UPSF Department Advisory Committee (DAC) Minutes

March 22, 2025

**Members present:**

**Dairy**: Melissa Gatien **Swine**: Tammi Hill, Brandon Hill **Queen Contest:** Karen Paidl

**Sheep & Goats**: Lindsey Kronemeyer, Chelsea Ketchum (Zoom), Scott Sundberg, Heather Black (Zoom)

**Beef**: Veronica Wallace, Connie Wells, Jan Streiter, John Stapleton **Management**: Sheila Krueger, Kelly Zellar

**Poultry/Rabbits**: Andrea Sorenson, Carol Chadwick **Highland:** Steve Palosaari **Junior Rep’s**: Alexa Axtell, Bridget Paidl

**Community Arts**: Kate Oman, Jacqueline Beach **Equine**: Jesse Willour, Eric Willour, Judy Nelson **Skillathon**: Sandy Gill

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

27 voting members present, Zoom (2) **Public:** Dan Dalgord, Allen Dalgord, Kelsey Dalgord, Abby Axtell, Marissa Axtell, Toni Williams, Laci Mitchell, Kora Beaudo, Kayla Verbeek, Chrissy Campbell, Tyler Labadie (Zoom)

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comment:** Kelsi spoke in favor of allowing children younger than 8 years old in the ring during the open show and in favor of open fitting rules. Dan, Toni, Kayla and Tyler spoke in favor of open fitting rules.
3. **Adoption of Agenda:** Dave asked to add UPSF livestock judging contest to new business. Sandy moved; Connie supported a motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from January 25, 2025.**  Kellymoved; Missy supported a motion to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Management Report:** Sheila- Entertainment almost finalized, plan on a press conference to announce. Vendor contracts out and being returned. If some vendors choose not to return may turn the extra area into green space. Camping contracts to previous campers will be going out next week. Junior exhibitor wristbands must be purchased through the online registration system, will not be allowed to purchase with camping. The camping application for others is online and due July 1st. Kelly stated that management has decided to eliminate the draft horse show. The draft/pony pull show is now consolidated under the equine department. Lindsey requested moving the Brisket barn to a location that doesn’t block the sheep barn and Andrea had concerns about the amount of equipment they had which eliminated the fire lane. Ed suggested placing it across the road in front of the Miracle of Life.
6. **Building & Grounds report**: John-Meeting this Friday. DNR trust fund grant to build a bathroom in pocket park was withdrawn by the state. Ed stated we can re-apply next year. Ed stated Gate 5 is difficult to open & close and asked for some work to be done to improve that. Cement work to be done behind the poultry barn may be completed with work needed by the beef barn. Ann has highlighted all the maintenance jobs that were on the suggestions list and given them to Matt.
7. **Chairman’s remarks:** Ed-Suggested overhauling all fair rules to streamline after this year’s fair. Met with MDARD Director. Avian flu update-dairy strain has not been detected in the state for a while, all farms are being tested monthly. Poultry is still having outbreaks, but not the dairy strain. There is a new mutation in Arizonia in cattle & people. A bovine has recently tested positive in Michigan. May be some changes to RFID tag program.
8. **Exhibitor Department Report:** **Kelly-1)** Working on book changes, consolidating rules. All market entries will be in one department including showmanship & recordkeeping. **2)**. 77 market beef pre-registered. **3)** Urine drug testing will increase by $10-$15 for each test to include paylean. **4)** An incident form will be included in the Superintendents folders for anything that happens in their barn. **5)** Asked if there were objections to not including entry forms in the printed fair book. They would all be available online and at the office if someone wants to request one. Ann stated as we are moving more to online registration with over 90% of exhibitors using the online system, the printing of all 20 pages of entry forms is not as needed as in the past. John agreed okay as long as stated in the book they are available online and available in the office and can be sent in the mail. Books will not be sent again this year. The consensus was to leave them in unless there is a cost savings, Kelly can make the determination. Consider continuing the community arts entry form in the book.  **Ann. 1)** worked with Kelly to get the beef DNA & ear tags sent and reviewing them as they are returned. **2)** Met with Vickie, Sheila & Lori to discuss the Jr. Market livestock auction to determine responsibilities. Came up with some new rules I’m sure Lori will discuss. **3)** Reminder still time to request a LBM Grant, request is due 4-15. **4)** Met with Dave to review his department changes. **5)** worked on the livestock release times. **6)** attended the Emergency Management response planning meeting. I think it was great that everyone could be in the same room together and now they have a better idea of what is needed for fair safety and how to respond if needed. They are planning a follow-up meeting in June. I’m hopeful this can take place annually as suggested at the MAFE convention. **7)** Finally completed the department income & expense spreadsheet. Total department cost for 2024 was $48,601 (over income) which was down $5,230 from 2023 mainly due to no dairy cows and fewer pulling horses so less testing. John asked to add number of animals in each area and exhibitor camping & weekly wristband income from exhibitors. Steve stated not a large expense for the amount of entertainment received from the livestock. **8)** Have been working on getting all of the book changes to Kelly, so she can work her magic to put it all together in theprogram**. 9)** Attended Ian Hill presentation sponsored by Fairs.com. He is doing “You Make The Difference” workshops in 12 different states and the first one was here in the U.P. He encourages everyone to consider the fair as a ‘Community Asset’ It’s all about how volunteers make everything happen and my big takeaway was people who volunteer need to know the fairs goal, their role in it, and that what they do contributes to the fair winning, ie being successful. So just to let you all know each and everyone of you contributes to the success of our U.P. State Fair, so thank you. **10)** Received an e-mail from MSU Extension about their ERAIL (Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock) program. This program provides tools & resources for animal control officers & 1st responders to develop skills in working w/large animals during an emergency ie. Fire, flood, traffic accident, tornado, etc. It sounds like an important program. I don’t think we could hold this training during the fair. They have an emergency response trailer, and we could possibly ask them to bring it to display around the barns and have it open for exhibitors to view. May hold another weekend after the fair? They need pigs, sheep, horse beef & poultry. Ed stated Farm Bureau is holding a Farm Safety Summit for first responders the week after the fair on the grounds and this program could possibly be incorporated with that. Sheila will put the ERAIL coordinator in touch with Craig Knudsen from Farm Bureau to coordinate.
9. **Old Business**
	1. **2028 Fair Centennial Celebration ideas-** Andrea Plans to meet with Vickie to discuss a timeline for moving forward.
	2. **Beef department rule change proposals-**Veronica Presented fitting rule waiver form. John suggested trying for 1 year and surveying exhibitors. Does not include older first-time exhibitors. Connie stated that we hear everyone’s concerns but came up with the current rule from the 2023 survey of exhibitors. Questions about what special needs description is. The Beef department left the room for an internal discussion. When the beef department returned, Veronica turned it over to Junior Rep’s to make a recommendation. Bridget stated the department was concerned about the number of people that could potentially be working on one animal, recommending each exhibitor could have 1 helper (could be anyone), also felt it should apply to all species, The exhibitors must be present at all times and be actively participating. The helper could help more than one exhibitor, but the exhibitor is allowed only 1 helper. Alexa feels it should be open like the other barns. Tammi would support the same rules for the swine department. Exhibitors and helpers will be identified with wristbands. Applies to beef market animals & beef showmanship, which is the same as previous years. Alexa felt this would help first time exhibitors and it could be tried for a year.

Chelsea moved, Lindsey supported a motion to eliminate the existing beef fitting rules

Bridget amended the motion which was supported to add:

-Each exhibitor must declare one helper who will be identified with a wristband

-The same helper may be declared by more than one exhibitor

-The exhibitor must be present and actively participating at all times

-Rules apply to all fitting, clipping, grooming, blow drying and applying product to the exhibit while on the fairgrounds (no change).

-All Junior market beef exhibitors may receive assistance only from other registered Junior market beef exhibitors All other Showmanship exhibitors showing a breeding animal (that must also be registered in their name in the Junior breeding show), may receive assistance from any other Showmanship exhibitor (no change). Motion as amended passed unanimously.

Need to correct the new ownership rule which was approved at the last meeting. Registered and commercial animals must be entered in the name of the actual owner or immediate family (parents, children, step-children, siblings, spouse, grandparents) and this must match the registration paperwork if registered animals. The exhibitor must be the owner of record for 90 days (April 15th) prior to the fair entry deadline of July 15th. **This rule applies to all animals born prior to previous year’s fair.** Connie moved, Dave supported a motion to add the bold sentence to the rule. Motion passed, Ed dissented.

* 1. **New wording for banned performance enhancing rule:** Ed- At last meeting DAC voted to change the rule wording to add ‘substances’ and samples of products that cannot be used. Ed’s proposed wording (new verbiage highlighted in blue: Livestock rule #18: Animals under the care of a licensed veterinarian and /or taking any type of performance enhancing medication, FDA approved or not approved for use in food animals, which may include but is not limited to steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers, and pain killers are ineligible for competition, show and sale. Health requirement rule a: (prohibited) Injection and/or insertion or administration, including drenching or feeding, of any drug, sedative, tranquilizer, or any other material or substance intended to enhance or assist in appearance or performance into an animal, for medical or non-medical purpose, without examination and approval of the UPSF veterinarian. Examples: natural products, non-natural products, vitamins, energy tubes, “Show Calf Calm”, “Pig Calm” or others not approved by the FDA for the results they promise. Excluding intermammary treatments of lactating animals.

Reviewed current rules from WI State Fair, Michigan Livestock Expo, Michigan State Fair, Mississippi State University Extension, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

Concerns which are trying to be addressed with the rule changes. 1) the use of non-FDA approved substances in animals 2) the use of performance enhancing substances. Andrea asked if we could list what is approved, ie electrolytes. After much discussion- John moved; Lindsey supported a motion to maintain existing rules and re-visit for next year’s fair. Ann asked that everyone review other rules to determine the best wording. UPSF current rules already include insertion (which includes by mouth) of any material. Steve advised to test grand & reserve champion animals for other substances. Motion passed with 3 members dissenting.

* 1. **Sending no-sale pigs home after Wednesday show: 2022-38 head, 2023-20 head, 2024-25 head** This would be an option. There would need to be a specified time and sign up for time slots to be released. The objective is to reduce the numbers in the swine barn due to swine flu. Jan felt it would add too much to the already congested area behind the barns. They would need to be removed at night. Will this lead to campers leaving also? Consensus is to maintain the current swine release times.
	2. **By-Law review-should we hold a special meeting in May or June to complete?** John suggested reviving the by-law committee. Ed appointed Ann, John, Jackie, Lindsey, Kelly, Sandy. Suggestion is to have the committee meet and then possibly hold a special DAC meeting for approval.
1. **New Business:**
	1. **Barn public closing times: Proposed 10:30 pm.** Each department has been closing at a different time. Management has requested a common time for all barns for public advertising purposes. Ruth Butler building is open until 10:30. Livestock health needs to be considered. Superintendents have the discretion to stay open later. Carol moved with support to close the barns to the public at 9:00 pm, Veronica moved, Ann supported an amendment to close the barns to the public at 10:00 pm with Superintendent discretion to stay open later. Motion passed with 3 members dissenting.
	2. **Sunday release times: Ann** Sheila stated management would like to keep the barns open as long as possible on Sunday as fairgoers are paying full price to enter. Whatever time is decided, it must be enforced, the Ruth Butler building now has penalties for tearing down early. It was suggested that Mackinac County be included in zone 5.

**Changes to release times are in bold:**

**Swine:** packing house animals-10:00 am. Self-haul animals released immediately following packing house load out. (no change)

**Market Beef:** Packing house animals-Noon or immediately following swine packing house load out, whichever is later. **Self-haul market beef animals released immediately following packing house load out.** Veronia moved; Lori supported a motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Market lamb/goat**: Packing house animals that are trucked with beef are released as directed by Superintendent. **Remaining packing house animals release at 2:00 pm.** **Self-haul market animals released immediately following packing house animal load out.** Lindsey moved; Connie supported a motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Dairy:** 3:00 pm (no change). Steve asked why they are not released by zone. Ed stated it was due to getting the cows milked on Sunday.

**Highland cattle: Applies to U.P. entries only 3:00 pm Zone 5: Chippewa, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Mackinac and Ontonagon counties**

**4:00 pm Zone 4: Baraga, Iron, Luce, and remaining U.P. counties** Steve moved; Veronica supported a motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Poultry & Rabbits: 3:00 pm** Andrea moved; Connie supported a motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Beef/Sheep/Goat breeding:** Lindsey stated her barn will be closed at 2:00 as the alleyways are too small to load out packing house animals and allow the public in. The remaining should be allowed to begin leaving at 3:00 pm. John stated it is hard to explain to beef exhibitors why the dairy are allowed to leave earlier. Ed stated there still needs to be staggered release times for the beef barns.

**-3:00 pm Zones 6 & 7: Out of State and downstate Michigan, Zone 5: Chippewa, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Mackinac and Ontonagon counties**

**-4:00** **Zone 4: Baraga, Iron, Luce, and remaining U.P. counties**

Veronica moved; Jan supported a motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Horses: 3:00 pm (no change)**

**Miracle of Life: 3:00 pm Management discretion.**

**Community arts - Departments 19-29**

Sunday from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and Monday 10am to 2pm at the exhibit building. Exhibits not claimed by August 31st will be disposed. **During Sunday pick up exhibitors ARE NOT allowed to drive their vehicle onto the fairgrounds, violators will be towed. Community arts exhibitors that have also entered livestock exhibits may pick up their exhibits according to their latest livestock release times.** Kate moved; Jackie supported a motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously. Kate asked for a list of livestock exhibitors who also have exhibits in their barns.

1. **Community arts changes-**Dave provided a printout with proposed changes for Dept. 17 Needlework, Dept. 20 Food and Dept. 22 Junior Show.

Dept. 20 Food: Adding 21 classes. Dave moved, motion was supported to accept the changes as proposed, Andrea moved, Steve supported an amendment to raise the premiums by $1.00 per placing. Kate suggested waiting to vote until the beef department & Kelly returned to the meeting, Ed suggested making the recommendation and let the Authority decide. Motion passed unanimously (without the beef department members & Exhibitors Manager present).

Dept. 19 Needlework: Changes to division 7 & 8 quilting: Added Professional classes and eliminate premiums. All entries in each class will be awarded a blue, red, or white ribbon. A champion for each class will be awarded from all of the blue-ribbon entries. Changed some verbiage for class names. For the entire department, an increased limit from 10 to 12 entries per exhibitor & from 1 to 3 entries per class. Dave moved; Kate supported a motion to approve the proposed changes to the needlework department. Motion passed unanimously (without the beef department members & Exhibitors Manager present).

Dept. 27-Junior Show: Dave moved; Carol supported a motion to add 17 classes, eliminate Youth business venture and increase premiums from $3.00, $2.25 & $1.50 to $5.00, $3.00 & $1.50. Ann suggested offering the juniors the option to auction their items in lieu of increased premiums. Original motion passed, 1 dissenting. Ann amended the motion, Sally supported to eliminate the premium increase. Amendment failed.

1. **Community arts changes-Kate** Highlighted items on handout have been added to Art, Photography, Floriculture, Hobbycraft departments. Definition of amateur & professional has been added. Adding 1 class in Art and adding a new division for Exceptional Person (Intellectually Disabled) in Hobbycraft (to match the division in Folk Art). Floriculture they can enter more than 15 but will only accept 15 at intake. Kate moved; Andrea supported a motion to accept all changes and increase all premiums in Art, Antiques, Photography, Folk Art, Agriculture, Floriculture, Hobbycraft by $1.00 per placing. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **MSU judging contest at the fair-**Dave presented a proposal from MSU Extension to hold a livestock judging contest during the fair. She would plan to do it Monday night and she would take care of setting it up and getting prizes. Ann stated Management had received the email, but no one has seen the specific information in this proposal until now and have not had a chance to look at the logistics of how this would fit into the fair schedule. She asked for everyone’s input to take it back to management for consideration. Missy stated that most of the Dairy animals don’t come until Tuesday morning. John stated the beef department is considering moving beef showmanship to Monday night starting in 2026. Lindsey said it would not work to have goats and sheep in dairy ring. Jesse stated Monday is the horse fun show. Karen stated Queen contest is at 6:30 on Monday in the arena and wouldn’t allow those contestants to participate as they are dressed for the contest. Queen contest interviews are Monday during the day. Will be very difficult to find an open time without conflicting with an existing activity. Beef exhibitors use the arena on Monday night for practice. Ed suggested if anyone has suggestions/concerns to get in contact with Kelly so management can decide if it is feasible to hold this program during the fair.
3. **Department reports-Summaries only. Asking each Department to refer to 2024 Fair suggestions and note in their reports actions being taken that address some of the suggestions.**
4. **Beef:** Veronica asked to address allowing children younger than 8 to be in the arena with an adult during the open beef show. Rules currently state: Exhibitors must be 9 (now 8) by January 1 of the year of the fair to be eligible to compete in the classes of the open show. The Superintendent shall not permit anyone other than judge, officials and showman in the show ring during judging. Kelly stated, even though the beef department has been allowing this, the rules are very clear that no-one under the age of 9 (now 8) is allowed in the arena. Veronica stated it has always been allowed in the beef department. This affects other departments that are not allowing it. John stated if a change is made exhibitors need to be notified. John stated the safety risk is when people are in the barn. John suggested following Wisconsin State Fair rules, which have a minimum age of 5. Steve asked who would sign a waiver? Lindsey says why have a pee wee class if they’re allowed in the open show. Kelly said then the kid would be showing and there have been some scary times in the ring with cows in heat. John moved to allow children in the ring between the ages of 3 and 7 with a parent or guardian during the open beef show with a signed liability waiver. Motion passed with 5 members dissenting.
5. **Highland:** Will be a double point show this year. He is requesting an Assistant Superintendent, he will work with management.
6. **Sheep/Goats/Overall showmanship:** Overall showmanship will get buckles for this year (6). Not enough sponsorships being received to cover prizes for next year. From suggestions added wheelbarrows & tools on TSC wish list, closing barn on show days. Sent out google survey of past attendees to determine this years entries. Have 62 pens and have them mostly filled with responses received. What will happen if not nought pens. Lindsey is planning on 2 in a pen.
7. **Swine:** Assembling team, meeting with Kelly & Ann next week.
8. **Skillathon:** none
9. **Poultry/Rabbits:** none
10. **Horse:** will be working with management on the horse pulls. She has solicited help from a couple of pullers.
11. **Draft Horse/Pulls:** Steve talked with people at convention, they advised to continue drug testing. Exhibitors question why the pony premiums are less than drafts. He suggested having a good announcer that can detail what is happening in the show for better entertainment purposes. Steve suggested to make premiums the same for draft and pony. Ann stated drafts pay $25 entry fee and pony’s pay $10. Do we change the entry fees if all are receiving the same premiums? Steve moved; Carol supported a motion to make the draft and pony premiums the same and change them to 400-350-300-250-200-150 (6-10) and all pay a $25.00 entry fee. Motion passed unanimously.
12. **Queen Contest:** Thanked Kris for her help. Ordered crowns. Looking for ideas to get contestants. Asked members to encourage anyone they know to enter. Asked about emailing exhibitors. Steve suggested contacting county fairs. Lindsey volunteered to be a judge. Karen asked that the judges not be the same each year, as the same girls may be contestants.
13. **Jr. Market Livestock:** Thank you cards will be given to Superintendents to put in their folders with the exhibitors name labeled . Will number them to check off list. Veronica asked about exhibitors putting their thank you note in the buyers gift. Lori said they will be told not to do that. Trying to determine tv or jumbotron. Maintenance knows a new auctioneers stand is needed. Lindsey asked if Grand and Reserve Champion pigs could be run through the sale. New rules: **All market livestock exhibitors MUST notify their Superintendent if they are OR are not selling their animal at the junior market livestock auction. The Superintendent must be notified NO LATER than Thursday at noon.** May need a penalty. **All market exhibitors that sell an animal at the Junior Market Livestock Auction are required to submit a thank you note to their buyer. The notes will be provided, addressed and sent by the Fair. The thank you note must be completed and delivered to your Superintendent’s office no later than noon on Sunday of the fair. Failure to submit the thank you note will result in premium and auction check being held until thank you note is received. Thank you notes not received by noon on Sunday of fair must be delivered to the UPSF office at 1001 N. Lincoln Rd. before checks will be released.**
14. **Youth Representatives:** none
15. **Recordkeeping:** none
16. **Community Arts:** none
17. **Dairy:** Steve asked why dairy stall fees are only $3.00, beef is $10, horse is $20. John has heard the same question.
18. **Public Comment:** Tyler asked about animals registered to a farm. The owner must be registered exhibitor, anyone can bring them into the ring for the open show. Kelly stated the judges have been posted online. Lindsey requested the zoom invitation be sent to her for the buildings and grounds meeting.
19. **Next meeting:** Next meeting June 7, 2025 @10:00 am and August 2, 2025. Next Authority meetings March 28, 2025, and May 30, 2025

**14. Adjournment** at 2:15 pm.

Yellow highlights motions