

**RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2025**

Meeting was called to order by President Christy Keith at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was repeated by all present.

Roll call was taken.

Staff present: Shirley Swihart

Guests present: Pam Young, Stephanie Willis, Jacob Kleman, Heidi Kleman, Lori Yetzer, Clint Yetzer and Deb Boyce

Secretary's report: Bill McFarland made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Remington Blevins had some questions. He was trying to figure out how much was made on the different events. The Board would like the income from the different events broken down. **Bill McFarland made a motion for the treasurer's report be accepted for later audit. Matt Janisch seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Guest: Lori Yetzer, read a statement regarding her feelings about the action taken by the Senior Fair Board in a goat issue during the fair. She had 5 questions she asked the Board to respond to. President Christy Keith addressed some. Kathi Cutlip-Mills also reiterated that it was the process that was followed that was not consistent at the time of judging. Lori requested that the rules be followed. It was shared with everyone there that if anyone is interested in changing the rules should participate in a review of said rules. They would then go to the Jr. Fair Board and after they review them, they come back to the Sr. Fair Board. Lori also shared that she thinks the Senior Fair Board owes Eileen Eisenhauer, Goat Superintendent, an apology. Lori doesn't think we can move forward with how it was handled.

Events Coordinator:

- A. Midget Wrestling: We are doing food for this event
- B. September 19 & 20: Diesel Truck Event – we are doing parking, food & beer. We will need everyone's help.

Committee Reports:

T-Shirt: Nothing to report

Budget: Nothing to report

Livestock: David Dick reported there were 568 youth who participated. Sales was only \$908,475.00 this year. There were 2 big buyers that did not purchase any animals this year. They were late getting started because of the sheep show. He would like to make it better for

the buyers next year. There were problems with the process of tagging online. The participants have 2 weeks to appeal if their names are not on the published list.

Nature Park: Gene Esbenshade said everything went well. We had good entertainers each night. Thanks to Remington Blevins for helping to get the performers in the gates and make sure they got to the Nature Park.

Campground: There were people who brought their campers in on Tuesday and Wednesday. This created a number of problems as they did not set their camp up the way they should and campers coming in later had problems. It was suggested that we limit early entry to Thursday **ONLY**, no campers prior to that.

Racetrack: Dale Bemiller reported that everything went well. We had a good day on Sunday with 71 horses and Monday was also a good day with 70 horses. He is going to check to see if we can start the Monday races earlier because those races ran later than expected which delayed the Weiner Dog Races. Dale heard from people who watched the Weiner Dog Races and they loved them. We will definitely have to do those again in 2026.

Fair Book: Pam Young told everyone to mark their 2026 calendars now as there will be a **“Hard Deadline” of March 27, 2026**, for getting **ALL** times, fees, changes, etc. in the Fair Book! Christy Keith reminded Board members that all events should be in place in January at OFMA and then shared at our January 2026 meeting.

Golf carts: nothing to report

JFB: Applications for the Junior Fair Board are due on September 15, 2025.

By-Laws: nothing to report

Sponsors: Bill McFarland will get a committee together to work on sponsors

Admissions: nothing to report

Elections: Christy Keith reminded everyone that all Board Members who were elected on Friday, August 8, 2025, will be sworn into office at our Annual Meeting on October 28, 2026. Please plan to be there.

Parking: Nothing to report

Antiques: Bill Gardner said this was his last year. We will have to find someone to step up for this.

Concessions: Kathi Cutlip-Mills shared that 2 or 3 of the vendors that were Fairhaven Hall would like double booths next year. Considering the building was full, she would like to have the tables and chairs relocated from the annex to another location during fair. She has talked to Mamie and she said that could be done and might help them as well. She and Gene have also determined that, depending on the size of food trucks we might be able to get 2 more in and will be looking for types of food that we currently do not offer. All potential vendors and/or outside sales concessions will need to complete and forward our fair “interest” form which is located on our website.

Equine: Marla Reynolds commented that there was 1 major issue where a horse and rider broke through the fence and hit a lady. It was reported that the lady is doing fine. The horse is doing ok but did go home early. It was recommended the fence be changed.

Raffles:

Christy Keith announced that our annual Sportsman's Den Raffle will be on March 7, 2026, this spring. Please plan to be there.

The Campground raffle was a huge success! Amy Bayes won the free camp site for the 2026 fair.

Social Media: nothing to report

Safety: nothing to report

Infield: Bill McFarland thanked everyone who helped with all of the activities on the track/infield. We need to find some more people to help with these events. We may need to look to moving some of the events to different nights to address the participation.

Grandstand/Grounds: nothing to report

Entertainment: nothing to report

Winter Storage: Bill McFarland reminded everyone that drop off of storage units will be Saturdays, October 25th and November 8th between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. We will need help on those days. Kathi said she will email all past storage people and Carol and she will follow up with phone calls. They will do on-sight registration on specific dates and times.

Show Arena: David Dick shared there was a \$5,000.00 donation towards a TV screens for the middle of the arena. There is about \$22,000.00 left in the show arena account and it has to have a zero balance prior to 2026 fair.

LS Judges Selection: Jim Schaub II stated that they will need 1 more judge on the committee with Remington Blevins, Carol Toms and him.

Kitchen Auxiliary: Gene Esbenshade reported that we have the diesel truck show in September where we will be serving basic sandwiches and such under the grandstand.

We also have the Fiber Fest in October, two days, the contract was written that we would have food.

Grounds: Dave Grauer said that we need to figure out something to do with the water lines.

The dump truck is at Dave's neighbors. He will give us an estimate on how much to fix it.

He needs to take the bleachers back to Ashland.

He is taking the roller back to Bellville.

Need to do spraying of weeds.

He will set up a work day.

The steel poles need to be pulled out of the North Lot.

They will need dumpster for the Sheep Show

Need to figure out something for snow plowing. The salt will be in the one horse barn.

Remington will need to know when to salt.

Within the next year or two, Dave would like to get a skid loader to move things around the fairgrounds.

We need to do something with the bleachers on the infield. We agreed that we would do something with them after Fair and fair is over. Let's get it done now.

Shira will provide all of the paint and supplies for the Youth Hall. He needs to know when it is free so they can work in there.

Landscaping: Colton came over and watered all of the new landscaping.

Old Business: Remington Blevins made a motion to take the tabled motion from our July 2025 meeting regarding the installation of equine fence in the arena on the hill. Carol Toms seconded the motion. Motion carried. The cost is \$6,688.00. United Fencing donated the fence.

Pam Young thanked everyone for helping with the Arts & Crafts building set-up.

Nick Fairchild made a motion to drop all of our rules for the livestock shows and exhibits and follow all Ohio State Fair rules. There was no second. It was felt there needs to be more discussion on this action.

Tom Craft drove by the fairgrounds on Sunday after fair and all of the lights in the grandstand were on. Please check things and if lights need to be turned off, do so.

Bill McFarland moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Remington Blevins second the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathryn G. Cutlip-Mills
Secretary