

## Rural Revival Minutes

July 6, 2015

**Members Present:** Dennis Lehmann, Lyle Preheim, Glen Wollman, Tim Eisenbeis, Roy Kaufman, Larry Eisenbeis, John Koch, Lorraine Ensz, Richard Ensz, Dee Millar, Paul Ortman, Todd Koerner, Lillie Koerner, Nate Preheim

**Minutes** of June 2 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. Approval moved by Glen Wolman, seconded by Lorraine Ensz, and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report.** Current Balance is \$685.94.

**Website.** No Report

**Farmer's Market.** General discussion on the relationship with the Freeman Community Development Foundation was entertained. John Koch pointed out that no current FCDC funds go to support the Market and that he doesn't feel the Foundation understands that or the fact that the Farmer's Market has its own checking account. The Market has survived on Fees charged to vendors. If FCDC is open to providing any direct support it was noted that expansion of promotion/advertising was very important to the growth/success of the operation.

**Butcher Shop/Buffalo Enterprise.** There has been no response from Adam Chedester relative to establishing a butcher shop. The sense around the table is that such a significant expansion of his current situation is not what he is looking for.

It was reported that the *Courier* will be doing a feature story on Nathan's buffalo operation next week. The first field harvest is coming up July 21st. The group indicated an interest in coming out for a "pasture walk" and it was agreed to try to arrange this to take place immediately previous to the August Rural Revival meeting (6:30 pm).

**Community Garden** - Todd Koerner reported that the gardens (FA and Bethany) are established. Dennis Reis is coordinating volunteers. He noted that this year the Food Pantry has moved to a 3 times a month format.

**Beginning Farmer Event** – Lorraine Ensz and Lillie Koerner commented on this event which was held June 9. It was noted that attendees were from a wide geographic area and that a significant body of information was shared. Lorraine noted that she particularly appreciated the presentation by Will Ortman because he was actually able present solid data on operational costs and profitability.

**Arts/Earth Center and Other.** John Koch reported that (1) John Peterson, head of the Amana Society (Amana Colonies), will be to Freeman in late August, (2) again asserted that progress is being made on the aquaponics-based Research and Demonstration Center and (3) that he had spoken to Meranda VanNingen about the possibility of Kairos serving as a pick-up site for local CSAs. She seemed interested, but was not at the meeting to discuss this further.

**Adjournment** – Moved by Paul Ortman, Second by Tim Eisenbeis, accepted.

Respectfully submitted, John Koch, Secretary