

YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of February 18, 2025

The Board of Directors of the York County Agricultural Society met Tuesday February 18, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the York County Extension Office for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting notice was publicly posted on or before February 11, 2025 at: York County Extension Office, York County Court House, York State Bank (York Main Office), Cornerstone Bank (Waco Branch) and the York County Fair Website.

Five (5) Directors were present; Ditloff, Gloystein, Heskett, Ziegler and Ziemke. Ten (10) Directors were absent; Chrisman, Demuth, Heine, Hoffman, Hoffschneider, Holtmeier, Jackson, Quiring, Rathjen and Zoubek. There were not enough Directors present at tonight's meeting to form a quorum.

Guest present: Tanya Crawford York County UNL Extension 4H Youth Education Agent.

President Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Secretary Ziemke announced to all those in attendance that the Open Meeting Act has been placed on the meeting table for one and all to examine.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additional items to the agenda: None brought forth.

Minutes and Financial

Since there were not enough Directors present to have a quorum the Minutes of the January 21, 2025 York County Agricultural Society meeting and the January 2025 Financial Report were noted to be reviewed and discussed during the March 18, 2025 meeting.

Under Old Business:

Swapping sheep and goats to the Swine Barn and moving the Petting Zoo over to the sheep & goat area.

- Tanya Crawford asked if there was any way possible to place a monitor in the swine barn for the sheep & goat exhibitors as well as the swine exhibitors and their families to see what class is in the show ring and which class is staging.
 - Yes, when the video and audio systems were updated in the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center, we made sure there was a way to put monitors in the other animal buildings in the future.
 - The reason we didn't include the Beef, Swine and Small Animal Barns at the time was the additional cost. The Swine Barn itself with monitor was around \$3,500.00.
 - The main item we need to do is run CAT6 wire from the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center through the underground conduit to the Swine Building, attach HDMI ends to the CAT6 wire, purchase and install a monitor.
 - It is also possible to run a CAT6 wire to the Cattle Barn at the same time through the underground conduit that leads into the northwest corner of the Cattle Barn.
 - Ditloff stated that her husband Joe may be able to help us with running the CAT6 wiring.

- Would the 4H Council be interested in helping monetarily with the project?

Constitution and Bylaws – Associate members.

- We need to look over the by-laws to see if they need to updated.
- The last time the by-laws were updated was January 17, 2017.
- Gloystein and Ziegler spoke with the Washington County Agricultural Society at the NAFM Convention about their Associate Members.
- Washington County has fifteen to twenty Associate Members. Most are not wanting to be Directors, they are happy being an Associate.
- They seem to be more like our Superintendents and handle different parts of their Fair.
- One stipulation that Washington County has in their by-laws is that the Associate members must attend at least 50 percent of the meetings.
- Ziegler will organize a five member committee to look over the by-laws and present their findings and recommendations to the Directors at a future meeting.
 - The committee will possibly have to talk with Alan Wood, the NAFM Attorney, to check and see if Associate members have to be residents of the County or if they can reside outside of the county.
- There are not enough Directors present this evening to discuss the matter further.

Cattle tie-out shade area – We need more information about the proposed memorial idea to have further discussion on the topic. At this time the Directors would like to see more cattle tie-out spaces.

Under the Building Committee Report:

The questionable billing from Pieper’s Plumbing for the sewer line is now answered, the sewer line procedure was actually done just before the 2023 Fair (July 26, 2023) when they had to run a long snake from the Old Restrooms west of the Grandstands all the way to the street.

Church Kitchen concrete floor – Gloystein will talk with Jerry Steahr to see if his crew can help us get the old concrete floor torn out and a new floor poured before fieldwork starts this spring.

Ziegler has spoken with the Mercantile spray foam insulation guy. He will contact Ziegler the next time he is in York so the two of them can look over the ceiling insulation that is coming loose.

New Business

Information & Contacts gained at the 2025 NAFM Convention

- Associate members – Gloystein and Ziegler spoke with the Washington County Agricultural Society (see notes above).
- Ziegler said that the alcohol dos and don’ts session given by Investigator Byran Woods was more of a scare tactic meeting than an informational session.
 - Calcutta, Chuck-a-duck & cow poop bingo are considered “illegal gaming”.
- Gloystein said that Fairs are tying in with local “TikTok influencers” to help present their Fairs to the public through social media.
- Ditloff – we need to keep a watch out for people walking around videoing everything. Many of these people try to video secretly, all to expose any bit of what they consider animal abuse or other issues during events that will stir up controversy on social media.

NIRMA Insurance – Rathjen is not present this evening to update us on 2025 premiums or

questions involving the Fair's insurance coverage.

York County Fair Foundation

- Heskett will be moving funds from the York County Fair Foundation over to the York County Agricultural Society to help cover expenses associated with 2024 building improvements.
- We need to have a vote to approve the 2025/2026 Calendar Raffle (no quarm for a vote this evening).

NAFM District 1 Spring Meeting

- We will be hosting the meeting on our Fairgrounds Sunday April 6, 2025.
- It was decided that it will be alcohol free so that we can utilize the 4H Building for the meeting and meal.
- We will have a grounds tour.
- Ziemke met with Nebraska State Fair constituents at the NAFM Convention to see about one or more of them attending our District 1 Spring meeting to present Nebraska State Fair updates, information, programs and special events. Yes, someone from the Nebraska State Fair will be attending.
- We will need to put together a schedule of events so Ziemke can email it to all NAFM District 1 Agricultural Societies in time for them to RSVP for the meal.
- Ziemke has spoken with PK's Revival about catering the meeting.
- Normally around 30 people attend the District meetings.

Tanja Crawford – Fair changes and information

- FFA Fair book class changes
 - Dana Hall, McCool Junction FFA Advisor, presented Tanja information on some additional classes that the FFA would like to see included in the 2025 Fair book to make our Fair classes more in line with the State Fair.
- Change our rules to allow spiked and pronged goat collars.
 - Normal collars that are used can choke the goats.
 - 4H has not allowed the use of the spiked or pronged collars until this year because of the perception that the collars are not humane.
 - We normally follow any rule changes that the State Fair makes on grooming and associated issues.
- York County Air Rifle and BB Gun competitions are April 6, 2025 in the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center.
- June 8, 2025 is the York County Trap competition at the York Izaak Walton shooting range.
- The 4H Council does not have a tee shirt donor/sponsor yet. Aurora Cooperative? POET? POET offered to do something last year.
- If the exhibitors are only showing at the York County Fair, they may use their own animal identification tags but those tags must be stated and made known that they are the identifying tag.
- If showing beyond the County Fair animals must be identified by an EID tag and sheep must have scabby vaccination identification.
- Can we remove cattle "rate of gain" from the Fair book due to declining involvement in the class.
 - There were only three cattle involved in the class last year.
 - Geneva used to utilize ultra-sound for their rate of gain competition, do they still run their class in the same manor?

- Can we move the Poultry and Rabbit Showmanship until the end of the show after all the classes are finished?
- In the Fair book under Swine it is listed that “Breeding classes must have three or more animals in a class or that class may be combined with another class”. It is stated also before the list of animals, to cover all species of animals, but it is relisted again only under Swine. Can it be removed from the Swine area of the Fair book? It will still be listed in front of all of the animals and pertain to all species of animals.
- Can we do the Fashion Show, approximately 30 minutes long, some evening under the tent?
 - Yes, at this time it looks like it would fit really well on Thursday evening 6:15 to 6:45 before Taps, Tastes and Tunes.
 - Hold the 4H and FFA awards on Friday evening under the tent.
- The 4H Council is still deciding what kind of fund raising event to do, pancakes? Donut trailer?
- Fair books
 - Smaller print this year to hopefully reduce the number of pages.
 - 2024 Fair book was 400 pages.
 - Macee’ will be receiving a quote from Service Press in Henderson on the cost to print the Fair book and will get that quote to Ziegler so he can present it to the Directors at the March meeting.
 - Last year’s Fair books cost us \$3,800.00 to print.
 - There was 1 box left over last year.

2025 Fair Plans – “All Signs Point To The York County Fair” July 31st through August 3rd

- The Fair entertainment committee met last week.
- Muttin Bustin
 - We are on Horn T’s list, they are out of Monroe, Nebraska, but they do not know what they are going to charge this year. Their liability insurance went to \$30,000.00 this year.
 - They will contact us once they decide what they are charging per event to see if we want to stay on their list.
 - Last year they charged \$3,000.00 which ended up costing us \$75.00 per rider.
 - What about someone local that would have larger yews that could be ridden? Could we possibly utilize those sheep instead?
 - Tonja will find out who is handling Polk County’s Muttin Bustin and what they charge.
- Still need entertainment under the tent on Friday during the Steak Fry.
- Will be meeting with Justin Ott and others from the Banner Sale group.
- Galen Real – SYA Antique Tractor group
 - They would like to utilize our 4H Building for their monthly meetings. They have been meeting at the Hunter’s Lounge in Waco.
 - They were wondering if they could use the 4H Building at no cost to them.
 - Our issue is that we have to pay for the cleaning of the building and restrooms before the building can be used again.
 - Since it is short notice we will allow them to utilize the 4H Building this Thursday, if it is not booked, for \$40.00.
 - If they would like to continue to utilize the 4H Building we would charge them \$50.00 for the custodial work per meeting.
 - Heskett will contact Galen Real to discuss the building use with him.

IAFE Economic Impact Study

- What does the York County Fair bring to York and the York Community?
- This Economic Impact Study can answer that question and more.
- The results of the Study will allow us to present the York County Fair to business of our community in a way that they can see what their sponsorships are bringing back to them and their neighboring businesses.
- Cost of the Impact Study is \$1,500.00.
- Ziemke will get our Fair registered to start the process of the study.

IAFE Zone 5 Conference is being held in Wichita, Kansas from February 28 through March 2, 2025. Are there any Directors that would like to attend? If anyone is interested, please contact Ziemke before February 26th so he can get you registered.

There being no further business to come before the Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Douglas Ziemke

Douglas Ziemke
Secretary