



October 9, 2023 6:00 PM

YSSS Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Mike McLean, Shannon Spraker, Kelly Routt, Elisa Teal, Karen Smith, Patty Muhlhauser, Elise Burton

Absent Committee Members: Ed Mael, Sean Booth

Others in Attendance: Elise Burton, Dawn Knopp, Nickole Eiter, Amy Greene, Linda Cederblom, Chad Booth, Hannah Booth, Madison Sotin, Michael Smith, Travis Forsman

Fair Staff in Attendance: Michaela Woempner, Alexcia Jordan

Call to order at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

- Patty moved to approve the minutes as presented, Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Public/Open Comment

- Madison Sotin introduced herself as the new 4-H Program Coordinator for Kootenai/Shoshone county.
- Nickole Eiter made a suggestion about changing the rule regarding kids who declare “no sale” as showing in the appropriate market class rather than the Prospect class. She feels it is a disadvantage to make kids show in the prospect class. She feels that with the numbers going down, it’s not fair or fun for kids not to show their animals in their appropriate market classes. Patty clarified that Nickole was speaking about an exhibitor bringing three large animal species. If all three animals were to win Grand or Reserve champions, they would be required to sell all three. Mike further clarified the reason for the rules and the background of the progress vs prospect class. Nickole clarified that she ultimately feels that all “show weight” animals should show in the Quality market class together.
- Chad Booth shared that other shows that he has been at have required animals to be declared as “no sale” after the market sale concludes. Those shows have also charged a “no sale” fee to help cover costs of show and sale. Chad added further information about rules he has seen at other county fairs he has been involved in. Chad also clarified his suggestions for new showmanship rules.
- Linda Cederblom shared that overall she felt the Fair went well and had a couple items to address. She heard feedback that a spectator was upset that there was a curse word in one of the Grand/Reserve Champion songs. She also feels that the wash racks are an issue and need to be addressed. Mike shared that since the facility is owned by the County there are specific requirements that must be met. Linda also felt that cleanliness needs to be addressed in all the barns. She suggested that there should be someone specifically assigned to look at pens and pass information to the appropriate leaders and exhibitors. She also feels that this is a big part of public perception. Linda would like to get the word out that everyone is responsible for their own back boards and decorations. Michaela brought up the idea of having an example pen set up. Linda feels that the sale order is an issue and would like to see the order rotated every year. Mike explained the safety reasoning for steers to be the first to be sold. Mike also shared that the pig prices were up this year compared to prior years and that the goats, lambs and small animals are insulated by the two more “desirable” species. Linda felt that the reasonings for the sale order being set is not acceptable. Mike further explained some of the reasoning for the sale order and committed to discussing it more for future years.
- Joyce Dryden brought up that she felt that Independent exhibitors were especially an issue with pen cleaning. Joyce would like to know what the policy is for animals that may not be admitted to the Fair and how they can show for showmanship. She said in the past exhibitors were able to show someone else’s animal. Patty shared that the YSSS rules and the 4-H rules are the same as they are currently written. Mike shared that the showmanship issue is already being reviewed and clarified for next year.



- Hannah Booth shared her suggestions on showmanship and how to potentially address issues that may arise in the future.
- Travis Forsman shared that we still have issues with pigs not being able to be controlled by their exhibitors
- Shannon Roman shared her thoughts on the showmanship proposal and the potential for animals showing against each other in championships. Shannon added that it may be helpful to have a “what’s new” sheet for rule changes.
- Elisa Teal added that it may be a good idea to have alternate animals only be selected from within the same club or group
- Alexcia Jordan clarified that the Fair publishes “what’s new” in the front of each year’s Fair book and will continue to do so going forward.

Old Business

- Judge selection
 - Will automatically include all judges from this year. Chad is going to double check on the pig judge.
- Market animal ear tags
 - Will go back to hang tags
 - Will still pull DNA samples

New Business

- Updated classes
 - Following the pig barn’s success, Mike has suggested some new classes for the beef barn including Kootenai county born and farm raised. This would add to divisions like the pig barn did this year. Chad suggested possibly looking at colors as well.
 - Karen has suggestions for sheep divisions that can be added. She will bring suggestions to the next meeting.
 - Goat barn has some ideas for a new class of “Kootenai-born” goats
- Independent exhibitor requirements
 - Would like to require independent exhibitors to have some sort of record keeping.
- Superintendent/personnel conduct, expectations, and requirements
 - Superintendents have to be re-appointed every year and actions from each Fair will be evaluated. There was some unacceptable behavior at this year’s Fair and there will be consequences. Further information will be presented at future meetings.

Barn Manager Reports

- Poultry - Would like to revisit the testing requirements for poultry. Kelly would like to have the opportunity to bring water fowl back to the barn. Kelly will work with Alexcia to discuss further.
- Rabbit - Kelly would like to find some way for rules to be consistent for 4-H only classes. Patty shared that this was also an issue for the dairy cattle. Mike asked that Madison review the rules specific to 4-H only classes and see if they can be altered to match or work better with YSSS rules.
- Lamb - Spokane area sheep producers are having a workshop on club lamb fungus if anyone is interested. Will post to YSSS social media page.
- Swine - Biggest issue is lack of communication. Sean has a plan for cleaning the pens for next year. Wash racks are also an issue that will need to be addressed for next year.
- Goat - Communication needs improvement. There are some repairs that are needed in the barn. Elisa will connect with Alexcia/Michaela with a list of projects. Hannah suggested having a name and phone number of an advisor on their entry form.
- Beef - Backdrops need to be larger for next year. Mike would like to have something to go behind the steers, like a plastic chain to keep people out of the way of steers.



Subcommittee Reports

- Policy, Rules and Regulations
 - Showmanship rules need to be looked at for next year.
- Financial and Sale Review
 - Checks went out to exhibitors with tax forms
 - Still a couple checks to collect from buyers
 - Still have 2 goats and 1 lamb for sale
- Advertising and Marketing
 - Facebook page has been established
- Animal Wellness and Ethics
 - No report
- Hospitality
 - No report
- Processing and Animal Movement
 - Process worked well. Mike has been asked to talk to other fairs about how we are doing this.

Adjournment

- Next meeting November 20, 6pm
- Shannon moved to adjourn, Patty second. Motion carried.