UPSF Department Advisory Committee (DAC) Minutes

January 25, 2025

**Members present:**

**Dairy**: Melissa Gatien, Kris Havelka **Sheep & Goats**: Lindsey Kronemeyer, Chelsea Ketchum, Scott Sundberg **Swine**: Tammi Hill (Zoom) **Draft Horse**: none **Queen Contest:** Karen Paidl

**Beef**: Veronica Wallace, Connie Wells, Jan Streiter, John Stapleton **Management**: Vickie Micheau (Zoom), Kelly Zellar

**Poultry/Rabbits**: Andrea Sorenson, Pete Kleiman, Jr. Jesse Poll (Zoom) **Community Arts**: Kate Oman, Jacqueline Beach

**Equine**: Judy Nelson **Skillathon**: Sandy Gill **Junior Rep’s**: Alexa Axtell, Bridget Paidl

**Others**: Ed McBroom, Ann Harrington, Lori Dalgord (Zoom), Dave Radloff

21 voting members present, Zoom (5) **Public:** Dan Dalgord, Marissa Axtell, Toni Williams

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comment:** Toni Williams spoke in favor of changing the beef fitting rules to family fit, other junior exhibitors don’t have time to help others, there needs to be accommodations for special needs exhibitors. Dan Dalgord agrees there should be accommodations for special needs exhibitors, but feels the current rules are more equitable than family fit would be.
3. **Adoption of Agenda:**  Chelsea requested to add to new business DNA due date for lamb/goat/swine. Kris moved; Connie supported a motion to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from November 23, 2024.**  Missymoved; Sandy supported a motion to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Member Representative elections:**  Ann emailed all 2024 swine exhibitors for nominations and received no responses. Tammi nominated Brandon Hill; Chelsea supported. Ann and Dave asked if Brandon has any involvement in the swine barn, the answer was no. Ed suggested making it a one-year appointment until the 2025 fair and get nominations at that time. Connie amended the nomination to make the appointment until the next organizational meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Management Report:** Vickie. Attended a MAFE session on social media, it was suggested to have someone not closely connected with the fair to review the website and printed advertising. The Authority will be approving the budget at the meeting next week. Will be recommending increases in gate passes & gold circle seating. No increase in camping and vendor fees. Most of the grandstand entertainment is booked and are considering a media reception. Asking that the show dates/times be updated as soon as possible. A meeting with all agencies on Emergency Preparedness on the fairgrounds will be held February 24, our plan will then be updated. Suggested having Delta Force attend the DAC pre-fair meeting. Reminded everyone to document any incidents during the fair.
7. **Building & Grounds report**: New sheep/goat barn renovations may have a higher cost than originally estimated. John stated the next meeting will be 1/31 at 10:00 am. B&G & Authority meetings are open to the public. Ann stated that she and Steve attended a MAFE session on capital improvements and have some good ideas on how to look at projects and how to present Authority. The projects will be put into cost categories. Ann met with Matt and there were many projects on the Facilities improvement plan which have been completed and can now be moved to a completed section. The financial reporting committee will be meeting next week to develop a plan for presenting projects to the board. John stated the challenge has been prioritizing projects and agreed there needs to be a completed projects document.
8. **Chairman’s remarks: Ed** Vickie is now the elected President of MAFE, congratulations! Ed will be meeting with the MDARD Director next week. The Director was impressed with how the UPSF handled the Avian flu last year. He has told Ed he would like to determine how the state could be more involved with the UPSF. A positive TB cow was found in lower Michigan. Currently dairy cattle are allowed to be shown. California has banned all dairy cattle and poultry from exhibition.
9. **Exhibitor Department Report:** **Kelly-1)** Beef pre-registration is now all online with no issues to date. Currently 18 pre-registered. Information is imported directly into a spreadsheet, saving time. **2)** Will be sending out new sound & maintenance forms requesting more detail. Each barn will have a barn map to add detail for maintenance. **3)** Book changes are needed by February 28th. **4)** All judges booked except poultry, draft and rabbits. Most from out of state. Open beef judge from Kansas, Market & junior show livestock judge from Indiana. As soon as she has them all she will post online by July 1st. **5)** Management has been discussing bringing in a draft horse demonstration in place of the draft show as we have not any entrants for the past 2 years. **Ann. 1)** Thanked Sheila for DAC member name placards. **2)** Festival of Trees set-up went well. Received a lot of votes for favorite tree, but didn’t make into the top three. Lori did a great job, good publicity for the fair. **3)** Reminder LBM Grant is due 4-15. **4)** Dave created and I e-mailed the YQCA training flyers to all 2024 Jr. Market Exhibitors. John stated there were some exhibitors that thought YQCA was only needed last year. Dave stated there is different content each year and it will be required each year. **5)** When I was finishing up the ribbon inventory, Kelly brought up a good point that some departments are paying for some of their banners, others are not paying anything. Some departments have Supreme Champions and some only have Grands. So, I’ve been working on a more equitable and fair system for all departments to contribute to the cost of the specialty banners. I will be communicating with the Superintendents after management finalizes the plan. **6)** Completed the Department fundraising report and gave it to Sheila for the auditors. **7)** Worked with Vickie, Kelly and Sheila to update the website with new registration deadlines, DAC info., YQCA, Mary Lyon Equine Award and the LBMA and grant information.
10. **MAFE convention reports: Ann-MDARD**-suggestion to send home all no sell pigs immediately after the show. ‘Signs of Disease’ flyer on their website, which will be sent to all registered exhibitors before the fair. **YQCA**, 19- & 20-year-old are supposed to take class online, but UPSF has been allowing them to take in person. Exhibitors can test out at the ages of 12,15 or 19. There have already been 19-year-olds taking the in-person classes. **Showorks** session they are supposed to be getting back to me with questions I asked. Most fairs have auctions for youth still exhibits. **Superintendent reviews and development-**most fairs complete Supt. Reviews immediately following their fair. Fair manager and fair board member are included. Should be considered a learning opportunity for all involved. Many fairs have committees to hire judges instead of just one person. **Auction & check-off programs**-mandatory Michigan beef check-off began as of 1/1/24 at $1.00 per head. Michigan has a voluntary sheep check-off. All councils have promotional information which I will check with Superintendents to see if they would like to order. Talked with Flying Star Rodeo out of Reed City Michigan, they are interested in coming to the UPSF. Skerbeck’s have 2 new rides and continue to be great partners to UPSF. **Veronica-**Good convention. Attended **MDARD, Superintendent’s round table, Drug testing**. Most fairs are doing drug testing, fairs need good policies. **Camping session**, most fairs use a lottery system or first come first serve, UPSF treats our exhibitors very good when it comes to camping. **Tammi-**Felt that sending no sell hogs home after the show might be a good idea. Was very glad she was able to attend, it was great. She has new respect for board members & Superintendents and how much they do in the background. Used any downtime to plan with her Assistant Amanda. Thankful for the support she is receiving from management. Ed stated he would like the no sale pigs going home to be added to the next meeting. Alexa thought it might be a problem for some exhibitors. It could be offered as an opportunity. Veronica felt there would be a lot to consider and Tammi said it warrants more discussion. It will be on the next meeting’s agenda.
11. **Old Business**
	1. **2028 Fair Centennial Celebration ideas- Andrea** A summary of current ideas was provided. She will use this to assign duties to members of the committee. Would like to use a portion of Ruth Butler building for a historical fair display using old glass display cases. She will have a presentation at the next meeting with different ideas for ribbons/banners for the centennial. Chelsea suggested contacting Jiffy Mix about a baking contest as they are a Michigan company. There are a lot of Michigan companies that could be reached out to as well as all of the commodity groups ie Corn Growers Assoc. John suggested looking to feed/show supply companies for sponsorships. Have a rodeo for the centennial. Ed suggested contacting TV6 to attend a meeting to get the word out that we are looking for artifacts. Jackie suggested having horse drill teams perform. Kate has found a couple of old still exhibits. Vickie verified that the Budweiser Clydesdales have added our centennial to their calendar. There is a display board of old ribbons in the fair office. Vickie has been gathering old news stories. The Historical Society of Delta County is a good resource. Chelsea still has her crown and sash she would donate. Management will work on a theme.
	2. **Beef department rule change proposals-Veronica**

-**Add to Beef Open show rules:** Adult (over age 21) Exhibitors may be accompanied in the ring by a youth of any age. The adult must be the Exhibitor and be in control of the animal being shown at all times. This has historically been a problem in the beef barn. Missy has problems that it has been allowed in the beef barn, but not allowed in the dairy barn, doesn’t feel it’s a good idea for safety and liability. Chelsea asked why do we have minimum ages if this is allowed? Kelly feels if it’s allowed in beef should be in every department, Ed disagreed. Ed and Ann felt the Authority might not approve as they haven’t in the past for other departments. John stated exhibitors are passionate about involving their families. Ed suggested a family class where they could all come out together. Each department has peewee classes for under 8 years old. Beef department has no minimum age for the pee wee class. Jackie suggested everyone sign a waiver. Judy felt it’s too much to handle an animal and a child in the ring at the same time. Tabled.

**-Change to rule #16 in Junior market beef rules:** Existing sentence in rule: Self-haul released at 5 pm unless exhibitor is located in any early release zone. New Sentence: Self-haul market beef will be released after all other market beef animals are loaded out, only if Exhibitor does not have any other animals being exhibited which have later release times. If an exhibitor has only market beef or market beef & swine this would allow them to leave early with their beef. Ann asked if this should apply to the swine department. Lindsey asked if it could apply to her department? Market beef side of the barn is closed as well as the swine barn as soon as they are released early. Tammi feels the swine should go with the market beef. Ann will put together a list of departments and release times for everyone’s information. There was consensus to add earlier release times to the next meeting for discussion. Tabled.

 **-Add to Junior Market beef rules:**

**1)** Junior market beef entered in registered champion classes will have their tattoos checked against their registration papers during check-in on Sunday.

**2)** Junior market beef shall be identified with an RFID tag and a UPSF ear tag upon entry to the fair. Veronica said breeder & animal names are an issue. There was concern about other fairs that require their ear tags to be in the animal’s ear prior to our fair. Veronica stated it caused problems during load out with numerous tags in ears. Ed suggested to coordinate with Chippewa, Dickinson and Houghton to have different colors for their tags.

Chelsea moved, Kelly supported a motion to add new wording: Junior market beef shall be identified with an RFID tag and a UPSF ear tag upon entry to the fair. The only other tags allowed are other fair tags. No breeder, name or advertising tags are allowed. Motion passed unanimously.

**-Add to Open and Junior beef rules:** Kelly moved, Tammi supported a motion to add the following to Livestock Rules: Alternative treatments and therapeutic practices performed by licensed practitioners including but not limited to: Acupuncture, Chiropractic JR Rules/Regs 2024 Rev. 5.21.24 Page | 9 Services, Massage Therapy, Therapeutic Laser, PEMF Magnetic therapy (i.e. Magna Wave), Kinesiology tape (i.e. KT tape), Muscle Stimulators (i.e. Tens Unit), theraplate are prohibited while on the fairgrounds unless under the direction of the fair vet.

This verbiage came from the Wisconsin State Fair. Veronica spoke with the Wisconsin State Fair Beef Superintendent, and they do not allow these practices due to liability. These are considered procedures and are only allowed If the State Fair vet said there were needed. Kelly suggested that this rule should apply to all livestock.

**-Replace Junior rule #1 (fitting rules): 1.** The Junior beef show is deemed “Family Fit’, however the following rules and procedure will be followed:

a) The primary grooming and fitting of livestock during Fair week is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Clipping and grooming of exhibits while on the Fairgrounds is to be done only by the exhibitor, his or her immediate family (which includes mother, stepmother, father, stepfather, siblings, stepsiblings or legal guardian with proof of relationship).

1. The Exhibitor must be present at all times when their exhibit is being groomed.
2. Junior market beef exhibitors may also receive help from other registered junior market beef exhibitors. All other showmanship exhibitors showing a breeding animal may receive assistance from any other showmanship exhibitors.
3. Special consideration to the fitting rule may be granted to other family members in situations where none of the immediate family have project involvement/experience. To request special consideration a “Fitting Rule Waiver Request Form” (found on the U.P. State Fair website) must be submitted by July 15. Waivers will be reviewed on an individual basis by Beef Barn staff who reserve the right to further review situations with outside sources. Requests will be approved or denied by email or written response by August 1st. Failure to comply with this rule will result in animal disqualification, immediate exhibitor disqualification and possible future exhibitor disqualification.
4. Exhibitors must declare the names of family members that will be assisting them during fitting in their online entry for them to be eligible for fitting wristbands at the Fair. All junior exhibitors and immediate family members wanting to participate in fitting or grooming activities must check in with the Fitting Superintendent or his appointed designee. A wristband will be issued which must be worn while participating and/or assisting with their family member’s grooming activities. Lost or broken wristbands must be replaced immediately at the Fitting Superintendent’s office. Failure to have the appropriate wristband may result in disqualification of the animal from exhibition and possible removal of the non-compliant person from the U.P. State Fairgrounds for interfering with Junior Fair rules.
5. Exhibitors and one other person are the **only** personnel allowed to assist with moving the animal to and from the grooming area and the show ring, and in the designated show class line up/holding areas.
6. All fitting, clipping, grooming, blow drying and applying product to the exhibit while on the fairgrounds must be completed in the designated fitting area. Clipping or the use of grooming products is not allowed in the on deck or holding areas.
7. All grooming on Tuesday shall be done in the designated grooming area on the east side of the barn (roadside). NO grooming will be allowed on Tuesday in any other areas.
8. If you have a market beef and breeding stock, you may choose which animal to use for showmanship. All Junior beef fitting rules apply to any breeding stock to be shown in showmanship. Exhibitors must own animal to show in showmanship class.

The only changes are to a, d and e. There were questions about grandparents. The waiver includes grandparents, aunt, uncle, cousin. Dave stated there are families that are not legally married. Veronica said the waiver would be applied in those circumstances. There are some kids that come to the fair and have no family to help. Jan wants to get the families back involved. Chelsea suggested an August 1st deadline for declaring who your helpers will be. Missy asked if the fair could provide helpers, Connie stated there are 4-H clubs, fitting clinics and YouTube videos to learn how to groom. 4-H leaders would not be allowed unless they are also an exhibitor’s parent. Ed felt this would put the staff into a position of even more policing, there will always be inequities and would like to see less rules. Bridget felt that if we’re opening it up to family members it should also be open to club leaders to help. Alexa stated every other barn has no rules and doesn’t understand why it has to be different in the beef barn and doesn’t feel that 8-year-olds should be clipping animals. John felt if stay with the current rule add a waiver for help for younger exhibitors. Judy felt this is too complicated, anyone is allowed to groom the horses. Jackie suggests listing items absolutely not allowed. Scott stated they do not have this problem in the sheep/goat barn, when he showed in the beef barn it was a free for all and that was just the way it was. He suggested leaving the existing rules but allow club leaders to fit. Dan felt the new rule is too cumbersome and hard to police, the current rule is more equitable, add a waiver for special needs exhibitors. Lindsey said it’s hard to determine if someone has special needs. Showmanship on Monday was discussed, less pressure and more time on Tuesday for exhibitors to help each other. Exhibitors practice with their animals in the ring on Monday night and the Queen contest is Monday. Tammi stated no matter what, not everyone will be happy, she feels the most consideration should be given to the younger exhibitors. She feels this is about competition, not being equitable. She also feels whatever rule is adopted should be applied to all market animals. Kelly suggested keeping the rule as is but adding a waiver for younger and special needs exhibitors. Scott suggested do in stages and rules can be changed again next year if it doesn’t work, never going to be fair for everyone and needs to consider amount of work for the staff. Ed stated the beef show is the premier show with higher competition so stricter rules for fitting are acceptable. The sheep department doesn’t feel they have a problem or need to change their rules. Kelly moved; Sandy supported a motion to keep the beef fitting rules the same but add a waiver which the beef barn staff will create. Motion passed unanimously. There will be a waiver to review at the next meeting.

**-Livestock Rules:** add the highlighted sentence to existing rule #21

All cattle must be broke and manageable so as not to disrupt the class, nor endanger any persons or animals. Any animal which appears to be unsafe for exhibitors, other animals, or general public, under the observation and recommendation from the Department Superintendent, UPSF Management, and the UPSF Authority Member shall be immediately removed from the fairgrounds. Connie moved; Chelsea supported a motion to add the first sentence to Livestock rule #21. Motion passed unanimously.

* 1. **Acceptable products for use by mouth in livestock:** Ann researched how other fairs are handling these all-natural substances. Most fairs refer to substances not just drugs that are banned. These products advertise that they improve the animals performance in the ring. These products are not FDA approved. Chelsea noted these products can be added to their feed and Ann stated some fairs test feed. John feels our rule should be clearer and include some of the products. Missy asked if we could ask the vendor outside of the barns to not sell these products. John moved: Kelly supported a motion to change the rule wording to add ‘substances’ and samples of products that cannot be used. Motion passed unanimously. Ed will create the new wording for the next meeting.
	2. **Draft/Pony pull proposals-Crystal.** Tabled until Crystal is able to attend a meeting.
	3. **By-Laws review:** Tabled due to time constraints.
1. **New Business:**
	1. **Sheep/Goat department changes-Lindsey**

**Entry Fee for goats and sheep:** Increase Junior stall fee to $3.00 to be the same as Open stall

**Fitting Area:** Fitting area will be closed starting at 9 pm. No animals may leave their pens after that time unless authorized by the superintendent.

**Fitting Area:** The fitting area will be closed to sheep exhibitors on goat show day starting at 1 pm.

**Peewee showmanship for sheep and goats:** Change from 5-7 to 3-7, add: The animal they are showing must already be registered to show in the junior or open show.

**Junior & Open Goat Breeds:** Combine alpine, registered and grade and all other Swiss Breeds, registered and grade, reducing divisions by 1.

 New breed divisions Division 5: Dairy Breeds, registered and grade

 Division 6: All other breeds, registered and grade

 Division 7: Meat Breeds (must be at least 50%)

**Open & Junior Goat: replace rule #12**

 Junior Show (all divisions) open to 8-20 year olds (age of January 1 of fair year). Open show is open to youth beginning at 8 years old (age of January 1 of fair year). No one under the age of 8 will be permitted in the showring with the exception of peewee showmanship.

Kelly moved; Scott supported a motion to adopt the goat show changes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Open Sheep: change to current rule #15**

 Change to: Open show is open to youth beginning at 8 years old (as of January 1 of fair year). No one under the age of 8 will be permitted in the showring with the exception of peewee showmanship.

**Market sheep: Add rule-**  Sheep shown in market class may not be shown in breeding classes.

**Open & Junior Sheep Breeds:** Delete registered or grade Suffolk and Hampshire, reducing division #’s by 2.

New breed divisions: Division 1: All black-faced breeds, registered or grade

 Division 2: Registered or grade white face

 Division 3: Registered or grade white face cross

 Division 4: Wether type breed

 Division 5: Any other breeds

 Kelly moved; Missy supported a motion to adopt the sheep department changes. Motion passed unanimously.

* 1. **DNA due for sheep/goat/swine-Chelsea** Pre-registration date is 5/15 and DNA due date is 6/20. She feels this is too late as there will be some repulls that could end up not being in until the 7/15 final registration deadline. Kelly moved; Veronica supported a motion to move the sheep/goat/swine DNA due date to June 13, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.
1. **Department reports-Summaries only**
2. **Dairy:** Held 2nd annual xmas party. Wants to discuss earlier release on Sunday.
3. **Beef:** Peewee showmanship class will be held immediately before the Champion showmanship classes. Xbred & jackpot prospect animals weigh in time will be from 8-9 am Monday. Would like to discuss early release.
4. **Highland:** none
5. **Sheep/Goats/Overall showmanship:** New overall showmanship rule: There will be no ringside coaching of the exhibitors allowed. Met with Matt to review changes to the new sheep/goat barn. Will need to get volunteers to help paint the barn. Requesting to close in the open end of the barn. Animals came home sick after being in the open-end. Need a list of exhibitors stalling from last year to determine # of pens needed. Level ground between the barns. She has created a private Facebook group.
6. **Swine:** Hoping to have a meeting with prior Superintendent. Working on champion signs and belt buckles
7. **Skillathon:** researching stations
8. **Poultry/Rabbits:** none
9. **Horse:** none
10. **Draft Horse/Pulls:** none
11. **Queen Contest:** Karen has received information from Kris.
12. **Jr. Market Livestock:** Board has decided to pay swine exhibitors to 325 lbs.
13. **Youth Representatives:** none
14. **Recordkeeping:** removed exhibitor number from books. Changed ages: Beginner 8-11, Intermediate 12-16, Advanced 17-20. Books will be posted on the MSUE website soon.
15. **Community Arts:** Kate said they are considering a still exhibit auction, but are not sure how to implement and will be looking at for next year. Dave agrees. A project completed by schools could be auctioned. Dave is working on his department changes.
16. **Public Comment:** Dan questioned the 90-day beef ownership rule, how does this impact May, June fair year born calves?
17. **Next meeting:** Next meeting March 22, 2025 @10:00 am. Next Authority meeting March 28, 2025

**13) Adjournment** at 1:25 pm.

Yellow highlights motions Green highlights motions which need UPSF Authority approval