MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Judith Basin County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

August 25th, 2025 JB Co. Courthouse - Stanford, MT

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Fair Board President Janet Wertheimer. Members present: Dawnita Sampsel, Powell Becker, Billie Jo Holzer, Kallie Probert, Don Hajenga and Sidney Stratton.

Minutes were approved by Powell and a second was given by Billie Jo.

Treasurers report given by Dawnita.

No announcements or public comments were offered.

Judith Basin County Extension Office

Old Business

Fair Board Budget Update

- Sidney reported on a budget discussion with the commissioners held in late May
- Supplies line item will remain at $15,500.
- Awards/indemnities line item increased from $2,500 to $4,500, boosting premium payouts for 4-H, open class, and school exhibits.

Fair Recap

Schedule

- Overall feedback was positive.
- Suggestions: Move sale and buyer dinner up by at least one hour to avoid downtime on Friday afternoon and allow more time for post-sale tasks. Also, possibly have awards ceremony subsequently during the buyer dinner to save on scheduled time.

Packing/ loadout

- More time is needed between the sale and loadout.

Auctioneer/ sale

- Recommendation: Start the sale at least one hour earlier.
- The 4-H council will need a designated person to collect checks for indoor exhibit projects sold at auction.

Montana State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Montana Counties Cooperating. MSU Extension is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action provider of educational outreach.

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Ultrasound contest

- Participation was excellent, all market animal exhibitors took part (compared to only 2 beef exhibitors last year).
- Results will be announced at achievement day, October 5th.

Buyer Dinner

- It was a very successful event with positive feedback on food and setup. Should definitely complete again next year.
- Suggestions for next year:
    - Add a check-in table for name tags and buyer dinner tickets so 4-H members can identify buyers.
    - Increase 4-H member involvement in ticket collection and serving.
    - Move 4-H dance to a different location/ different day – possibly invite a live band to perform, although expressed that alcohol may be present and unsafe around the younger 4-H youth.

<u>Fairground Improvements</u>

Fridges in Food Booth

- Searching for replacement refrigerators (approx. 5.5 ft. tall by 6 ft wide) in good condition.

Little White Schoolhouse

- Used by the Quilters Guild for their quilt displays this year at fair.
- Plans: painting, adding electricity, and replacing the roof to address leaks.

Swine and Beef Barn Updates

- Sidney plans to apply for the Leroy and Claris Strand Ranch Foundation Grant to support:
    - Improvements to swine and beef barns by increasing capacity.
    - Construction of a new exhibit building for small animal projects and indoor exhibits (to replace use of the archery building).

<u>New Business</u>

- No new business.

Next Fair Board meeting date set for Monday **November 17 @ 5:30 pm.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm by Powell, 2nd by Dawnita.

Minutes prepared by Sidney Stratton, Ext. Agent

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Mountains & Minds