

September, 1995

WEST MICHIGAN FOR ANIMALS
139 Langdon N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-1982

Interim President, Shelly Haner
Interim Vice President, Robin Cleaves
Interim Secretary, Julia Houts
Interim Treasure, Herb Seamons
Editor, Shelly Haner

ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

West Michigan For Animals' Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 10, at 5 p.m. at the John Ball Park Pavillion. The meeting itself will follow a vegan pot luck dinner. The meeting will begin at 6:00.

Wendy Wamser will be bringing "Not Dogs" as a main course to be cooked on the grill so please contact Wendy at 874-8063 for information on what dish to bring and pass. Condiments for the Not Dogs are needed as well.

The meeting's agenda will include updating memberships, oversee committee choices and elect new Board of Directors who will then convene to elect new officers. All members will be able to vote, make suggestions for the bi-laws and make motions. Let's make WMFA what it should have been all along.

CIRCLE R RODEO UNCHANGED, CRUEL AS EVER

There has been a lot of pressure on the local rodeo operation known as the Circle R Rodeo this summer. Despite the fact that several obvious animal abuses were cited by WMFA members, the rodeo has done nothing to change those violations. In fact, several members attended the rodeo and found more severe forms of cruelty! On Saturday, August 20, there were no water buckets in the animals' pens (except for the sheep), absolutely no shade, a calf and a bull smashed into one of the chute gates, causing severe disorientation, and an apache horse had large, open bleeding wounds on his sides. It seems that the Circle R Rodeo simply does not care how their animals are treated so long as the "bucks" are rolling in.

Despite the gloomy forecast, all is not so terrible. As a result of continued protests, five businesses have withdrawn their sponsorship. They were disgusted that their dollars were funding something so cruel. Most other business that sponsor were polite and did listen to what we had to say. And Herb, Cole and Wendy distributed anti-rodeo literature in Cedar Springs on August 12.

Vanderhyde Ford talked at length with WMFA members and were interested in what we had to say, however Muc Autobody did call the police. An officer who had anti-rodeo literature in her cruiser stated that the activists had not broken any laws and were able to remain and leaflet.

If protests are kept up with this kind of vigor, we may see the end of the Circle R Rodeo once and for all. How fortunate for the animals that would be.

COMITTEE HELP

For those new to West Mich. for Animals, we have various committees that focus on a particular form of animal abuse. All committee chairs have been very dedicated at ordering materials and organizing events surrounding their committee's theme. Please check with the following persons as to how you can further aid the committee you're interested in

Fur Committee--Cole Dorsey
Farm Animal Welfare--Robin Cleaves
Anti-rodeo-- Herb Seamons
Anti-vivisection---Shelly Haner (includes pet theft)
Hunting---Janet Meana
Education---Kim VanderLaan
Spay/neuter---Cindy Kott

MEIJER FOOD FARE

On Friday, September 8, Meijer is hosting it's annual food fare. WMFA needs members to distribute anti-Proctor and Gamble literature. Cole Dorsey has "10,000 Reasons to Boycott Proctor and Gamble" leaflets if interested.

WMFA CALLING CIRCLE DRAWN UP

We now have a new calling circle enacted for group business information or for emergency activities. It goes as followed:

Member	Will call
Herb Seamons	Shelly Haner 792-6768 Wendy Wamser 874-8063
Wandy Wamser	Cole Dorsey 285-8163 or 785-0102
Cole Dorsey	Robin Cleaves 774-4091
Robin Cleaves	Kim VanderLaan 698-9741
Kim Vanderlaan	Cindy Kott 363-0209
Cindy Kott	Julia Houts 285-4662
Julia Houts	Janet Meana 669-0812
Janet Meana	Ursela Franklin 895-6966
Ursela Franklin	Bob Elvey & Trina 451-2445

Bob & Trina will then call Herb and the circle will be complete.

We were informed by our opposing lawyers that we were a "loose association group" of individuals that have only co-existed for about 4-5 years, that they (former members) will also work with resources and funds provided by them through personal loans made by them. It was stated that \$2000 is what they "loaned" at this time. \$2000 is an inaccurate amount at this time, \$3500 is a more accurate estimation at this time belonging to WMFA as a whole. It is a fact that the funds were raised as a group effort through group activities such as the dog washes, etc. Not out of the pockets of those former members. It is also a fact that WMFA has been in existence since as a corporation and not as a loose association of 4-5 years.

Robin Cleaves, Interim Vice President, informed Tolley Vandenbosch and Walton, The opposing law firm, that all money was raised in the name of WMFA and belongs to the group as well as all documents, literature, equipment, etc. This can and will be proven in District Court. She asked for written resignation from the former members/their clients. It has been informed that legal action will be taken if corporate money has been deposited into personal accounts. We can and will present legal evidence of the above items and that all is factual and if any further falsehoods are made we will alert the news media as to what their clients are doing to tarnish the good name of West Mich. for Animals.

A letter of apology was written to Pet Supplies Plus for the falsehoods told to that company by the former members. They told Pet Supplies Plus that WMFA was dissolved and that the group left over was to wage a demonstration against the store. Also that the dog washes were cancelled indefinitely. Hopefully this situation has been resolved since Pet Supplies Plus is our most beneficial sponsor and has done more than enough to help our organization.

Per Robin Cleaves, Interim Vice President

*MEATY, BEEFY AND BOUNCY

Leaner cuts and positive PR have cinched the rebound of beef, which is enjoying its largest per-capita consumption increase in a decade. Beef eaters scarfed down 63.7 pounds each in 1994 up to a 3.7 percent increase from 1993.

Industry forecasters predict the per-person poundage will rise to 64.8 this year and to 65.8 pounds in 1996.

Chicken-eating also has increased by several pounds per person, from 48.5 pounds in 1993 to a projected 52.2 pounds this year and by 1996, 53.6 pounds." (Source-The Detroit Free Press, August 25, 1995).

Please save D&W receipts and Spartan UPC labels. WMFA uses these for fund-raising. Each are returned to the prospective stores. Turn D&W Receipts to Janet Meana and Spartan UPC labels to Wendy Wamser.

Volunteers are needed to staff a garage sale to raise money for the group. The sale will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday September 9. It will be held at Robin's house. Her address is 1133 College N.E. She lives on the corner of Leonard and College Ave. If you have items to donate and sell please bring them pre-priced.

HELP WANTED TO PROTEST UPCOMING RODEOS

Help is needed to demonstrate against the upcoming Sparta Rodeo which will be taking place over Labor Day weekend. (Saturday, Sunday And Monday). We will need monitors to attend the show and observe for violations of anti-cruelty laws. We will need to persist at making phone calls to sponsors, to wage protests.

ANTI-SPARTA RODEO ACTIVISTS SET TO WELCOME 51st ANNUAL KLEIN RODEO!! WMFA has called for demonstrating 3 days before the Sparta Rodeo. People should park downtown and meet at WM Rodgers Park, N. State Street at 12:30 pm. We will march through town and protests before the 2:00 pm start of the Klein Rodeo. WMFA has been monitoring this rodeo for 10 years and it has a long list of documented county anti-cruelty violations and witnessed stock animal abuse. Currently, legal efforts to get Klein to comply are stymied until we have knowledge of how to sue in circuit court for injunctive relief to force him to comply with the regulations.

Also, along with the list of Grattan Circle R Rodeo sponsors, persons are asked to call and complain to sponsors about the cruelties that occur in both rodeos. Call Herb at 459-1982 or Cole at 785-0102 to get the list and let be heard!!

Persons are needed for Friday and Saturday night picket duty in down town G.R. next to the Amway Grand Plaza at Lyon and Monroe to advise potential customers that Carriage Affair's owner puts on a rodeo where we've noted terrible cruelty. Our last picket on August 19, we caused a \$100 loss for Carriage Affair. No one used their carriage service. Again Call Herb or Cole for details.

DOVE HUNTING BILL ON THE BORDER NOW

The pro hunting community is working over time to get SB 529 passed to legalize the hunting of Mourning doves in the state of Michigan. Unfortunately the bill passed the Senate before the legislature began its Summer recess in late May. The bill is now in the House Conservation Committee, whose Chairman, Rep Mick Middaugh R-Paw Paw, must make the decision to bring it to a vote. Please call Rep. Middaugh at (517) 373-0893 and tell him you oppose dove hunting. We must enact a counter measure since Michigan Outdoors launched a campaign to encourage hunters to call him and voice their approval.

According to Michigan Outdoors, "Doves are the most abundant game bird in the United States...There is, in short, no logical reason why doves shouldn't be hunted in Michigan." Doves are currently legally hunted in 37 states in the u.s.

The Detroit Audubon Society, Michigan Audubon Society and the Michigan Humane Society have joined forces with the Fund For Animals to defeat SB 529. If this fails, dove hunting will be legal in Michigan by 1996. This simply cannot be allowed to happen. Please write your representatives and voice your opinion on SB 529 As soon as possible.

