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
Sandhills Global Event Center Conference Room
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507
Thursday, August 20, 2026

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:03pm.

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 Dowding, Ronnau, Cooper, Hardesty, Rutt, Hagan, and Cusick-Rawlinson. SGEC staff attending in person included Bohaty, Bowen, Pickrel-Smith, Juengel, and N. Dowding. Hopping attended on behalf of BMG Accountants and Karen Wobig and Tracy Anderson attended virtually on behalf of Lancaster County Extension.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the July meeting were presented for approval. Hagan made a motion to approve the minutes with requested corrections; Cusick-Rawlinson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

Financial Report – Hopping reviewed information provided by GBE about the FY 25 audit as performed by GBE. Hopping discussed the previous years audit recommendations and compared them to the current year audit. Ronnau asked for questions; there were none. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to accept the audit report as presented. Hardesty seconded the motion. Ronnau called for any questions; there were none. A roll call vote was completed; the motion passed 7-0.

Hopping reviewed the information for the June financials. Ronnau asked if there were questions, there were none asked. Hagan moved to accept the June financials as presented; Cooper seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed 7-0. Hopping then reviewed a draft of the July financials. Hopping said there are a few things that are being finished up so the final financials for July will be presented next month.

Hopping presented information regarding the July checks. Ronnau asked for questions. There were none. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the July checks totaling $663,653.62. Cooper seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for questions; there were none. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 7-0.

Extension update - Wobig and Anderson present virtually on behalf of Lancaster County Extension. Anderson thanked staff for their hard work on the turn around after the Rodeo before the Fair. Anderson said Extension is in the middle of Fair wrap-up and working on State Fair in Grand Island next. Anderson talked about the upcoming Literacy Festival planning in the fall. Ronnau thanked Extension for putting together a good fair. Anderson asked about planning dates for Better Fair meetings and asked that they be planned for after State Fair.

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

Officer Reports – President Ronnau thanked everyone for their hard work through the July events of Fair and Rodeo. Ronnau gave extra kudos to Cooper and Rutt who spent most of their time on the grounds donating their time to keep things running and provide breaks for staff.

Rutt said that payouts for livestock went really well and people were very happy with the changes made in how they were run this year.

There were no other officer reports

Committee Reports - Ronnau said there will be some discussion about premium auction at the Better Fair meeting.

Bohaty started the conversation about the NHSFR first impressions. Bohaty stated that the Rodeo performances went well and reported that the Cowboy Channel said that the arena footing was one of the best in years, with good ratings. Bohaty explained that the weather was helpful in getting the arenas back in shape after each event.

Bohaty shared that camping check-in process went great. Bohaty explained that the electrical problems were resolved quickly and that most of them were because people were overusing the pedestals and that electrical issues with horses were mostly them chewing on cords installed by attendees. Bohaty stated that some stalls will need to be moved to a different location in I lot at future events.

Bohaty reported that the check out and dump site went smoothly and did not get backed up; this allowed everyone to move out quickly.

Bohaty said that staff have ideas for changes to help in 2027.

Bohaty reported that the trade show and other event managers during the rodeo said they were happy with how things went.

2026 County Fair Initial Impressions – Juengel said that the new layout with fencing around fairground and expansion of carnival provided optimal viewing for everyone.

Juengel shared that admissions using the wristbands seemed to go well for tracking attendance numbers.

Juengel stated that some events were affected by the weather which required the need to cancel a couple grandstand events

Juengel said that the facility will be running short on livestock pens if the open class livestock attendance continues to grow.

There was some discussion about food options in the Coliseum events.

Operations Report – N. Dowding reported that the issues with incomplete work on the sewer were able to be repaired quickly to get through the Rodeo but some long-term repairs will still need to be completed.

N. Dowding said that he has spoken with Hampton on electrical issues experienced and they are working toward getting everything finished.

Managing Director Report – Bohaty thanked the staff for their hard work and commitment during these big events.

Bohaty stated that he feels that the recent department moves are working well.

Bohaty reports that Mikenna has given her resignation and will be leaving around the end of September.

Bohaty said that he has been contacted by commissioner Vest to discuss upcoming events with the county commissioners and other community leadership groups.

Other Business – There was discussion around the upcoming September meetings. Ronnau stated that there would need to be a super majority at these meetings in order to hold the budget meetings and asked for confirmation on board members that will be attending. Ronnau asked staff to confirm the date with commissioners Vest and Johnson. Bohaty said he will follow up.

Cooper made a motion to **adjourn the meeting**; Hagan seconded the motion. There were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 08:53pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 17th day of September, 2026. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau Kendra Ronnau

Secretary John Cooper