

Darke County Junior Fair Sheep Committee
September 13, 2026 7:00 PM
Minutes

Committee Members Present: Josh Sargent, Kierra Reichert, Kim Amspaugh, Emily Williams, Chuck Willcox, Vickie Willcox, Sarah Drew, Bill Stocksdales, Jennifer Sachs, Denice McDade, and Gary Gehret

Jr. Fair Board Representatives Present: Isabella Bunting

Guests: Jewell Towery, Amy Parker, Jeremy Manalo, Steve Langston, and Amy Hanes

Meeting called to order by Chuck Willcox at 7:00 p.m.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary Report: Motion to approve past meeting minutes from July 18th, 2026 by Josh Sargent, seconded by Bill Stocksdales.
Motion carried
- Treasurer Report: Hasn't been prepared yet. Will be shared at next meeting on Oct. 11th, 2026. It was confirmed that all packer checks have been mailed out.

Committee Reports:

- **Rules** - No updates. Rule changes will be discussed at the next meeting on Oct. 11th, 2026.
- **Sale Committee** - Invoices to buyers from the 2026 fair will be mailed out on Oct. 14th, 2026. Exhibitor's sale checks will be available for pickup again this year at the sale office. The individual who picks up the check must sign for it at pickup. Pickup dates will be posted on the Jr. Fair Facebook page once decided.
- **Scholarship** - Three scholarships were awarded at the 2026 fair for \$800 each. \$100 was placed in the scholarship donation lockbox that was ring-side at the fair. \$200 in donations was received directly to the sheep committee before the fair started. A potential discussion may need to be had regarding the way scholarship funds are paid out to applicants in the future with the scholarship donations coming in not meeting scholarship expenses.
- **Skillathon** - The 2027 skillathon updates will be made as discussed in the previous meeting minutes. Discussion was had regarding making the tie-breakers on the test harder and not out of the resource book due to ties on the test still occurring.

- **Tagging** - Dates are set for 2027 sheep tagging @ the south end of the fairgrounds as follows: Saturday, May 1st, 2027 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and Tuesday, May 4th, 2027 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- **Awards Committee** - All award sponsors for the 2027 fair have been spoken for from the sponsor sheets that were passed around at the 2026 fair. A few extra sponsors were received for potential ties.
Motion to accept all the committee reports was made by Sarah Drew, seconded by Isabella Bunting.
Motion carried.

New Business:

A. 2026 Fair Review

- The 2026 fair went well overall. A discussion was held on why the classes/divisions are set up the way they are for the Jr. market show. It was said that the rules are set for 18 classes with 6 divisions, and there are to be no more than 12 lambs per class. To make weigh-in easier in the future, it was discussed that weights can be typed into the iPad as lambs go across the scale instead of entering them into the system later. A reminder was shared that exhibitors need to sign up for breeding sheep projects if they plan on bringing a commercial ewe/registered breeding sheep to the fair. An idea was presented to display the past 1-5 years of champions and reserves for the market and breeding shows at the fair. More to come on this as the 2027 fair gets closer.

B. Scoring of OME/OBE

- A discussion was held regarding how the OME/OBE was scored. Concerns were raised regarding the idea that certain exhibitors may have a better skillathon score on the test than others in their overall OME/OBE division, but not receive the max amount of points due to the way their individual age placings fell. It was decided that the scoring will stay the way it's currently in place as the score sheet states specifically how the scoring is done. Future concerns for the OME/OBE score sheet can be presented at future sheep committee meetings for the committee to vote on.

C. Election of 2026-2027 Officers

- 1) President - Chuck Willcox

Motion made by Denice McDade, seconded by Sarah Drew.

- 2) Vice President - Josh Sargent

Motion made by Isabella Bunting, seconded by Kim Amspaugh.

3) Secretary - Jennifer Sachs

Motion made by Denice McDade, seconded by Sarah Drew.

4) Treasurer - Emily Williams

Motion made by Sarah Drew, seconded by Jennifer Sachs.

D. Appointment to Sub-Committees

- 1) Sale - Chuck Willcox & Emily Williams
- 2) Tagging - Chuck Willcox, Jennifer Sachs, Josh Sargent, & Kobe Epperly
- 3) Rules - Sarah Drew & Josh Sargent, with Denice McDade as alternate
- 4) Scholarship - Emily Williams, Kim Amspaugh, & Bill Stocksdale
- 5) Awards - Sarah Drew, Jennifer Sachs, Kobe Epperly, & Denice McDade
- 6) Skillathon - to be decided at next meeting on Oct. 11th, 2026
- 7) Check-In - to be decided at next meeting on Oct. 11th, 2026

Jr. fair representatives for each sub-committee will be decided at the next meeting on Oct. 11th, 2026.

Motion made by Josh Sargent to approve all the sub-committee appointments, seconded by Gary Gehret

E. Judge Selections for 2027 Sheep Shows

- Judge selections for the 2027 fair will be made at the next meeting on Oct. 11th, 2026. Committee members were asked to bring judge name ideas to the next meeting.

Old Business:

A. Sheep Barn Sound System Updates

- Concerns are still being raised regarding the sheep barn sound system after the 2026 fair. Chuck Willcox is going to the Sr. fair board to get approval to receive sponsors to put in a new sound system. This was already done once in the past, and all funds were raised to move forward with the new sound system. The Sr. fair board originally shot down the idea when it was brought up to them to finish the project out. Chuck will report back to the committee after he's able to bring this item of discussion up at a Sr. fair board meeting.

B. Sheep Barn Pen Updates

- With the cost of new pens being high, Jared Hummel will be putting together a few sample pens made from the current pens to modify them as the long gates will be cut in half and the pens will have walk-through fronts. More to come on this after the sample pens and pricing are put together by Jared.

Other Comments:

~Sheep barn set up for the 2027 fair will be the Saturday of skillathon. Tear down will be the Sunday after the last day of the 2027 fair.

~Gary Gehret & Kierra Reichert are going off the sheep committee

The next sheep committee meeting will be held on October 11th, 2027 at 7:00 p.m. @ the Community Center/Dog Barn @ the fairgrounds.

Motion to adjourn by Isabella Bunting, seconded by Kim Amspaugh.

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