

Washington County Fair Board  
September 4, 2019  
Washington County Fairgrounds, 6:30pm

**The Meeting was called to order and the following were present:**

**Fair Board and staff:** Justin Mink, Jon Mills, Kelley Bruce, Jessie Woodland, Brooke Mink, Jeff Springer, and Chris and Harvey Braun - **Extension and 4-H:** Mary Ridout and Michelle Tate - **Superintendents:** Jared Farrens, Rachel Thatcher, Megan Inwards, Lee Nichols, and Mark Moura

Minutes: It was moved by Jon and seconded by Jessie to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Superintendents' Meeting: Justin welcomed the superintendents and asked them to share any comments, ideas, or suggestions.

Livestock Check-in time was discussed. Most exhibitors prefer morning check-in times. Some families asked the board to address Swine check-in times. Kelley commented on the old twice a day check-in, which ends up being early check-ins and then trickling in all day. The board agreed to not go back to two times. Jon suggested an 8 to noon or 6 to 10 check-in time. It will be put on the October Agenda as an action item.

The bleachers were set up too close to the show tables during the Small Animal Show.

Megan Inwards, new Dog Superintendent, asked about moving the time of the dog check-in or the entire show. Friday is a busy day and the no dogs rule makes it tricky. Dogs were asked to leave places as well. Discussion included the dogs were inside a barn by steers and down by the goats, reiterating that it is a busy day. Michelle and Megan both discussed moving the Dog Show and the Small Animal Round Robin up to Tuesday. The extension was asked to come up with a tentative schedule of shows to bring to the October meeting.

Jon complimented the Beef Superintendents on their meetings. As soon as all the beef were checked in and bedded, they called for a meeting with all parents and exhibitors. They introduced themselves, set expectations during the fair, explained the plan for weighing in, and explained how the Shows and Sale works. This meeting gave the exhibitors an opportunity to ask questions about issues the superintendents might assume everyone knows. Besides setting the tone for the fair, it gives parents and exhibitors a contact person during the fair. Jon is encouraging all Superintendents to have a similar meeting. Kelley added this would be a great time to tell all the exhibitors about the Stall Cards, know to fill them out; beginning weight, check-in weight, and average daily gain.

The Leaders' Council wondered if the Herdsman Awards were given out. They were supposed to be awarded daily from the superintendents. As we asked around the room, it was determined only a few were given out. Discussion included giving it to the Leaders' Council or abandoning it. Michelle will take to the Leaders' Council. It will be put on the October Agenda as an action item.

Rachel commented the cleaning crew was only a portion of her exhibitors. There was an overall conversation about how clean the Small Animal Barn was and ways to ensure everyone helps with cleanup. Kelley commented, exhibitors who can't clean on Sunday need to make arrangements with their superintendents. There are always exceptions and ways to let exhibitors help earlier in the week if Sunday is not possible. The check-in meeting might also help in this situation.

The current age rule for Goats is "born after January 1, the year of the fair. Discussion included the ideal age of a goat is 6 months. Other counties in our district aim for six months old, but use a rule concerning milk teeth instead of birth date. Most of our Breeders kid in February. Jared was told that even if it is born before January 1<sup>st</sup>, nobody cares. Discussion included the responsibility of a good project always falls back on the exhibitor, and if the prime age is 6 months, then changing the date up will only move the animal away from prime and shows no advantage. No motion was made, but always good to clarify these items.

Another discussion was our rule about not selling white ribbons. This is an area where the expectation of our fair needs to be passed to our judges. Our policy is a white ribbon is sub-standard and not worth selling. It is an extreme. There are usually no white ribbons given out. Another topic which should be discussed with the judges is our Feeder Class. These are animals that don't meet our required minimum weight requirement to sell at the Livestock Auction. Those animals are placed in a Feeder Class, and if the animal is judged as finished, it can be sold at the market sale.

There was a brief discussion on fans, dryers, and available outlets on the sheep and goat end of the livestock barn. There are not enough outlets for everything, but it has never been an issue.

Animals who are professionally fitted prior to arriving at the fair were also discussed. All species have the potential for professional fitting. If it is done prior to arrival, there is really nothing we can do.

It was moved by Jessie and seconded by Brooke to set the 2020 fair date:

**July 27 - August 1, 2020**

Extension Office Report:

It was moved by Jeff and seconded by Jessie to order 75 EID tags for 2020. We have 24 in stock. We have 274 tags for sheep, goat, and swine. The motion passed.

Michelle has secured Sandi Weishaupt to judge all large animal species. It will be a flat fee of \$1000, with no mileage. Brett Spenser and Sally Gibson will judge horse. Mike Stanton and Nancy Richmond will judge small animals. Fair Entry went well, and the Extension is renewing the subscription.

Cake decorating projects and selling cakes for the 2020 fair will be put on the October Agenda.

There was also an issue of a boar at the fair because of a failed castration. It was missed by all involved. The meat will not be the quality it should be. It should have been disqualified. It will be put on the October Agenda as an action item. General Livestock Rule change:

“All male market animals must be neutered completely. No rams, bulls, bucks or boars will be able to show or sell as market livestock. The animal will be disqualified as soon as it is detected.”

Justin requested some clarification on different species' run-off for Grand Champion Breeding projects. Some species include the male, and some do not. Whatever we do, we should be consistent across all species clear in the Fair Book. The other fact is that judging boars and sows, or ewes and rams is like comparing apples and oranges. After some discussion, we will clarify our classes and Grand Champions of classes in species. It will be put on the October Agenda.

Brooke asked about the Code of Ethics. In 2018, everyone had to sign a copy of the Code of Ethics; however, in 2019 she did not see them. Michelle reported the Extension requires a signed copy which stays with the person's record and does not have to be signed every year. The Fair Board has the right to require them from everyone, every year, but Michelle would not like to be responsible for the paperwork that would generate. Justin feels like the line was crossed with the Grass Fed beef and the respect for the Market standard and those who defend the market standard. Negative comments about the “livestock market standards” should not be allowed. The beef involved did very well financially in the sale, so he would like to see them calm down. No motion was made, but duly noted.

#### Old Business

Michelle presented the following wording for cases where an animal dies which was entered in the fair. It will be put on the October Agenda as an action item.

“If a 4-H or FFA member's only project animal dies before fair, they cannot substitute another animal. 4-H Members must notify their leader and the Extension Office for approval to complete their project. Youth may complete their 4-H project by showing another animal already at fair. (For example, an animal that belongs to a sibling or fellow club member.) They cannot be considered for Grand or Reserve Champion Showman. FFA Members will work with their advisors.

Both the Extension and Chris felt the new Offices worked out great.

Banners: There are exhibitors who have approved the fee for the Banners be taken from their sale check for 2019. There are a few missing banners the extension is waiting for a response. Jessie moved to give the 2019 exhibitors until September 6<sup>th</sup> to respond, otherwise the banner fee will be deducted from their sale check. Jon seconded and the motion passed. An award rule will be put on the October Agenda as an action item.

Facebook seems to be working nicely.

The Emergency Plan will be on the Agenda for October.

It was reported the Premium Payout did not balance. All premiums have been distributed. Jeff moved and Kelley seconded to approve the premium payout amount. The motion passed.

New Business:

Chris gave a quick report on collections for the Livestock Sale.

The "Thank you" list the board usually sends out was passed around and edited. Chris will send out notes in September.

We have a Commissioners Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm. Chris will present the year's overview and the sign addition information.

Treasurer Report: Due to time, the bills will be initialed in October. The board was given a brief overview of both the Sale and the Main account. It was moved by Jon to accept the Treasurer's report as is and initial bills and statements in October. Jeff seconded, and the motion passed.

The Board reviewed RV Storage Contract, times, rates, and 2019 income break down. Jon moved to add \$25 to each bracket. Kelley seconded and the motion passed.

Harvey reported on the following Maintenance Items:

- Sale Barn PA: Rocky Mtn Audio worked on the PA system in the Sale Barn. The Blue tooth is not working, but they will fix. Harvey will have to keep after the Audio Co. The electrician came and looked at what was needed to complete the wiring.
- Jeff helped Harvey clean out the manure pit. It is piled in the RV parking lot.
- Lloyd Dibble volunteered to disc and prepare it for grass seed this fall.
- The sign project is scheduled to be installed in September. The proposed landscape was handed out. We are responsible for the electrical, plumbing, and excavation. Jessie moved to allow purchases of approximately \$3,000 for these items. Jeff seconded and the motion passed.
- Shade Cloths are shortened and put away.
- The windrows in the Livestock Barn made after the fair worked great! There could be six rows instead of four, which would be less work for the kids.
- We will only order two loads of sawdust for next year.

Next years' direction:

- New tan shade clothes for Swine Barn to match Small Animal Barn
- New floor in Swine Barn
- Speakers outside Sale Barn, hooked to PA system, for Show Grass Area
- Apron in front of Good Sawdust Bin
- Raised walls on manure pit to accommodate a dump truck
- Concrete Block in front of power pole by sawdust bin
- Build flip latches on exterior gates
- 2 more panels for Sale Barn with wire bottom inserts

- Figure out a way to hold the (animal) double doors open during the shows and sale.
- Buy: 20- 3'x6' panels, Jon clarifying size and where to purchase
- More bow gates

Jeff asked for more information on the Top 20 Buyers T-shirts. Perhaps sell them on Facebook and gift them to the Top 20 Buyers. If we sell or give any away, we'll order the board a different color. It will be put on the October Agenda as an action item.

The Southern 4-H Horse Youth Leaders Council is having a weekend retreat at the fairgrounds this weekend. We donate the grounds for use. They would like to donate back to help support us. Jon suggested they donate towards a water line to the warmup arena below the rodeo grounds.

Justin asked for insurance be on the October Agenda. Not an action item, but to clarify our requirements from renters. Especially as it concerns joint rental agreements where the guest uses the rodeo grounds.

Notes for 2020

- All big bleachers on Railroad Street side of Sale Barn
- Bleachers further back from tables at Small Animal Show

Next Meeting Set:

***New Fiscal Year!*** October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Country Coffee Cabin, 7pm

It was moved by Jon to adjourn. Jessie seconded, and the motion passed.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Chris Braun*