

Darke County Junior Fair Sheep Committee
December 14, 2025 6:30 PM
Minutes

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Sachs, Josh Sargent, Kierra Reichert, Chuck Willcox, Vickie Willcox, Bill Stocksdale, and Denice McDade

Jr. Fair Board Representatives Present: Isabella Bunting

Guests: Dave Singer and Dean Neff

Meeting called to order by Chuck Willcox at 6:30 p.m.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary Report: Vickie caught an edit that needed to be made on the past meeting minutes as the scholarship fund needs to read with a balance of "\$4,845.67." Motion to approve past meeting minutes with edit from September 28th, 2025 by Bill Stocksdale, seconded by Josh Sargent.

Motion carried

- Treasurer Report: Checking account balance - \$1,345.03
Savings account balance - \$3,601.62
Scholarship fund - \$5,721.27

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Bill Stocksdale, seconded by Denice McDade.

Motion carried

Committee Reports:

- **Rules** - Vickie sent out the edits of the rules for the 2026 fairbook to committee members. Motion to approve all rule changes/edits was made by Vickie Willcox, seconded by Josh Sargent. Motion carried. The "slap rule" was mentioned, which was enforced at the 2025 Ohio State Fair. This rule will be enforced at the 2026 Darke County sheep shows, as it will be discussed at the barn meeting with a visual example of a sheep to demonstrate what is acceptable.
- **Sale Committee** - A few 2025 sale checks still need to be picked up, but the sheep exhibitors have all picked theirs up already. A few buyers still have an outstanding bill from the sale.
- **Scholarship** - One "thank you" card has been received thus far. A senior in high school who was awarded the sheep scholarship in 2025 will receive the money once they show proof that they're enrolled in a college. The idea of putting a lockbox around the show

ring for scholarship funds was mentioned. While trying to get more donations, the sheep scholarship will be announced at the sheep awards night at the 2026 fair.

- **Skillathon** - The updated 2026 sheep skillathon dates that will now be offered include Tuesday, July 7th from 6 pm - 8 pm in the beef barn, and Saturday, July 18th from 9 am - 11 am, with location TBD. The Jr. Fair Board passed a motion that allows Darke County exhibitors to take the online skillathon through Ohio State, but they won't be eligible for OME/OBE if they choose to complete the skillathon online.
- **Tagging** - No updates.
- **Awards Committee** - The sponsorship sheet that was passed around at the 2025 fair allowed for almost all of the awards for the 2026 fair to be covered. All awards for the 2026 fair have been decided on by the awards committee.
Motion to accept all the committee reports was made by Josh Sargent, seconded by Bill Stocksdale.

Old Business:

A. Judge Selection Updates for 2026 Sheep Shows

- Chuck will be calling judges for 2026 judging contracts before Christmas and will report back to the committee.

B. Sheep Barn Sound System

- Greg Peck, the individual who currently has the sound system contract for the fair, has said that he will take another look at the sound system in the sheep barn to try to make continued improvements to it. Denise has heard about other sound system providers who service other fairs that have exceptionally clear speakers. Denise is going to reach out to the individuals who have the sound systems and see if they would be interested in applying for the Darke County Fair sound system contract. The fair prefers for one individual company to service all the sound systems at the fair instead of piecing out the contract to multiple individuals.

C. Sheep Barn Pens

- Denice got a quote back from "Stillwater Welding" for approximately \$70,000, which came out to about \$315 per pen. This quote was based on galvanized metal pens, which would be 40 in. high with middle dividers that can be taken out to make double-wide pens. "Stillwater Welding" doesn't require the whole payment to be made up front. Denice is going to take the lead on looking into getting donations and applying for grants in order to get this project funded.

D. Check-In Papers for Breeding Sheep

- Physical registration papers must be presented at check-in, as pictures of registration papers on a phone will not be accepted. Breeding sheep need to have physical registration papers along with a physical lease agreement if applicable. Lease papers are needed if the sheep is registered in your family farm name.

New Business:

A. Photography for 2026 Fair

- Megan Roell offered to take pictures of all the 2026 Jr. Fair sheep shows, including the fitting contest, for a total cost of \$2,950. With this package, all photos would be made available for free to all the sheep exhibitors. She has also made the offer to price out individual shows if it's decided to not purchase the entire photo package. Kierra will make a post on Facebook to see if anyone has any interest in donating to the photography costs.

Other Comments:

Motion was made by Denice McDade to reimburse Chuck and Vickie for fans and postage that they purchased with their own personal money for a total of \$211.20, Jennifer Sachs seconded. Motion carried.

The next Sheep Committee meeting will be held on July 18th at 11:30 a.m. at the Darke County Fairgrounds after the completion of skillathon.

Motion to adjourn by Isabella Bunting, seconded by Bill Stocksdale.

Respectfully submitted by Kierra Reichert
Secretary, Darke County Junior Fair Sheep Committee