

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI

Platteville Optimist Weekly Bulletin – Friday, January 27, 2017

Attendance: 25 members attended – Becky Schambow, Beth Frieders, Bob Weier, Brad Mootz, Charlie Clark, Diana Van Natta, Doug Martin, Duane Borgen, Ernie Thalmann, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Gary Munson, Guy Stead, Hap Daus, Howard Crofoot, Jerry Schewe, John Urness, Kevin Haertzen, Mike Olds, Ron Weier, Tim Boldt, Wayne Wodarz, Steve Lane, and Maxine Lane.
(8 members wore Optimist clothing)

Guest: Our speaker, Ryan Weigel enjoyed breakfast with us this morning.

Mystery Greeter: Kevin Haertzen was the greeter and he greeted Ernie Thalmann.

Joker Draw: Winning the \$2.00 today was Fern Nall who drew the 8 of Diamonds with a lucky ticket purchased by her husband.

Announcements: Welcome back to Maxine Lane—today was her first day back after foot surgery.

- A thank you note was read from Salvation Army.
- Maxine announced that Feb. 2nd is designated as Optimist Day. It is suggested that we all wear our Optimist shirts that day.



Program: Becky Schambow introduced Ryan Weigel who is the VP of Dairy Procurement for Accelerated Genetics and Assistant Coach of UW-Platteville's Dairy Judging Team. As a sequel to his earlier presentation with his brother Cory on cattle judging, this presentation provided us with some interesting facts on "genetics" and the dairy industry.



Ryan got our attention as he shared two packages of sunflower seeds, one was labeled without GMO (genetically Modified Organisms) and costing more. When asked to choose the best purchase... we chose the one without the GMO label. There are eight things including sunflower seeds that the label doesn't apply to, but still may have GMO somewhere in the label. He talked about the strict regulations in the dairy industry. Farmers follow the regulations to avoid fines. For example if some contaminated milk got into a bulk truck the responsibility lays with the farmer which is why farmers carry a lot of insurance. Genetics are important in every aspect of our lives. He told a funny story about his son's idea of human genetics after which we were ready for genetics with cattle. (Ask any optimist listed above to share the story if you are curious.)

The use of genetics in farming has become more popular over the last ten years and is used by farmers to ensure that they produce the most productive animals possible. DNA testing and studying the family tree helps the breeders and farmers determine the ideal

animals, when mated, to produce the strongest daughters and sons. Breeding with family lines can be more productive than breeding with herd mates. DNA records are also kept on animals being bred naturally on a farm. Genetic testing can determine coloring, physical features and is being used to control the growth of horns in the cattle. Most cows are artificially inseminated to improve the family lines. These services are reasonably priced, but a little more economical for larger farms. Ryan was asked about cloning and showed pictures of his cow Apple, who was cloned 13 times, as well as photos of her daughters. Cloned cattle are used as show cattle rather than raised to produce milk. Prize bulls may be cloned and used for breeding while they are younger. In the end he said that everyone involved in the dairy industry is watching the gene pools to ensure that the results are positive and not carried to a detriment.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned.

~~~~Minutes taken and drafted for Rooster Call by Fern Nall.

**UPCOMING SPEAKER:** *February Speakers are arranged by Duane Borgen*

Feb. 3 Business Meeting

Feb. 10 Luke Peters- City of Platteville Recreation Coordinator/City Forester will talk about the variety of recreation programs for youth and adults.

Feb. 17 Bill Kloster – Airport Commission Chairperson will talk about the Platteville Airport  
Note: The Airport Manager will also attend.

Feb. 24 Steve Braun – Grant County Emergency Management

Optimistic thought shared by Charlie Clark:

***OPTIMISM IS GOING AFTER MOBY  
DICK IN A ROWBOAT AND TAKING  
TARTAR SAUCE WITH YOU.***

