

Elbert County Fair Board

Minutes

September 16, 2024

Ag Building Conference Room

7:00 pm

Present:

Tammi Schneider
Will White
Kristi Strachan
Matt Summers
Garrett Miller
Aaron Thieman
Troy Kelty
Trevor Smith
Sheri Trehal
Vicki Whitman
Ben Duke
Ralph Hinton
Dave Rook
Chris Carnahan

EXCUSED:

Scott Maranville
Amanda Love

- Called to order by Tammi Schneider at 7:03pm
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
 - Change Mandy Brammer to Vicki Huston as Elbert County Fair Royalty Guest
 - Add Dan Carpenter- Friends of Fair to guest list
 - Motion to approve agenda with additions above by Trevor; seconded by Will ; motion passed.
- Approval of minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes with minor corrections by Trevor;seconded by Garrett;motion passed.
- Treasures Report – Any Invoices that are still out there will need to be submitted for payment by the end of the month. Any sponsorship money that still needs collected will also need to be in by next month. Would like to have budget reconciled by October meeting.
- Guests
 - Elbert County Fair Royalty – Vicki Hutson
 - 2025 Royalty
 - Queen - Abby Cabrera
 - Princess – Mya Noe
 - Jr. Princess – Ava Cleveland
 - The dedicated coordinator has stepped down due to getting hurt so they have named Mandy Brammer as the new Royalty Coordinator and there is a board of directors that will over see the program.

- There are current concerns with some individuals with in the program and steps have been made to ensure only designated chaperones escort the girls to all events.
 - Another concern is the transportation of royalty to events by individual chaperones other than their own parents. They are working on solutions to address this concern as well.
 - The 2025 Royalty does not have a lot of livestock knowledge so everyone worked with them during the 2024 fair to get them up to speed with livestock shows. They will continue to work on this through out the year and do not foresee any problems for the 2025 fair.
 - These are a few issues with the current program that they are aware of and have plans in place to address.
 - The main focus of the Elbert County Fair Royalty is Women in agriculture. Their mission will be to promote and represent the agriculture industry and encourage any young ladies with any type of agriculture background to participate in the program.
 - They are working hard to get additional sponsorships to use to help promote agriculture education within the community.
- JR Matott, Kiowa, Colorado
 - Would like to see the addition of a Ranch Raised Beef division at the county Elbert County Fair
 - A committee of 3-5 volunteers would be formed to create and govern specifics such as mission, rules, validation efforts, class breaks, and participation requirements to be presented to the fair board for additional ideas and approval.
 - This division will be separate for the existing Market Beef show
 - This division will not qualify or disqualify animals or 4hers from the Jr. Market Sale.
 - Further discussion during New Business.
- Superintendents- Nikki Bader Lown(Goat), Monroes (Swine), JW Zion (Sheep) TO SPEAK DURING NEW BUSINESS
- Extension / 4H Report – Kali Benson
 - State Fair was exceptional. Elbert Couty was very well represented across the board. Congratulations to all the family's; kids and parents.
 - Extension Agent Position - had a candidate narrowed down but they then withdrew their application so the position will be reposted next month.
 - Extension office is going to be painted and new flooring installed. This work will begin within the month. Extension personnel will be working from home during this time. The best way to get ahold of them will be via email.
 - Master Gardeners- A lot of work has been done since the fair and things are looking great. There have applicants for the leaders for master gardeners and are in the review process.

- 4H year is winding down and 4h online will recycle October 1st for the next year. All 4hers have to be reenrolled for the new year to participate in any of the upcoming camps. They are encouraged to enroll ASAP.
 - Kali to present extension budget to BOCC tomorrow. She has a few different accounts that she over sees and will be presented. Extension account for employee salaries and office supplies, 515 4H Fair account for judges, ribbons, awards and a non-appropriated account for funds outside of normal budget items.
 - County Facilities Report – Tammi Schneider
 - Currently Gary Woirhaye and Tammi are working on improvement plans for the fairgrounds. Gary has asked for a list of item requests to be reviewed for approval.
 - Market Sale Report – Dan Carpenter, Vicki Whitman and Sheri Trehal
 - Yearly comparison of market sale numbers (# of head sold, average price per head broken by species) for 2022, 2023 and 2024.
 - 2024 sale grossed \$1,044,277.00, up from 2023's record \$898,508.65
 - Beef numbers were down; Lamb, Swine, Goat and Rabbit numbers were slightly up but the largest increase was Poultry.
 - Dan discussed with the fair board the creation of the Friends of the Fair, what the mission is and what the money from the commission that is withheld is used for and why.
 - When Friends of the Fair was formed, there was a shortage of financial support from the county budget for improvements on the fairgrounds and equipment that was needed for the fair. There had also been discussion that the county would withdraw the small financial support they had been giving to the fair board to put on the county fair all together. The members of the fair board at that time decided that they needed to start planning for the worst; If the county were to decided to take away the finances from the fair board, they could still provide a some sort of fair for the kids and also to help improve the facilities that were available for the kids to have their county fair. They formed the Friends of Fair which is a 501c3. Their mission was to first ensure the Elbert County Fair and Jr. Market Sale would take place each year and secondly to improve facilities for the Elbert County Fair along the way.
 - Friends of Fair has governed the Jr Market Sale and used commission monies for expenses, seed money for the following year and improvements to facilities and fair equipment.
 - Dan acknowledged that times have changed and there may not be the need that there used to be for facility improvements at the fair grounds and that people's perception of what is "needed" and what is important for the Elbert County Fair is different today then it was when Friends of Fair was formed.

- Tammi said that a discussion of the future of the Jr. Market Sale would need to be had in terms of who governs it. The rules would have to be looked at and updated as we continue to work our way through the county fair rules.
 - 2025 Entertainment Update
 - Blackhawk will be entertainment for 2025. Their contract amount is \$25,000 . They have been great to work with so far.
 - New Business
 - Discussion of Mr. Matotts thoughts / requests to the beef barn
 - Garrett and JR have had a lot of conversations regarding a Ranch Raised or commercial division at the county fair.
 - Trevor asked what the reasoning for this addition would be. Mr. Matott's explained that he would like to see the beef numbers increase and he feels like this is a good way to do that.
 - Will questioned how they would differentiate between a show steer and a commercial steer and who decides that. Garrett said it would probably have to be a pheno type call and that would determine if they are eligible to show or not.
 - It was discussed that these are the type of guidelines that the committee would be charged with determining.
 - Garrett moved a committee be formed to discuss and bring to the fair board a preliminary plan for a Ranch Raised Commercial division at the Elbert County Fair; Ben seconded; motion passed.
 - Committee will be JR Matott, Garrett Miller, Chris Carnahan, Will White, Ben Franken, Brian Hundley, Silas Yokum
 - 2024 Recap from Goat, Swine and Lamb Superintendents
 - Monroes, Swine Superintendents
 - Fair was awesome for their first year as superintendents.
 - The kiddos and families were all great to work with and there were no major issues in the swine barn this year.
 - Would like to fix the sound system on the south end of the barn. If you are on that end, you can not hear when your class is getting called.
 - They would like to separate swine showmanship from the market sale again. It was too late into the night and was not a positive experience for some of the showman, especially the youngest ones and the new ones. They suggest showmanship be at 8:00 am Wednesday morning.
 - Kristi made a motion to move showmanship to a different day, to be determined, from the market hog show; Ben seconded; motion passed.
 - Requested that the old scale in the barn be torn down so they could utilize that area for more pens for animals or tack. They would also like the left-over panels in south west corner of the barn be removed the week of fair for additional room and a drainage ditch of some sort dug by the wash racks.

- Tammi asked Traci to send her an email requesting these things and she will discuss with Gary at their next meeting.
 - They also requested that pens be set up next year in the holding area for the market sale. It was very difficult this year.
- Nikki Lown – Goat Superintendent
 - Had a great fair also. Wanted to give a shout out to Jamie Schafer for her success at the State Fair in Pueblo.
 - Would like to change wording for rules under goat division that lists “painting” to read “fitting products with same color.”
 - Fair board will approve this change.
 - Would like to move goat show to the afternoon. She thinks that 1 or 2 would work well even with the dual exhibitors.
 - Would like to bring up the Jr. Market sale and complaints that she has received regarding the auctioneers. She said several families feel that they are not fair to all the kids. They will start the bids at different levels depending on if he knows you or not, he will work harder to get more bids if he knows you, She would like all kids /animals to start at the same price understanding some will sell higher but at least they all start at the same place.
 - Complaints that the crowd could not hear or understand the auctioneer.
 - This will hopefully be addressed with the sound system and speakers.
 - Would like new screen cover around the barn. The existing stuff is hard and stuffy. There is no air flow through the barn.
 - Kali recommended sending a request to Gary for this.
 - Matt asked if they could do something different with the pens in the goat and lamb barn because the pens are too small for the sheep. Nikki agreed she would love more pens so they could spread out a bit.
 - Ralph asked is she could clarify the horns on the goats. Nikki said the rules say no horns on wethers Doe’s can have blunt horns. Spurs and growths are ok on either.
- JW Zion – Sheep Superintendent
 - NOT PRESENT
 - Nikki said that the sheep and goats work well together in the barns and she is not aware of any issues JW may have.
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- Adjournment
 - Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting; Trevor seconded; meeting adjourned.

Next meeting October 21, 2024 Ag Building 7:00 pm