



Place: Romers Banquet Hall

Date: 9/12/22

Members present: John Yoder, Michelle Dues, Eydie Kremer, Frank Urwin, Karen Romer, Lisa Niekamp-Urwin, Kelley Baker, Sharon Rindler, Tom Wisvari, David Romer, Jackie Muhlenkamp and Amy Wendel

President John Yoder called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the August 9, 2022, meeting were approved following a motion from Frank and seconded by Sharon.

John passed out a paper from SOCA, copy attached. These programs are available to our members. There are shipping discounts available, and this is also included. There will be a meeting sometime in November with a SOCA representative, more details to share after that meeting is held.

Tom Wisvari, Director of Food Processing from Cooper Farms shared some stats about the company. They're the number one employer in St Henry. There are four divisions, hogs, eggs, turkey, and grain. He discussed the hog division; they partner with Clemens in Coldwater MI who does the processing. They produce 155 million dozen eggs/year and purchase over 19 million bushels of corn/year. The main division is turkey, as they hatch over 15 million poult/year. Fully integrated from hatch to distribution. St Henry processes 25,600 birds/day. Over a million pounds is produced daily from this location.

The Van Wert facility cooks turkey for private label customers, including Kroger. We have over 200 growers in the Mercer/Darke county area. He talked about the avian influenza, which is affecting poultry operations all over the country. He reviewed the biosecurity measures Cooper Farms is taking right now to keep it out of area.

He also shared they never missed a day of production during Covid and were the example the CDC used for other poultry/meat processors.

It was a great review with plenty of questions from the group.

David gave the Treasurers report. We raised over \$9,335 at the picnic, our most profitable year ever.

Kim said the holiday open house is on track, all businesses will be contacted this month for prize baskets.

Pot of gold was won by Jackie – \$24!!

St Henry Tile was our drink sponsor ~ thank you!

Michelle motioned to adjourn, and Sharon seconded it.

Next meeting Tuesday October 11th at 7:30 AM. It will be at Romer's Party Room.

Eydie Kremer
Chamber Secretary