

Fairfield County Agricultural Society

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ricketts Hall

Call to Order

The January meeting of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President **David Keller**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was conducted.

Roll Call

Directors Present:

Regina Bressler, Zach Drake, Randy Fisher, Eric Keener, David Keller, Doug Leith, Sean Malone, Joel Spires, Mark Sharp, Doug Shaw, Steve Bader, Abigail Skinner, Connie Smith, Gregory Swinehart, and Kim Westhoven.

Directors Absent:

Charlie Schultz

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by **Abigail Skinner** to approve the December meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by **Steve Bader**. Motion carried.

Comments from Membership / Committee Reports

Member **Gail Ellinger** requested consideration for installing “Big Ass Fans” in the Feeder Creek Show Arena and stated she would research the cost. **Kim Westhoven** approved the request, and **Eric Keener** seconded.

Public Comment

- **Myron Slacker** inquired about renting a building in August to raise funds for shooting sports and shooting safety programs.
- **Debbie Rockwood** suggested hiring an outrider for horse shows at an estimated cost of \$200–\$400.

Guest Speakers

- **Ron Delaney** and **Jason Spod** introduced themselves and discussed their involvement in assisting with the Society's finances.
- **Bill Boone** presented a speech and video regarding the history of the depot on the fairgrounds. He proposed creating videos for each historic building to be played during the fair. **Dave Benson** spoke in support of the idea. **Stacey** suggested videotaping **Dave Benson** and **Ruth Runco** as part of the project. **Connie Smith** volunteered to be chairman, and **Eric Keener**, **Sean Malone**, and **Abigail Skinner** also volunteered to be on the Historical Building Committee.

Financial Report

Regina Bressler reviewed the balance sheet with the Board.

Fair Manager's Report

Stacey reviewed Sue's new contracts and discussed the new Director folders, which include the handbook, red book, and employee handbook. She reported that **Dale** and **Bob** have been cleaning out the first aid station and the old bathrooms.

Junior Fair Awards

- **Carrie Bates** received the 2026 buttons and has begun work on the 2026 invoice sheets.
- **Regina Bressler** suggested creating a section on the Fairfield County website to recognize award sponsors.

Junior Leaders

Leslie reported that 14 youth will be attending the OFMA Convention. Junior Fair Selection Day will be held Saturday, January 24.

A motion was made by **Kim Westhoven** to move the weigh-in times, seconded by **Abigail Skinner**. Motion carried.

Junior Fair

- **Randy Fisher** completed an inventory of tags and reported that additional tags will be needed.
 - **Joel Spires** stated that superintendent interviews were completed and selections have been made.
 - **Doug Leith** discussed Magnawave therapy and noted it is not allowed on the fairgrounds. A motion was made by **Doug Shaw** to continue not allowing Magnawave usage. The motion was seconded by **Joel Spires**. Motion carried.
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Sales Committee

- Photography submissions are due March 12.
 - The Huntington Bank check is in the mail.
 - As of January 13, 76 exhibitor checks remain uncashed.
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Buildings and Grounds

Joel Spires reported that the west wing of the Round Cattle Barn needs renovation, including a standing seam roof, and that the backflow system needs to be brought up to code.

Entertainment

Greg Swinehart reported that NTPA, Rodeo, SEOPS, and strolling entertainment are secured for the 2026 fair.

Camping

Kim Westhoven stated that a new draft of camping rules is being developed. Applications will open around the same time as last year.

Human Resources

Connie Smith suggested the HR committee meet to develop a report outlining committee goals.

Grants / Sponsorships

Sponsorship packets are complete and ready for distribution. Grant applications are due March 1.

Operations (Dale's Report)

Garage door motors in the AAA Building are failing due to heaters being placed too close. **Dale** recommended relocating the heaters.

Old Business

- Multiple directors shared OFMA updates.
 - Suggestions included planning for old buildings, creating a detailed fair map, reviewing social media impacts, improving financial understanding, online bidding, EID tags for market hogs, HR improvements, camping rule updates, bylaw and constitution revisions (including alcohol and marijuana policies), camper electrical upgrades, vendor trailer logistics, and fair finance preparation.
 - **Abigail Skinner** noted that the Fairfield County Fair Queen placed 2nd Attendant in Ohio.
 - The Fairfield County Fair received the **2025 Best Merchandise Award**.
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New Business

- **Stacey** reviewed new reimbursement forms. A motion was made by **Kim Westhoven** and seconded by **Sean Malone**. Motion carried.
- The estimated cost for the infield track fence is \$38,398.
- **Cheryl Ricketts** suggested year-round horse stalling to help fund the infield project. A motion to table the discussion was made by **Abigail Skinner** and seconded by **Zach Drake**. Motion carried.
- **Stacey** requested approval to pay the monthly bills. A motion was made by **Abigail Skinner** and seconded by **Eric Keener**. Motion carried.

- **Zach Drake** discussed \$50 infield parking passes and numbered gates to make directions easier.
 - Fireworks synchronized with music were suggested.
 - **Stacey** recommended **Abigail Skinner** for Sunshine Law responsibilities. A motion was made by **Zach Drake** and seconded by **Sean Malone**. Motion carried.
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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by **Eric Keener** and seconded by **Sean Malone**. The meeting was adjourned.

David Keller, Fair President

Stacey Fisher, Fair Manager / Secretary