (7) who participated last year. Since fair was later this year, seniors may have been involved in school sports. Mini meal contest (30) was about the same participation level as previous years. Again, there were more intermediates (22) than seniors (8). Joan and Mona reported that members did an excellent job of staying within the time limits this year. Members showed good preparation skills, food safety, and creativity. Nutrition knowledge was a little weak. Joan suggested a support piece might be how to choose a recipe for a contest so that it shows a variety of skills and equipment use.

One new resource is available online. A video on measuring is posted to the state website and two counties are piloting the use of a DVD. More topics need to be covered before DVD's are mass produced. Next topics will probably include table setting, muffin method and biscuit method of making baked products. The confusion still continues about when a product is made by the muffin method. A new presentation platform that

could use still photos rather than video is available at OSU. Elaine will try to proceed with more resources.

Iron Chef Contest generated lots of excitement in the building. It was held on one day with 15 youth participating on 6 teams. More than half the contestants were boys. Five counties sent teams. It was an exhausting day. Scheduling next year will probably be done on more days with just one or two pairings per day. If interest increases, more days will be added to accommodate the teams. A video showing some of the action is available on YouTube. The link is [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3SL\\_A21T3c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3SL_A21T3c) We discussed the possibility of including some type of price limit on a food contest. Iron Chef might be the best place to incorporate that cost limit although there was concern that it not limit creativity.

### **Food Preservation**

Enrollment in Food Preservation is about 389 members. Exhibits (192) and number of exhibitors (132) were the highest in the last 10 years. This was somewhat expected given current economic conditions. Nancy reported that the judge felt it was difficult to judge pressure canned tomatoes and other vegetables in the same class. Rather than dividing into two separate class numbers, it was suggested to separate the tomatoes to judge separately within the class. We can try to gauge whether pressure canning is a method members are using for tomatoes. However, it may be that tomatoes are not being selected for state fair if they have to compete against other vegetables that usually end up looking better. We can look at the possibility of separate classes next year. The possibility that the newest 2009 Anniversary version of the Ball Blue Book recommends only pressure canning of tomatoes was discussed. NOTE: The Ball Blue Book (2009) does have both boiling water canner and pressure canner methods for tomatoes. They are located in different sections. Boiling water canner methods are included with fruits; pressure canner methods are included with vegetables.

Nancy also indicated that the most common comment judges were writing was about appropriate head space. Elaine will look at revising the judging score sheets to include a check box for this comment to speed up judging and give information to the member.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be the first Monday in October 2010.