UPSF Department Advisory Committee (DAC) Minutes

October 5, 2024

2025 Organizational Meeting

**Members present:**

**Dairy**: Melissa Gatien, Kris Havelka **Sheep & Goats**: Lindsey Kronemeyer

**Beef**: Veronica Wallace, Connie Wells, Jan Streiter, John Stapleton, Steve Palosaari

**Swine**: none **Draft Horse**: none

**Poultry/Rabbits**: Andrea Sorenson, Carol Chadwick **Community Arts**: Kate Oman, Jacqueline Beach

**Equine**: Jesse Willour, Judy Nelson **Skillathon**: Sandy Gill

**Junior Rep’s**: none

**Management**: Vickie Micheau, Kelly Zellar

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

21 voting members present **Public:** Hannah Loukus

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comment:** none
3. **Adoption of Agenda:**  Steve requested to add Highland Cattle Proposal, Ed requested to add Centennial Celebration. Veronica moved; Kelly supported the motion to approve agenda with additions. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from September 14, 2024.** Kelly noted a correction to item v- Dairy & equine also provided their champions. Missymoved; Carol supported the motion to approve minutes with correction. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Member Representative elections:** Nominations:Jr. Beef: John Stapleton, Poultry: Pete Kleiman, Jr. Veronica moved, Connie supported a motion to recommend John Stapleton for the Jr. Beef representative and Pete Kleiman for the Poultry representative positions. Motion passed unanimously. No nominations for swine or junior representatives. Bridget may still be interested in the Junior Rep. position. Equine: Judy Nelson & Hannah Loukus. Hannah agreed to withdraw her equine nomination and submit a letter of interest for one of the Junior Rep. positions. Vernonica moved; Carol supported a motion to appoint Judy Nelson as the Equine representative. Motion passed unanimously. Sheep: Scott Sundberg & Chrissy Campbell. Lindsey read a statement from Scott. Kelly read Chrissy’s email. It was suggested to hold off on the sheep representative vote until a Superintendent can be named. Carol moved; Ann supported a motion to table the sheep representative until the next meeting. Motion passed with Lindsey dissenting.
6. **Officer Election: Chairman-**John nominated Ed: Vice Chairman-John nominated Connie: Secretary-John nominated Ann. Dave moved, Carol supported a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Ed, Connie and Ann. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Election of DAC Representative to the Authority Building & Grounds committee:** Veronica moved, Ann supported a motion to appoint John Stapleton. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **Chairman to appoint Executive Committee**: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Authority Representative, Exhibitor Manager, UPSF State Representative and one other DAC member. Chairman will appoint the one other when representative positions have been filled.
9. **Management Report**: Vickie has received letters of interest for open Superintendent positions and plans to recommend by the end of October. Have some different ideas for next years fair. Also looking at another position dedicated to Exhibitions to help with communication and budgetary concerns. Thanked everyone for their commitment and contributions to the UPSF.
10. **Building & Grounds report**: John. No meeting since the last DAC meeting. Next meeting scheduled for October 17th. Many activities take place on the fairgrounds. The Sheep show was successful and are planning for another show next year.
11. **Chairman’s remarks: Ed-**Avian influenza in dairy herds continues to be a concern.
12. **Exhibitor Department Report:** **Kelly-1)** Has begun updating the fair book. Plan is to have Highland, Jr. Goats, Jr. Poultry, and Jr. Rabbits be moved to their own departments **2)** Working on fillable online forms for market animal pre-registrations **3)** Provide department sponsor list to her ASAP. Veronica asked if judges had been hired. Kelly is still working on. **Ann. 1)** Cleaning up Showorks files, eliminating duplicates, buyers list. **2)** inventoried ear tags and DNA cards for Kelly to order. **3)** Festival of Trees-Lori has proposed that the UPSF sponsor a Christmas tree at the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital Festival of Trees. The Fair & Jr. Market will be working together. Theme is U.P. State Fair Blue Ribbon Holiday. We will collect items to decorate and provide giveaways for under the tree. People buy raffle tickets and win the tree. Hoping to get vendors to donate and asking for other county fair donations for a ‘Souper Doper Yooper basket’ If anyone has anything to donate, please get it to us. We need to have donations by 11/10. The money supports the hospital. John hopes this will encourage the Hospital to increase their support for the Fair.
13. **Old Business**
14. **Fundraising reports due-Ann.** A few reports are still needed, Highland, poultry, horse. Queen contest does not do any fundraising.
15. **Dr. Averill letter-Ann** questioned who was supposed to write the letter to Dr. Averill’s boss requesting his services for the 2025 fair. Ed stated he will write the letter. Vickie sent a letter of appreciation to Dr. Gill and the thank you card everyone signed to Dr. Averill.
16. **Centennial Celebration-Ed** The 2028 fair will be our centennial. Andrea is the committee chairman. We need to start planning. Ed had exhibitors requesting displays in the MOL from all counties with their history. He has discussed with Farm Bureau and they would display. Counties used to participate as a county, such as county dairy herds. Vickie will go through the old archives about old competitions. Past fair board members, are there some still around, have an event to celebrate them? Will the State of Michigan provide any funding? We need to be discussing with vendors and exhibitors for ideas. John suggested test driving new trucks/vehicles as an exhibit, Farm Bureau had a partnership with Ford at one time. Ed suggested John Deere. Exhibitors have requested the Budweiser Clydesdales; Vickie will request them. Are there notable celebrities i.e.-race car drivers we could get? John suggested reserving Ryan Rash as a livestock judge. He would be a draw as he is nationally renowned and does judge many different species. Are there special exhibitors in other species that could be invited? We need to be thinking about what would make it extra special. Judy has belt buckles from the 50th year. Could we have special giveaways to exhibitors or special prizes? We also need special ribbons and rosettes for that year. Missy asked if we have copies of old fair books to put into a display, we could ask exhibitors. Vickie suggested a logo design/theme to help with sponsorships. John suggested higher premiums. Jesse suggested that all the barns have the same theme. A species overall winner could be chosen for a big prize. Kris suggested involving past queens on the committee. A parade was suggested. Ed added Jesse and ?? to the committee. Ed asked everyone to be thinking about it. Ann will add it as an old business agenda item on all DAC meetings moving forward, so there will be a written record of all the ideas brought forth.
17. **New Business**
18. **Late fee changes-Ann**  changes to General rule #21. Kelly requested to extend late entry deadlines to allow for weekend deadline dates. Ann stated she had exhibitors calling that missed adding a class and we had no way to allow them to late enter a single class. Existing wording with proposed changes highlighted in yellow:

Acceptance of livestock entries received after July15th deadline will be based on the following criteria:

Availability in the barns must be determined before late entries are considered.

1. All late entries for market livestock must have submitted a preliminary entry form by the preregistration deadline date.
2. A late fee of $100.00 per exhibitor will be charged for any late entries.
3. Late entries will only be accepted by in person deliveries to the UPSF office.
4. Late entries will be accepted on calendar days between July 16 to July 20. If July 20 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be the deadline.
5. Any entries received after the late entry deadline will not be accepted and returned to the exhibitor.
6. If the late entry is incomplete, it will not be accepted.
7. All late entries will be placed on probation for the following year’s fair.

Acceptance of livestock class additions to an existing exhibitor entry after July 15th deadline will be based on the following criteria:

1. A late fee of $5.00 per class will be added for any **class** additions to an existing exhibitor entry.
2. Late class additions will be accepted by in person deliveries to the UPSF office or via phone call with a credit card for full payment.
3. Late class additions will be accepted on calendar days between July 16 to July 20. If July 20 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be the deadline.

Kelly moved; Sandy supported a motion to add the highlighted verbiage to existing general rule #21. Motion passed unanimously

1. **Judge rule changes-Kelly** Proposal is to allow the fair to announce judges prior to the fair and any objections to judges by exhibitors be brought to management before the fair. This would avoid the issue we have had in the past of judge objections the day before the show.

**Current judge rules-general rules #16 & #20**

16. Judges will report to the Superintendent immediately prior to judging. No person shall act as judge in any case in which he may be interested as an exhibitor. If such case should be presented, the superintendent with the approval of the fair management agent, may remove judge, or substitute another judge temporarily.

20. Objection to any person serving as judge must be submitted to the superintendent in writing prior to making any award, giving, good and sufficient reasons, therefore. The superintendent shall refer this to the fair management agent who shall have full power to act.

**Proposed judge rule-combine #16 & 20 and add highlighted**

All livestock judges will be announced no later than July 1st. Objection to any person serving as judge must be submitted to the Department Superintendent in writing prior to July 15th, giving good and sufficient reasons. The superintendent shall refer the objection to fair management agent who shall have full power to act. Judges will report to the Superintendent immediately prior to judging. No person shall act as judge in any case in which he may be interested as an exhibitor. The superintendent, with the approval of the fair management agent, may remove judge, or substitute another judge temporarily.

Veronica moved; Carol supported a motion to adopt the proposed judge rule. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **LBMA changes-Ann** Clarification that the exhibitors must be registered UPSF exhibitors for that year and that 2 letters of recommendations are required.

1. **Open beef animal registration/ownership requirement-Veronica** Junior show rules #7

Junior registered purebred animals will be checked for eligibility against the identification papers or from breed registration papers or from breed registration papers. Purebred animals must be registered in the name of the junior exhibitor, except in the case where the registration may be in the name of the family corporation or farm name. Ownership rule also applies to commercial cattle. In the case of a partnership animal, the junior may show in the junior show and another partner in the open show.

New rule in open & junior show rules: All beef cattle must be entered in the name of the actual owner, who shall be the owner at least 90 days before entry. Jesse stated for horses it’s 30 days.

Ann asked that this be tabled with additional clarification for the next meeting.

1. **Livestock rule d#13 change-Veronica**  Current rule #8: states Exhibitors must be 9 years of age by January 1 of the year of the fair to be eligible to compete in the classes of the open show. Veronica is requesting exhibitors less than 9 years of age be allowed in the ring during the open show. This has been a practice in the beef barn for at least 20 years, but not in any other departments. The beef department feels there would be many upset exhibitors if we did not allow this. Ed stated the Authority has had a difficult time in the past allowing younger than 9 to show large animals, a persuasive case will need to be made. Dave suggested changing the verbiage to eliminate an older youth exhibitor assisting in the ring. Ed requested this be tabled until the next meeting when Veronica can present her proposed rule change wording and reasons for the change.
2. **Junior age change beef, dairy & equine-Veronica, Jesse, Missy.** Veronica would like the junior age for market beef to be changed from 19 years old to 20 years old as of January 1st. This would allow the beef kids to show the same number of years as other market animals. John would like to see 8-21. Michigan Livestock Expo age is 8-21, Michigan State Fair is 7-20. Lindsey thought 21 is too old. John stated when his kids aged out, they kept going to other shows after they couldn’t show here anymore. Ed stated the buyers he has talked to aren’t concerned with an older age exhibitor selling. Kelly researched other fairs Wisconsin is 12-19. John has heard from exhibitors that are in favor of the change. Ann thought the change could include all junior exhibitors in the beef, dairy & equine departments. Ann stated that many 17-year-olds are already in college so that should not be a concern when considering an age increase. Ann stated that older kids may be in need of funds even more than younger. Lindsey thought she would get push back from lamb & goats if their age is not increased. If the age is increased for pig exhibitors, there may be a concern of overcrowding. Missy stated they had suggestions to go to age 8 in the dairy department, she would rather see an 8-year-old than a 20-year-old. Ed stated it is being seen everywhere, fewer and fewer farm kids and this may be the only way we have to increase numbers. Lindsey asked if additional numbers might lower auction income. Ann stated beef prices were down even with fewer numbers. Lindsey stated that a rule could be added to allow an 8-year-old to have a helper on standby to enter the ring. Ann stated she has not been comfortable with an 8-year-old showing a large animal and would rather see the age older. Lindsey thought overall showmanship could be a problem if ages are different in different departments. Lindsey doesn’t feel there should be changes to the lamb and goat department as there is currently no representation from those departments. Ed suggested not changing the departments that have no representation. Jesse is fine with any of the age suggestions, most horse shows allow showing at 3. Junior breeding exhibitors need to be the same age as market exhibitors due to all showing in showmanship classes. Sandy moved; Steve supported a motion to increase age to 20 for all junior beef exhibitors. Missy moved, John supported to amend the motion to change the junior age to 8-20 as of January 1st for all departments excluding sheep/goats/swine departments. Ballot voting, there were 14 in favor and 5 opposed. Motion passed as amended.
3. **Switch premiums between market showmanship & market recordkeeping-Kelly** Showmanship premiums are currently 14,12,10, Recordkeeping premiums are 8,6,4. Many of the judges are giving A’s across the board for showmanship even though it is mandatory for market exhibitors. Ann stated a lot more work is required for the recordkeeping than showmanship in many cases. Kelly stated that all of the swine showmanship exhibitors received A’s this year. The recordkeeping judges follow the Danish system when giving awards. The Danish rule does allow for ‘All entries meeting the standards may receive the same award’. Kelly suggested could just award 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Dave moved, Veronica supported a motion to change showmanship premiums to 1st place $8, 2nd place $6, 3rd place $4 and recordkeeping premiums to 1st place $14, 2nd place $12, 3rd place $10 for the junior beef, sheep, goat and swine departments. Motion passed unanimously. There should be further discussion concerning judges not using the Danish system correctly.
4. **Horse show changes-Jesse** See handout for proposed changes to the horse department. She is proposing to eliminate 6 classes and adding 1. The proposal also includes an increase in the junior entry fee from $2.00 to $5.00 and increase stall fees for open & junior from $10.00 to $20.00 for the week. The proposed stall fee is still significantly lower than other shows and many shows require the exhibitor to provide their own bedding. Show days would be Monday-fun show @ 1:00 pm, Tuesday-Jr. show pleasure & speed at 8:30 am, Thursday-Jump show @ noon & mini show at 1:00 pm in the small arena, Friday-Open English & Western at 8:30 am, Saturday -Open speed at 8:30 am. No shows on Wednesday and Sunday. Jesse is proposing creating a bridle path from the speed barn to the arena barn to increase the safety for exhibitors. There is a lot of traffic in that area, people & vehicles. She is thinking of a path with white chains, 6’ wide, this could also be used by the mounted security. The path would be along the road and a 4-way stop should be added to the intersection going to the raceway. She is planning to get sponsors to support the path. She will have more details at the next meeting after she has discussed the specifics with management. Ann asked if the speed show could start later Saturday, but Jesse felt it would interfere with the pulling horses which start coming in at approximately 3 pm. The Friday show would now last to 5 or 6pm on Friday. Judy was concerned if the numbers for the English/Western show would go down if it wasn’t on the weekend. Jesse stated she only had 2 haul ins for those shows (they were hauling back & forth all week), the rest of the competitors were already stalled on the grounds. Stall reservations were requested through showorks and then she contacted everyone. Jesse moved; Kelly supported a motion to accept Jesse’s proposed changes. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Highland Dept. proposal-Steve** See handout for proposed changes. The Highland cattle have been housed in barn #16 (directly across from the Miracle of Life building) and are requesting to move to barn #10 which currently houses the sheep & goats. The sheep & goats were previously housed in barn #16. The primary reason for the move is the barn is too small to safely display the larger cattle. There have been people getting kicked in the past. This would reduce costs by eliminating the need for a tent as they could use the dairy ring and would also eliminate the need for an additional PA system. Maintenance costs would be reduced as the sheep & goat pens could be permanently set up in barn #16. Steve stated the use of barns have changed many times over the years as needs have changed. Vickie asked if Matt had been made aware of this change request. Matt is aware and plans are to be discussed at the upcoming building & grounds committee meeting. Vickie asked what would need to be done to improve barn #16 to prepare for sheep & goats? Vickie asked if the Highland would be there all week if the change was made? Steve stated there are some Highland housed all week (UP farms), but not all exhibitors. Other exhibitors are starting to come on Tuesday & Wednesday, all were here on Wednesday this year. They are currently required to be in place by Thursday at 3:30 pm and must be on the grounds for 3 full days. Ann would like building & grounds to determine what could be done to improve barn #16 for the sheep & goats. Ann asked what would need to be done in barn #10 to house Highlands, is the wash rack sufficient? Lindsay felt there would be push back about bringing the sheep & goats to the beef arena for showing. John stated the Highland barn was not safe, he feels the change is the right thing to do. Ed asked about knocking down the barn if the cement pad is sufficient to be used for a new building. John said the cement would be too narrow. Sandy stated that barn was never built correctly to house animals. Lindsay moved; Sandy supported a motion to table this item until there is more representation from the sheep & goat department. Motion carried with John, Jan, Steve dissenting.
6. **Department reports-Summaries only**
7. **Record keeping:** Dave will be removing exhibitor number from book
8. **Community Arts:** no report
9. **Dairy:** Changing peewee class requirements. Age will be 3 years as of fair date, Ann felt this may be an issue with registering in Showorks. Would like to see animals released earlier as it was in the suggestion box. Need LED lighting above cows.
10. **Beef:** Beef barn roof is leaking in several places. Ann gave Matt the minutes from the last DAC meeting highlighting all the maintenance department issues and also made him aware of the roof leaking.
11. **Highland:** none
12. **Sheep & Goats:** Theme will be Halloween. Lindsay has a lot of ideas to discuss with the new superintendent. Barn should be closed on show day.
13. **Swine:** Theme will be Halloween
14. **Skillathon:** none
15. **Poultry:** Andrea thanked Ed for her opportunity to talk with Ag Director Boring.
16. **Rabbits:** none
17. **Horse:** The end of the arena barn by the steam & gas would be nice if there was a sitting area with flowers for exhibitors and fairgoers. She will be introducing a Youth Team competition and suggested possibly the other barns would like to participate. The goal is to promote teamwork and exhibitors getting to know each other. Steve stated the indoor arena needs improved lighting. Plug ins and & lights are needed on the back side of the speed barn. John asked about bringing in a team penning demonstration. Jesse suggested having draft horse demonstrations on Wednesday, the public loves draft horses and there were people waiting for the show this year. Jesse has discussed having some draft horses on display, offering free stalls to have drafts on the grounds. Ed suggested Kelly and the horse department develop a plan for draft horses on the grounds and present it to the DAC.
18. **Draft Horse:** Kelly said Crystal would like to discuss draft horse pull drug policy at the next meeting.
19. **Queen Contest:** none. Jesse stated the UP state fair queen was also Gladstone’s homecoming queen.
20. **Overall Showmanship:** Jesse suggested each department could give funds to support the overall showmanship competition.
21. **Jr. Market Livestock:** There are only 4 junior exhibitor board members this year.
22. **Youth Representatives:** none
23. **Public Comment:** Steve asked about barn closing times. Ed stated the dairy barn is busy after the shows are through so they close at 10:30. Vickie stated the barn closing times must be posted for the public. Vickie stated the Gladstone Lions Club is looking for a project and suggested that beef arena and barn lighting may be one of them. Vickie reminded everyone that there is a long-term facility improvement plan that should be reviewed by every department and be sure all needed improvements be included. Kelly will provide to each department for the next meeting. Vickie suggested coordinating volunteer work bees for barn improvements to get other people involved to help. There is an Enbridge video highlighting exhibitors, Ed will send to Ann to forward to everyone. John suggested changing the meeting format to include the department summaries first and old & new business last, possibly more committees. Ed stated instead of changing the agenda, if there are individuals that need to leave early, they can always ask to have their items moved up on the agenda. The open Superintendent positions are open for applying until 10/23. The plan is to have individuals hired by the end of October.
24. **Next meeting:** Next meeting date November 23, 2024 10:00 am at the multipurpose building. Next Authority meeting October 25, 2024

**13) Adjournment** at 12:55 pm.

Green highlights motions which need UPSF Authority approval