



A 501(c)3 nonprofit, operationally unsubsidized organization dedicated to growing community through events like yours and proud to be the home of the Super Fair.

Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.

*A Nebraska 501(c)3 non-profit corporation
and quasi-governmental organization created under Nebraska law in 1870
to promote agriculture, youth, and community
through management of Lancaster's county fairgrounds
and organizing the annual Lancaster county fair*

MINUTES

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Ag Society Hall - Sandhills Global Event Center
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507
Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 7:00 pm

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:00pm.

Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was displayed in the room.

Lancaster Ag Society Board members attending in person were Hagan, Ronnau, Suing, Rutt, Cooper, and Sump. Hardesty was attending virtually. SGEC employees attending in person were Bowen, Rief, N. Dowding, Juengel, Nathan, Roeber, Bohaty, and Orton. Also attending in person from BMG CPAs was Hopp. Also attending virtually was Anderson and Wobig with Lancaster County Extension.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the January meeting were presented for approval. Rutt identified errors that needed corrected. Bowen corrected the errors. Hagan made a motion to approve the corrected January minutes; Sump seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6-0.

Financial Report - Hopp of BMG CPAs reviewed the December financials. Cooper made a motion to accept the December financials as presented. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there was any discussion; there was none. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

Hopp reviewed the January financials. Suing made a motion to accept the January financials as presented. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for discussion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

Hopp provided the information on January checks to be written totaling \$257,943.20. Hagan made a motion to approve the January checks totaling \$257,943.20. Sump seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there were questions; there were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

Hopp presented information including a breakdown report of financials that she is testing for future use for the board and asked for feedback on this report. There was discussion around items that were included and how the report can support staff moving forward. Cooper commented that he appreciated how nice and clear the financial information looks.

Extension update - Karen Wobig attended virtually on behalf of Lancaster County Extension. Wobig shared that 4H had a successful achievement celebration and thanked Commissioner Johnson for attending. Wobig said that Pesticide training is going on in January and February at the extension office. Wobig shared that the fair planning is moving forward, and that staff appreciate the pro-active communication with all SGEC staff, but specifically Nathan. Ronnau stated that the recent better fair meeting went well and was quite productive for all involved.

Officer Reports- Ronnau shared that she, Cooper, and SGEC staff met with the Lancaster 4-H Staff and had a successful better fair meeting. Ronnau talked about the static and dog show increases in entries. Ronnau also stated that the horses will all be stalled in P2 at the 2025 Fair and additional changes are being made to the horse show schedules to allow for more contact with the public.

Ronnau thanked Rutt and other board members for their recent work above and beyond on events held at the Sandhills Global Event Center.

There were no other officer reports.

Committee Reports - Hagan provided a NHSFR Update. Hagan said that Kaiser recently Hagan reported that Kaiser recently gave a presentation about ongoing plans for the 2026-2027 Rodeo and received good feedback from the NHSFR Association. Hagan said that Kaiser will be visiting next month along with an NHSFR representative to have additional discussions about facility and event needs for the 2026-2027 Rodeos. There was discussion about the recent Tourism Grant Awarded to SGEC to help support the upcoming NHSFR events.

There were no other committee reports.

Communication from the public - There was no public in attendance.

2025 Fair update - Juengel reviewed information about the 2025 fair book deadlines and reports that staff are on track to have all information reported by the deadlines. Juengel and N. Dowding talked about the open Livestock portion of the fair and made suggestions for possible changes. N. Dowding

stated that low attendance in the open livestock classes is an issue for many counties. It was decided that the open livestock would be continued this year with possible changes to encourage additional entries.

Bohaty talked about the air conditioning in the Fr8star pavilion and the push to have it done before the fair.

Juengel reported that the fair hours have been finalized with the carnival, gate, and Ribfest hours.

There was discussion about the Busch Pullers request to add another class.

Juengel shared information about her search for shows and entertainment to book during fair. It was decided that a board committee could be created to help guide this process for the 2025 fair.

Rutt made a motion to create a fair committee consisting of Ronnau, Hardesty, and Dowding, that would guide staff in making key booking decisions for the 2025 Super Fair. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for discussion; there was no additional discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

Juengel talked about new promotional events during the fair including wristband night at the carnival with afternoon hours specifically for younger children. Juengel is also working on a "meet your local heroes" event. Juengel also reports that the Ribfest and Bull Riding events are coming together.

Roeber reported the results from the food and beverage management team meeting. Roeber says that the team is feeling more confident and excited about the future of the food and beverage plans moving forward.

Operations Report - N. Dowding reports that the overhead doors and big fans are almost completely installed. N. Dowding said that the electrical work in the campground is updated and has passed inspection. N. Dowding explained the status of the bidding and quote acquisitions for the sewer work, AC installation, and playground installation.

Bohaty talked about the upcoming office renovation that will begin on March 01. Bohaty reports that the offices will be moving to temporary spaces while the construction is underway.

Managing Director Report - Bohaty spoke about some legislative bills that were of interest, relating to bond issues and the wage and hour act.

Roeber said that the liquor license is complete with Bohaty finishing his liquor license training. Roeber reports that additional training for the food and beverage department is being scheduled.

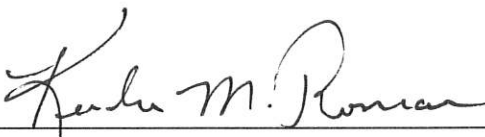
Roeber talked about changes in the food and beverage pricing with reductions on some food items. Roeber said that staff reviewed the cost and was able to provide information to support price reductions.

Bohaty said that he recently did a contract review with legal counsel to remove overlapping and extensive language in the contracts. Bohaty reported that all contracts will be adjusted to clear up hard to read language and make them easier to understand.

Other Business - Nathan shared a proposed Ag Board replacement for the President's message in the County Fair book. This idea was discussed with positive feedback from the board.

Cooper made a motion to **adjourn the meeting**. Hagan seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 20th day
of March, 2025. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau 

Secretary John Cooper 