



**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD
Agriculture Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 2, 2026**

The meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Sub-Committee was held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm at the Nebraska State Fair administrative offices in Grand Island, NE. Public notice of this meeting was posted to the Grand Island Independent newspaper on February 26, 2026; 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 Hassebrook (Zoom); Lanna Hubbard (Zoom); Kathleen Lodl (Zoom); and Boyd Strope (Zoom). None were absent.

Others in attendance: Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Breanna Kozisek, Business Administrator; Vaughn Sievers, Agriculture Director; Dr. Gary Sullivan, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Zoom); Dr. Brandon Dominguez, TVMDL (Zoom); Mark Fahleson (Zoom), Brent Murphy, and public guests via Zoom.

The March 2 meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Ag Sub-Committee 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, and the rules regarding appeal hearings with the Nebraska State Fair.

Public Comment

- Opportunity for public comment was provided with a three-minute limit per person.
- Seeing no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

Livestock Appeal Hearing – Goat 0216

- Caldwell moved into the first appeal hearing at 10:34 am.
- Vaughn Sievers, Agriculture Director on staff, presented the hearing information.
 - The appeal was regarding an exhibitor at the 2025 Aksarben Stock Show.
 - A serum testing conducted by Texas A&M showed the animal tested positive for Meloxicam. This drug is not approved by the FDA for use in food-producing species.
 - The UNL Meat Lab also discovered abnormal tissue with yellow-tinted fluid in the hind legs and a bruise on the lower right leg.
 - The UNL Vet Diagnostic Lab discovered abnormalities as well, strongly suggesting injection site lesions within three to seven days leading up to slaughter.
 - The initial determination of the Ag Sub-Committee was that the following sanctions were to be imposed.
 - Disqualification of the animal along with all privileges that go along with the champion recognition.
 - Exhibitor premium monies and carcass monies be withheld.
 - Exhibitor billed for carcass disposal fees.
 - A three-year ban on the exhibitor at the Aksarben Stock Show.

- Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after 2028 be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Any banners and awards received be returned to the Nebraska State Fair/Aksarben Stock Show.
- The exhibitor appealed this determination and rules permit the exhibitor of the hearing to come before the committee, which will then make recommendation to the Nebraska State Fair Board for its determination.
- Exhibits for consideration were presented.
 - Exhibit 1 – 2025 Aksarben Stock Show Livestock Rules and Regulations
 - Exhibit 2 – Exhibit Quality Assurance Form
 - Exhibit 3 – Drug Use Notification and Test Sample Collection
 - Exhibit 4 – Standard Operating Procedures
 - Exhibit 5 – Chain of Custody Protocol
 - Exhibit 6 – Texas A&M Report (October 14, 2025) with the serum test
 - Exhibit 7 – Texas A&M Amended Report (November 14, 2025) eyeball
 - Exhibit 8 – Photographs
 - Exhibit 9 – Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center Lab Testing Results
 - Exhibit 10 – Letter from Dr. Gary Sullivan
 - Exhibit 11 – BGL Bulks Livestock Comparison Sample Submission Form
 - Exhibit 12 – Equis Labs Report (January 30, 2026)
 - Exhibit 13 – Letter, Notice of Positive Livestock Lab Test and Lab Evaluation (November 17, 2025)
 - Exhibit 14 – Letter from Parents of Exhibitor with Attachments (November 27, 2025)
 - Exhibit 15 – Letter, Notice of Appeal Rights (February 6, 2026)
 - Exhibit 16 – Carcass Disposal Fee in the amount of \$304.50
- Testimony was given by Dr. Brandon Dominguez, TVMDL.
 - Dr. Dominguez is the section head for Veterinary Services at Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. They previously were the interim section head for the Analytical Chemistry Section and still oversees the case management for analytical chemistry testing, which includes the livestock drug test in question.
 - The Texas A&M Medical Diagnostic Laboratory received a number of secure samples from the Aksarben Stock Show, all with intact seals.
 - The sample from Goat 0216 was found to have Meloxicam and subjected to a secondary confirmatory testing which confirmed the presence of Meloxicam in the sample.
- Mark Fahleson asked Dr. Dominguez to follow up on Meloxicam as to whether it's approved and if so, for what uses.
 - Dr. Dominguez shared that Meloxicam doesn't have an approved label for food animal species, but it is commonly used as a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for pain relief. It's used often for lameness in livestock, particularly post-surgical castration, dehorning and the like. There are, however, labeled products that exist for those uses.
- Vaughn Sievers presented the opportunity to ask Dr. Dominguez more questions, to which there were none.
- Testimony was then given by Dr. Gary Sullivan, with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).
 - Dr. Sullivan is an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science at UNL. They also work within the campus meat laboratory.
 - The Loeffel Meat Lab harvests the livestock and champions for the State Fair and Aksarben Stock Shows. Part of that process includes collecting samples and doing a visual evaluation of the carcasses.
 - As a USDA-inspected facility, the meat lab ensures the meat entering the food supply is safe and wholesome.
 - The harvest process includes the collection of various animal organs and tissues as samples, some of which are shipped to Texas A&M.
 - The visual evaluation includes evaluating the carcass for any abnormalities.

- Goat 0216 did indicate some abnormalities.
 - Two legs had a yellow, weepy, serum-y look.
 - A large bruise was noticed on one of the shanks, which could happen during normal handling. However, symmetrical bruises were noticed on both sides.
- Any abnormalities are sampled and provided to the veterinary diagnostic lab for histopathology testing and other testing to determine what the abnormalities are.
- Dawn Caldwell opened the floor for exhibitor statements and presentation.
 - Brent Murphy, the exhibitor's father, was present at the hearing.
 - Murphy expressed that they had no defining evidence or a lawyer. They just have their truth. They emphasized that their family values integrity and proper handling of livestock.
 - Murphy thanked Vaughn Sievers for the timely correspondence.
 - They stated they couldn't debate test results but had questions regarding the drug as it was never in their possession. Their cattle operation is their livelihood. The goat in question had been in their care from the day it was bought and administering drugs was never an option.
 - There were questions presented about whether a camera was set up in the barns that could have recorded activity from neighboring exhibitor stalls. One of the pens behind their goat was a sheep pen that continually had feeders and buckets spilling into the exhibitor's pen.
 - Murphy was also curious if it was possible for the drug to be present in the exhibitor's goat prior to when they purchased the animal.
 - The only drug they treated the goat with was Naxcel prior to the show. It was not put on the drug affidavit because there was no withdraw and, as explained to them, anything lacking withdraw didn't need to be listed.
 - Naxcel was given to the animal as it was snotty and expected weather surrounding the show posed concerns.
 - Two "CCs" were given to the animal in the hip muscle – two CCs on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
 - It was not the best antibiotic to use but it has no meat withdraw and that was why they used it.
 - Murphy stood by their prior show history of having animals tested at other livestock shows and never having a red flag appear.
 - They specifically highlighted the Missouri State Fair's process, citing that they supposedly kick exhibitors out for bring animals with visuals abnormalities.
 - The bruising was addressed directly as a potential reaction to goat behavior and possible transportation following the livestock show, unsure of whether animals are in close quarters during transport. They also highlighted the tradition of the judge smacking the hip of the grand champion, which could have caused the bruise noted.
 - Murphy then presented an experience at another show where rumors circled about the Aksarben Stock Show champion exhibitors not passing lab tests.
 - They had not yet received their letter of notification at this point.
 - Questions were raised about the screenings and practices in place for the Aksarben Stock Show.
 - Murphy also questions the amended report from Texas A&M in November that indicated a data entry error, mentioning a negative eye test.
 - Murphy ended their statement by reiterating that their family had not administered Meloxicam to the goat in question. All they have is their integrity and their truth. They thanked the committee for their time.
- Dawn Caldwell opened the floor for questions following the exhibitor's statements.
 - Jaime Parr asked Murphy if they employed a fitter.
 - Murphy said they did have one individual help with the presentation of the goats, otherwise it's their kids and a mentor.
 - Dawn Caldwell asked about the quality assurance testing Murphy highlighted previously and why there were concerns with sores and bumps on the neck. Caldwell specializes in the cattle business but was curious why the different injection site was selected.

- Murphy explained there were some youths kicked out of the Missouri State Fair during inspection due to fly bites on their animal's neck. The veterinary on-site said that bumps on the neck – due to bites or injection sites – make the goat prone to an abscess called CL.
 - Murphy stated they primarily raise cattle, but their child started raising goats. They were unsure if they made an incorrect injection with the Naxcel or if they administered it in the wrong spot. Since Naxcel was a multi-day treatment, there was concern about injecting the drug into the neck.
 - Mark Fahleson asked Dr. Sullivan to describe what exactly was found on the carcass.
 - Dr. Sullivan explained that when the lab harvests an animal they look at the exterior of the carcass for any abnormalities. There was yellow fluid found on the carcass in question, which is abnormal to be found on the muscle. They also noticed bruising along the back of the loin, which prompted them to take a closer look. They were able to see the injection site mentioned which caused some muscle paleness. The lab took sample for further testing.
 - Murphy posed questions about a report from October and the results being subjective.
 - A portion of the report cited stated there was some subjectivity but the lesions were likely the result of injections within three to seven days leading up to slaughter.
 - Murphy said the animal was treated within those three to seven days, right or wrong injection site aside. Injections started that Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night, and ended Wednesday night. The show then took place on that Thursday.
 - Dawn Caldwell asked for Dr. Dominguez to expand on Meloxicam and how long it stays in the system.
 - Dr. Dominguez shared it can be found up to 70 hours after administration. It can be picked up in the environment from animal shedding. It also has a relatively low therapeutic window.
 - Murphy asked Dr. Dominguez if the drug is not labeled for food animal use, how is it used for veterinary use.
 - Dr. Dominguez shared that due to education and licensing they are given access to particular drugs not typically available to producers.
 - If there is a drug labeled and approved for a particular indication, such as pain relief, they are obligated to use that drug first. If that drug isn't working, they may use an off-label drug.
 - Veterinaries are also obligated to share what the withdrawal time is, ensuring it is administered appropriately.
 - Ryan Hassebrook asked Murphy to clarify the number of times the injection of Naxcel was given to the goat in question.
 - Murphy explained that the injections were given Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday right before the show. Each night only one injection was given – two CCs on the first two days and then one CC the final two evenings, per the drug's label.
 - Dawn Caldwell opened the floor to any additional questions, to which there were none.
- Caldwell offered Murphy to make a closing statement.
 - Murphy explained they were curious about the testing and found interest in how Meloxicam could be picked up environmentally. They remain unwavering that the drug was never in their possession or administered by them.
 - Murphy shared how they participated in 4-H and FFA growing up, which changed their life, so much so that they run their own 300-head cattle operation. These programs are so important and it's not worth a banner or ribbon to do something dishonestly.
 - They thanked the committee for their time and Vaughn Sievers for their correspondence.
- Caldwell gave Vaughn Sievers the lead on the State Fair's closing statement.
 - Vaughn Sievers thanked Murphy for their comments.

- Sievers clarified that there are two blood vials taken – one that is shipped out the following day and another that goes to a secure veterinary office that no one else has access to.
- As far as the exhibits and statements of the day, Sievers asked the committee to uphold the determination that Goat 0216 violated the rules of the 2025 Askarben Stock Show.
 - Imposed sanctions include:
 - The disqualification of the animal, along with all privileges that go along with the champion's recognition.
 - The exhibitor premium monies and carcass monies to be withheld.
 - The exhibitor be billed for a disposal fee of \$304.50.
 - A three-year ban on exhibiting at the Aksarben Stock Show.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after 2028 be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - Banners and all awards received be returned to the Nebraska State Fair and Aksarben Stock Show.
- Sievers asked the committee if there were any questions, to which there were none.
- Caldwell opened the floor for a two-minute rebuttal.
 - Murphy asked to circle back to an amended report in previously mentioned from November regarding a negative eye test containing a data entry error.
 - Dr. Dominguez shared that the amendment was due to a data error regarding a different test result. Two IDs, including Goat 0216, were initially suspected to have Ractopamine in the eye but on confirmation were not found to have Ractopamine. That result was not keyed correctly in the first report and so the final report was amended to reflect the negative result.
 - Jaime Parr asked how likely it is that environmental shedding took place and to what level or quantity could it be found.
 - Dr. Dominguez said there have been robust studies done in every species with every drug and case studies, including one at Texas A&M, indicate that there can be a transfer of drugs via the environment. Animals that are stalled near or next to other animals may pick up trace amounts of drugs from other animals. The levels of this transfer are difficult because the studies are variable. This leads to difficulty in distinguishing what is incidental versus intentional unless the levels are high or definitely in the therapeutic range.
 - In Goat 0216, the Meloxicam level was found to be lower than a therapeutic level.
 - Dawn Caldwell gave opportunity for additional questions.
 - Murphy asked to circle back to the bruising found on the goat in question and whether the animals are transported together following the show.
 - Vaughn Sievers explained that animals are transported in separate pens.
 - Caldwell asked if there were any further comments, to which there were none.
- Caldwell asked to conclude the appeal hearing, noting there would be another hearing in the afternoon and deliberation to follow. The final recommendation will be presented to the Board of Directors at a later date.
- Murphy expressed appreciation to the committee for their time and efforts.
- Caldwell expressed appreciation to Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Sullivan for their time.
- Caldwell asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing.
 - Motion made by John McKeever to adjourn.
 - Second by Lanna Hubbard.
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.

The meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Sub-Committee was held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm at the Nebraska State Fair administrative offices in Grand Island, NE. Public notice of this meeting was posted to the Grand Island Independent newspaper on February 26, 2026; posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar website; and on the Nebraska State Fair website. The public was invited to attend in person.

The Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Sub-Committee convened again at 1 pm.

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

Others in attendance: Jaime Parr, Executive Director; Breanna Kozisek, Business Administrator; Vaughn Sievers, Agriculture Director; Dr. Brandon Dominguez, TVMDL (Zoom); Mark Fahleson (Zoom), the Hirschfeld family, and public guests via Zoom.

The meeting 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, and the rules regarding appeal hearings with the Nebraska State Fair.

Public Comment

- Opportunity for public comment was provided with a three-minute limit per person.
- Seeing no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

Livestock Appeal Hearing – Swine 278167

- Dawn Caldwell moved into the second appeal hearing at 1:02 pm.
- Vaughn Sievers presented the hearing information.
 - This hearing is regarding the Champion 4-H Market Swine at the 2025 Nebraska State Fair.
 - A urine test conducted by Texas A&M showed the animal tested positive for Flunixin, commonly known as Banamine, which is a non-steroidal inflammatory drug. The drug label indicates that the swine must not be slaughtered for human consumption within 12 days of the last treatment.
 - Testing determined the residue level at 28 nanograms per milliliter in the urine, which is above the level associated with cross-contamination. As a result, the carcass was condemned.
 - The initial determination of the Ag committee was that the following sanctions be imposed on the exhibitor of Swine 278167.
 - Disqualification of the animal along with all champion recognition privileges.
 - Exhibitor premium monies and carcass monies be withheld.
 - The exhibitor be billed for the carcass disposal fee in the amount of \$505.
 - A one-year ban be placed on the exhibitor at the Nebraska State Fair.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor at the Nebraska State Fair after 2026 be subject to periodic and random testing.
 - All banners and awards received be returned to the Nebraska State Fair.
 - The exhibitor appealed this determination and rules permit the exhibitor of the hearing to come before the committee, which will then make recommendation to the Nebraska State Fair Board for its determination.
 - Exhibits for consideration were presented.
 - Exhibit 1 – 2025 Nebraska State Fair General Livestock Rules and Regulations.
 - Exhibit 2 – Exhibitor Acknowledgement/ShoWorks.
 - Exhibit 3 – Drug Use Notification and Test Sample Collection, August 24, 2025.

- Note that the exhibitor certified that the animal was free of medication.
 - Exhibit 4 – Chain of Custody, Protocol of Champions and Drug Testing.
 - Exhibit 5 – Texas A&M test results, September 11, 2025, positive urine test for Flunixin.
 - Exhibit 6 – DNA sent to UC Davis.
 - Exhibit 7 – BGL Bulks Submission Comparison Sample Submission Form, September 10, 2025
 - Exhibit 8 – Letter/Notice of Positive Livestock Lab Test, September 15, 2025
 - Exhibit 9 – Response from Exhibitor, September 24, 2025
 - Exhibit 10 – Texas A&M email chain, October 1, 2025
 - Exhibit 11 – Letter from UNL Meat Lab, October 7, 2025
 - Exhibit 12 – Letter/Notice of Violations and Proposed Sanctions, October 7, 2025
 - Exhibit 13 – Letter/Notice of Appeal Rights, February 6, 2026
 - Exhibit 14 – UNL Invoice Carcass Destruction Fee in the amount of \$505, October 20, 2025.
 - Exhibit 15 – Nebraska State Fair Standard Operating Procedure
 - Exhibit 16 – Nebraska State Fair Infraction Process
- Testimony was then given by Dr. Gary Sullivan, with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).
 - Dr. Dominguez is the section head for Veterinary Services at Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. They previously were the interim section head for the Analytical Chemistry Section and still oversees its case management.
 - The samples received are in secured packaging from the show. They come into the laboratory where they verify that all the samples are individually secured with evidence tape, which they were all noted to be that way. The samples are then taken through an extraction process and put on a liquid chromatography mass spectrometry machine to detect any drugs that might be present in the sample.
 - The Swine 278167 sample was suspected to have Flunixin and underwent confirmatory testing which yielded a positive result for Flunixin at an estimated value of 28 nanograms per milliliter.
- Vaughn Sievers asked the committee if there were any questions for Dr. Dominguez.
- Ryan Hassebrook asked if Dr. Dominguez could put the estimated value found into perspective.
 - Dr. Dominguez described a study involving pigs administered Flunixin. The pigs shared a pen but some were given the drug while others were not. The pigs were monitored over time and it was found that the drug could be transferred to other pigs. Results established a cutoff of 20 nanograms per milliliter as a 95% confidence level that all pigs administered the drug would be captured. There was a very small chance of capturing pigs that were not administered the drug.
- Dawn Caldwell then opened the floor for exhibitor statements.
 - The exhibitor was present at the hearing, with their parents, and gave opening statement.
 - The exhibitor thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak and began their statement by clarifying they did not give their pig Flunixin nor did anyone else in the family or on their behalf.
 - The family has been involved in the Nebraska State Fair for over 50 years and has relatives who assist in the current swine show. That said, they stressed they would never knowingly do anything to risk their reputation.
 - The exhibitor shared they understand the Nebraska State Fair 4-H and FFA rules about drug use and exhibitor responsibility. They take those rules seriously. They understand different drugs have different withdrawal periods and the zero-tolerance policy imposed at these events.
 - The exhibitor believed there were reasonable explanations for the positive test result that did not involve intentional wrongdoing.

- Exhibits submitted by the exhibitor cited research completed to support why 28 nanograms per milliliter is not a likely indicator that Flunixin was given for therapeutic or enhancement reasons.
- Studies were cited proving that pigs can test positive despite not having the drug administered. Pigs housed near treated pigs can absorb Flunixin from their environment, such as through urine, manure, bedding, on floors, and other shared spaces.
- Market and breeding animals are kept in shared barns during livestock shows where many have access to the areas. Pens are in close proximity to each other and shared between animals.
- At the State Fair, the breeding show occurs before the market show. This could increase the risk of contamination of shared spaces since breeding animals are not tested and may have Flunixin in their systems. Some animals may also receive veterinary care. The exhibitor posed concern about how this could increase environmental exposure.
- The exhibitor highlighted an additional concern regarding the animal having Flunixin in its system prior to going to market without it being known.
- Points were also made that exhibitors do not always have full control over their animals in the barns. There are occasions where animals are unattended while the barns are open.
- The exhibitor raised concern about the specimen collection practices performed at the Nebraska State Fair as well.
 - Observations were made about the collectors resting specimen cups on the ground while waiting for an animal to urinate, which leads to exposure.
 - The exhibitor themselves encountered a challenge while collecting a sample. They were approved by the collector to squeeze the pig's urine pocket to supply a sample. The exhibitor didn't realize at the time that the urine trapped could be full of bacteria and shouldn't be used for a sterile collection. Point was made that the collector shouldn't have accepted that collection method having had proper training and education.
- Misty Hirschfeld provided further statement, specifically on the exhibits supplied.
- M. Hirschfeld highlighted Exhibit 1 of the exhibits they submitted which featured a study detecting Flunixin in untreated pigs housed with treated pigs. Attention was specifically drawn to the table showing each of the pig's drug levels in the study and the decrease in levels over several days. Point was made that while Dr. Dominguez gave 20 nanograms as the typical threshold for catching most cases of treated animals, the study in Exhibit 1 indicates not all cases caught are accurate.
- M. Hirschfeld also pointed to the lack of sterile conditions and sterile practices, referring to their specific experience while at the Nebraska State Fair.
- Exhibit 2 submitted was also discussed as it pertained to urine detection versus tissue detection. The information presented in that exhibit indicate that a single intramuscular dose of Flunixin are likely to have detectable levels of the parent drug in urine for up to two to five days after the first dose. While the exhibitor in question received a positive test, the result was not very high. Given the life span of the residue, the same test conducted the next day could have produced a negative result.
- M. Hirschfeld shared they were confused why the meat wasn't tested following a positive urine test. They believe condemning an animal off a urine sample doesn't indicate with certainty that the meat is safe or not safe. They wish they were given an opportunity to do further testing or have the animal meat. It was cited that USDA liver levels can be up to 30 nanograms and given the urine sample showed 28 nanograms, the drug was not likely present in the liver.
- Exhibit 3 submitted by the exhibitor showed that untreated pigs entering a contaminated pen showed 15 nanograms of Flunixin in the urine, despite never being treated.
- Exhibit 3 also shows the typical urine concentration in treated pigs, indicating the between 12 to 24 hours following injection the urine concentration could be between 1,000 to 50,000 nanograms per milliliter. The concentration gradually declines over time with levels being

- 100 to 1,000 nanograms within 48 to 72 hours later. Point was made that if an intentional dose was given to the pig for therapeutic or enhancement reasons, it would have happened during that time frame while at the show and yield higher levels in the urine test.
- Chad Hirschfeld further pointed to the zero-tolerance policy in place. While they understand the policy, they raised concern over why the policy doesn't apply to the breeding show. The breeding show is not subjected to testing but they do contaminate the areas for the market show.
 - Dawn Caldwell asked the Hirschfelds if they suggest the breeding show be tested as well.
 - C. Hirschfeld said that if it's going to be zero-tolerance for the market show, the breeding show should be tested so that barns are not contaminated. It may not eliminate the risk, but it would drastically reduce contamination.
 - C. Hirschfeld also expressed concern over the collectors getting proper training. They cited an instance from a prior year where there were some challenges that introduced some doubt from the exhibitors.
 - Dawn Caldwell asked if there were additional committee questions.
 - Caldwell asked for Dr. Dominguez's perspective on the research presented in the exhibits discussed.
 - Dr. Dominguez stated that the research presented highlights a struggle that is experienced at all shows the laboratory talks to. Each show differs in their testing program and what their exact standards are.
 - Drug testing is easy for just about anybody to do with some on-the-job training on proper collection techniques and it's been a testing practice for decades. The problem Dr. Dominguez has seen with the urine collection is the variability in how animals process the drugs and the resulting impact on drug concentration.
 - C. Hirschfeld responded by saying that the 28 nanograms found in their pig gave no advantage to the animal at that level. The only advantage to gain would be if someone intentionally did it to the animal against the exhibitor personally.
 - Jaime Parr asked Dr. Dominguez as to what drug concentration would need to be present to have an advantage in the show ring.
 - Dr. Dominguez shared that the therapeutic level for Banamine is 1 microgram per milliliter. The test result was 28 nanograms per milliliter, so a quarter of the therapeutic level. The uterine clearance a few hours after the initial shot is in the thousands range but the drug could have been administered a couple days before for some reason.
 - Caldwell opened the floor for closing statements.
 - The exhibitor began their closing statement by respectfully asking that this positive test not be seen as proof of intentional drug use or wrongdoing. Their hope was that by considering the scientific proof presented, the committee would accept the appeal and reinstate the showing privileges from 2025. They expressed thanks for the committee's time and consideration.
 - M. Hirschfeld also expressed thanks for the committee allowing them to appeal and speak. Appreciation was expressed for the effort in maintaining fairness, integrity, and in the livestock industry.
 - Caldwell gave Vaughn Sievers the lead on the State Fair's closing statement.
 - Based on the information presented, Sievers asked the committee to uphold the determination that Swine 278167 violated the rules of the 2025 Nebraska State Fair.
 - Imposed sanctions include:
 - Disqualification of the animal along with all privileges that go along with recognition of the Champion 4-H Market Swine.
 - Exhibitor premium monies and carcass monies to be withheld.
 - The exhibitor be billed for a carcass disposal fee of \$505.
 - A one-year ban on the exhibitor at the Nebraska State Fair.
 - Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor at the Nebraska State Fair after 2026 be subject to periodic and random testing.

- All banners and awards received be returned to the Nebraska State Fair.
- Caldwell opened the floor to a rebuttal, which was declined. Caldwell expressed appreciation for the information the exhibitor presented and the constructive ideas they presented.
- Caldwell informed the room that the committee would enter deliberation for both hearings heard that day. Caldwell entertained a motion to enter closed executive session to protect the public interest and receive confidential legal advice.
 - Motion made by Kathleen Lodl
 - Second by John McKeever.
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
 - The committee entered executive session at 1:43 pm.
- Executive session was closed at 2:21 pm.
 - Motion to leave executive session was made by Boyd Strobe.
 - Second by Kathleen Lodl.
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
- Caldwell opened discussion on the two hearings.
 - Goat 0216 was discussed first.
 - Caldwell asked for the will of the committee as to whether the committee would stand on sanctions or make changes.
 - Boyd Strobe proposed the committee stand on sanctions and asked that Vaughn Sievers give a brief outline of said sanctions.
 - Sievers presented the sanctions. (1) Disqualification of the animal along with all privileges that go along with champion recognition. (2) Exhibitor premium monies and carcass monies be withheld. (3) Exhibitor billed for carcass disposal fee. (4) Three-year ban on exhibiting at the Aksarben Stock Show. (5) Any animals exhibited by the exhibitor after 2028 would be subject to periodic and random testing. (6) All banners and awards received for Goat 0216 be returned to the Nebraska State Fair.
 - Boyd Strobe moved to impose the sanctions as outlined by Sievers.
 - Second by Lanna Hubbard.
 - All in favor.
 - Caldwell clarified that the determination in committee is a recommendation to the full Board of Directors who will take action on it for sanctions to be imposed.
 - Swine 278167 was discussed last.
 - Caldwell asked for the will of the committee as to whether the committee would stand on sanctions or make changes.
 - Kathleen Lodl shared that based on the exhibitor and the family's comments, the committee should discuss the carcass disposal fee and release the remaining sanctions.
 - Dawn Caldwell suggested the committee consider imposing the random and periodic testing.
 - John McKeever moved to impose the carcass disposal fee be billed to the exhibitor and that they be subject to random and periodic testing.
 - Second by Boyd Strobe.
 - All in favor.
 - Caldwell again clarified that the recommendation be presented to the entire Board of Directors on March 20 at the full board meeting. After which, the determinations will be communicated to the families.

Adjournment

Motion made by Kathleen Lodl to adjourn.

Second by John McKeever.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of March 2, 2026
Nebraska State Fair Approved:

By: _____
John McKeever, Board Secretary

UNAPPROVED