



**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Agriculture Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 30, 2026**

The meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Sub-Committee was held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 9:30 am at the Nebraska State Fair administrative offices in Grand Island, NE. Public notice of this meeting was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar website, and on the Nebraska State Fair website. The public was invited to attend in person.

The following Board Committee members were present: Dawn Caldwell, Ag Committee Chair; John McKeever, Vice Chair; Ryan Hasebrook; Lanna Hubbard (via Zoom); Kathleen Lodl (via Zoom); and Boyd Strope. None of absence.

Others in attendance: Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Karli Bartz, Entertainment & Events Director (via Zoom); Lindsey Foushee, Entertainment & Events Manager; Breanna Kozisek, Business Administrator; Kourtney Lingeman, Competitive Exhibits Manager; Vaughn Sievers, Agriculture Director; Tina Thuernagle, Operations Director; Chad & Misty Hirschfeld, public guests; and 40+ public guests via Zoom.

The January 30 meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Ag Committee Board was called to order by Chair, Dawn Caldwell. Caldwell announced the meeting had been properly advertised as an open meeting and informed those in attendance of the on-site posting location of the Open Meetings Act, not waiving the position that the Ag Subcommittee is not a public body under Nebraska Revised Statute, 84-1409, Subsection 1.

Public Comment

- Opportunity for public comment was provided with a three-minute limit per person.
- Caldwell announced that no action would be taken at this meeting on items outside those listed on the agenda provided on-site and online for public inspection.
- Seeing no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

Ratification of All Actions Taken by Agriculture Subcommittee in 2025

- John McKeever moved to ratify actions taken by the Ag committee during the calendar year 2025.
- Second by Kathleen Lodl.
- All in favor. Motion carried.

2025 Nebraska State Fair – Consideration of Possible Sanctions

- Caldwell announced that possible sanctions related to the 2025 Nebraska State Fair would then be considered, with each case taken separately.
- Lamb 25072 was first considered.
 - Vaughn Sievers, Agriculture Director on staff, presented background on the alleged infractions of State Fair rules.
 - Texas A&M Lab reported a positive result for Zilpaterol and UNL Meat Lab and UNL Vet Diagnostic also reported evenly spaced injection needle marks along the loin edge and around dock on both sides of the carcass.
 - The recommended sanctions were as follows:

- The animal is to be disqualified along with all privileges that go along with that recognition. This includes photos from the official photographer to be removed from the website. No champion recognition in the Row of Champions and website will be enforced, including the cut outs and past champions' board.
 - The exhibitor's premium monies and carcass monies will be withheld.
 - The exhibitor is to be billed for disposal costs of the carcass.
 - The exhibitor will not be able to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair for five years.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after the 2030 State Fair will be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received from tag #25072 are to be returned to the Nebraska State Fair office.
 - Boyd Strobe moved to accept the initial determination as outlined by Vaughn Sievers relating to this exhibitor, subject to appeal to this committee, and consideration by the full Nebraska State Fair Board.
 - Second by John McKeever
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
- Lamb 25116 was considered next.
 - Vaughn Sievers presented background on the alleged infractions of State Fair rules.
 - Texas A&M Lab reported a positive test result for Zilpaterol and Procaine.
 - The recommended sanctions were as follows:
 - The animal is to be disqualified along with all privileges that go along with that recognition. This includes photos from the official photographer to be removed from the website. No champion recognition in the Row of Champions and website will be enforced, including cut outs and past champions' board.
 - The exhibitor's premium monies and carcass monies will be withheld.
 - The exhibitor is to be billed for disposal costs of the carcass.
 - The exhibitor will not be able to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair in 2026.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after the 2026 State Fair will be subjected to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received from tag #25116 are to be returned to the Nebraska State Fair office.
 - Boyd Strobe moved to accept the initial determination as outlined by Vaughn Sievers relating to this exhibitor, subject to appeal to this committee, and consideration by the full Nebraska State Fair Board.
 - Second by John McKeever
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
- Swine 278167 was considered last.
 - Vaughn Sievers presented background on the alleged infractions of State Fair rules.
 - Texas A&M reported a positive test result for Flunixin.
 - The recommended sanctions were as follows:
 - The animal is to be disqualified along with all privileges that go along with that recognition. This includes photos from the official photographer to be removed from the website. No champion recognition in the Row of Champions and website will be enforced, including cut outs and past champions' board.
 - The exhibitor's premium monies and carcass monies will be withheld.
 - The exhibitor is to be billed for disposal costs of the carcass.
 - The exhibitor will not be able to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair in 2026.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after the 2026 State Fair will be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received from tag #278167 are to be returned to the Nebraska State Fair office.

- Boyd Strobe moved to accept the initial determination as outlined by Vaughn Sievers relating to this exhibitor, subject to appeal to this committee, and consideration by the full Nebraska State Fair Board.
- Second by John McKeever
- All in favor. Motion carried.
- The consideration of sanctions from the 2025 Nebraska State Fair concluded.

2025 Aksarben Stock Show – Consideration of Possible Sanctions

- Caldwell announced that possible sanctions related to the 2025 Aksarben Stock Show (AKSS) would be considered, with each case taken separately.
- Goat 25016 was considered first.
 - Vaughn Sievers presented background on the alleged infractions of AKSS rules.
 - UNL Meat Lab and UNL Vet Diagnostic summary identified yellow-tinted, serum appearing abnormalities on the left and right leg. Bruising was identified on the right leg near the flank, equilaterally in the mid loin region, and outer right leg.
 - The recommended sanctions were as follows:
 - The animal is to be disqualified along with all privileges that go along with that recognition. This includes photos from the official photographer to be removed from the website. No champion recognition in the Row of Champions and website will be enforced, including the cut outs and past champions' board.
 - The exhibitor's premium monies and carcass monies will be withheld.
 - The exhibitor is to be billed for disposal costs of the carcass.
 - The exhibitor will not be able to exhibit at the AKSS for three years.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after the 2028 AKSS will be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received from tag #25016 are to be returned to the Nebraska State Fair office.
 - Boyd Strobe moved to accept the initial determination as outlined by Vaughn Sievers relating to this exhibitor, subject to appeal to this committee, and consideration by the full Nebraska State Fair Board.
 - Second by John McKeever
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
- Goat 0216 was considered next.
 - Vaughn Sievers presented background on the alleged infractions of AKSS rules.
 - UNL Meat Lab and UNL Vet Diagnostic summary identified abnormal tissue with yellow-tinted fluid in the hind legs. There was a weepy, serum appearance under the fell membrane. In addition, there was a bruise on the lower right leg along with a positive test from Texas A&M for Meloxicam.
 - The recommended sanctions were as follows:
 - The animal is to be disqualified along with all privileges that go along with that recognition. This includes photos from the official photographer to be removed from the website. No champion recognition in the Row of Champions and website will be enforced, including the cut outs and past champions' board.
 - The exhibitor's premium monies and carcass monies will be withheld.
 - The exhibitor is to be billed for disposal costs of the carcass.
 - The exhibitor will not be able to exhibit at the AKSS for three years.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after the 2028 AKSS will be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received from tag #0216 are to be returned to the Nebraska State Fair office.
 - Boyd Strobe moved to accept the initial determination as outlined by Vaughn Sievers relating to this exhibitor, subject to appeal to this committee, and consideration by the full Nebraska State Fair Board.

- Second by John McKeever
- All in favor. Motion carried.
- Lamb 25134 was considered last.
 - Vaughn Sievers presented background on the alleged infractions of AKSS rules.
 - UNL Meat Lab and UNL Vet Diagnostic summary found bruising and yellowish abnormalities on multiple locations. Additional samples showed bruising, indicative of injection site lesions.
 - The recommended sanctions were as follows:
 - The animal is to be disqualified along with all privileges that go along with that recognition. This includes photos from the official photographer to be removed from the website. No champion recognition in the Row of Champions and website will be enforced, including the cut outs and past champions' board.
 - The exhibitor's premium monies and carcass monies will be withheld.
 - The exhibitor is to be billed for disposal costs of the carcass.
 - The exhibitor will not be able to exhibit at the AKSS for three years.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after the 2028 AKSS will be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received from tag #25134 are to be returned to the Nebraska State Fair office.
 - Boyd Strobe moved to accept the initial determination as outlined by Vaughn Sievers relating to this exhibitor, subject to appeal to this committee, and consideration by the full Nebraska State Fair Board.
 - Second by John McKeever
 - All in favor. Motion carried.

Determination of Appeal Hearing Dates/Times

- The following dates and times were suggested by the committee for appeal hearings.
 - February 19, 2026 in Lincoln (in person or via Zoom)
 - March 2, 2026 in Grand Island (in person or via Zoom)
 - March 3, 2026 in Grand Island (in person or via Zoom)

Adjournment

Motion made by Boyd Strobe to adjourn.
Second by John McKeever.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 30, 2026
Nebraska State Fair Approved:

By: _____
John McKeever, Board Secretary