

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEVADA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW BOARD

PRESIDENT: Matt McKinney VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Cates

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APPROVED MINUTES

May 5, 2026, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Nevada Department of Agriculture, Large Conference Room

405 South 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431

1. Call to order, a roll call of members, and establish a quorum

Call to order by Matt McKinney at 3:01 p.m. **Board Members Present:** Cara Goss, Matt McKinney, Sarah Chvilicek, Tom Cates, Travis Coombs, Dennis Hellwinkel, Sydney Botts. **Board Members Absent:** Alyssa Sowersby **NDA Members Present:** Ciara Russel (Public Information Officer), Aaron Cuellar (Deputy AG), Juliana Hendrix (Executive Assistant), Monica Barbosa, Doug Ferris (Deputy Director) **Members of the Public:** Susan Rogers, Clint Thiesse, Rhonda Leach, Daniel Marlow, Cory Jares, Kevin Linderman, Lindsay Stocton, Sarah Schuster, Taylor Laack, Kelsey Ryan, and Tara Sallee.

2. Public Comment: NONE

3. Review and Approval of Agenda: Tom Cates moved to approve the agenda; Travis Coombs seconded. **Motion carried.**

4. Review and approve April 7, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes: Dennis Hellwinkel moved to approve; Tom Cates seconded. **Motion carried.**

5. Financial Report

Dennis Hellwinkel provided updates on current financials.

- Trial balance has not changed significantly, though awards expenses and donations are now reflected. Donations have been slow to come in.
- The Money Market account has grown to \$70,000, with approximately a 3% return.
- The show and sale accounts maintain approximately \$20,000.
- Most equity remains in scholarship funds; workshop fund is \$13,000.

Motion: Travis moved to receive and file; Sarah seconded. **Motion carried.**

CD Maturing Mid-May – For Possible Action

Interest earned: \$3,400. The Finance Committee recommended renewing for another one-year term. Dennis moved; Tom seconded. **Motion carried.**

Rate of Gain Payouts – For Possible Action

- \$250 per species; total payout \$1,000.
- Donation funds are nearly depleted; payout will come from the general fund or sponsorships.
- Motion to keep same payout as 2025: Dennis Hellwinkel moved, Travis Coombs seconded; **Motion carried.**

Carcass of Merit Process – For Possible Action

- Historically: beef assessed 1%, all other species 1.5%.
- Last year's payout was ~\$7,000.
- Recommendation: maintain structure, except increase all other species to 2%.
- \$3500 will come from the Ag Foundation Grant, and the balance will come from education funds. Dennis Hellwinkel moved; Sarah Chvilicek seconded. **Motion carried.**

6. Review any Correspondence - NONE

7. Updates on Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project: Clint Thiesse reported:

- New utilities are fully connected.
- Asbestos pipe removal and patching preparation underway.
- Final work is expected in the last two weeks of May.
- Hoping project transitions directly into a July repaving project.
- Governor's Office recommended rolling leftover COVID funds into the project.

8. Nevada Department of Agriculture Updates

NDA reported:

- State Fair tickets are now available online.
- Each NJLS exhibitor receives a general admission wristband; each family receives two entry passes and one parking pass.
- A 20% off coupon code will be available for others.
- State Fair logo use requires prior approval.
- NJLS information and schedule will be posted on the website.
- Caleb Montgomery's concert is scheduled for Thursday night.
- VIP dinner ticket sales underway.
- Question raised about purchasing additional parking passes onsite.

9. Nevada Western Heritage Center Alliance Updates – No Report

10. Reno Sparks Livestock Events Center Report

Rhonda Leach reported:

- 26 days out from the transfer of Management to Reno Rodeo.
- Staff have begun training with the Reno Rodeo Staff as the new management entity.
- Working to ensure a smooth event and venue transition.

11. 2026 Show Report

Rules - Approved and posted.

Show Logistics – Matt McKinney reported the following:

- Updated schedule sent out; another update was recently distributed.
- Logistics meetings are scheduled for next week and again before the show.
- Quick turnaround expected for grounds setup.
- LP barn layout will change pigs along the left wall; turkeys, chickens, and rabbits on the north/right side. The 4-Expo will also be in the LP.

FAQ Discussion

Travis suggested creating an FAQ page to address buyer passes, gate lists, and buyer access.

Security & Access

- Law enforcement will be present, which will include the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, the Nevada State Police, and Private Security.
- Fence will separate camping and public areas.
- Gate 2.5 will be used for all users.
- Different parking passes for campers vs. day-use.
- 24-hour security (private + law enforcement).
- Public will have barn access; locking stalls overnight is recommended.
- A map will be created and distributed.

Auction – Travis Coombs & Cara Goss

- Meeting held earlier in the day; preparations on track.
- Need to define behind-the-scenes processes.
- Seeking volunteers, ideally former 4-H exhibitors.
- Sarah and Travis will coordinate.
- Abbie created dinner and drink tickets; tickets will be used at concession stands.

Donors & Awards – Dennis Hellwinkel & Sydney Botts

- Sponsorship list included in packets; more expected.
- Heritage Bank donation received.
- Recent \$7,500 donation will cover division awards.
- Sponsors can also be listed on the Official State Fair website.

Media & Communications

- Abbie will create an exhibitor email list and an FAQ sheet for board review.

Scholarships – Matt McKinney

- 11 applicants received.

Youth Advisory Council – Alyssa Sowersby

- Suggests moving Peewee Showmanship and Fun Night to Friday before the ice cream social.
- T-shirts require approval from NDA, Extension, and NJLS.

12. Public Comment:

Taylor Laack shared a call he received regarding the resale of animals and suggested exploring collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club and other community organizations.

13. Schedule for the next meeting

June 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Committees may meet at 2:00 p.m. The Board will convene again on June 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. and will stay in session as needed until Sunday at 11:00.

15. Board Member Comment, Discussion of Future Agenda Items

16. Adjournment - Adjourned at 3:40

This agenda has been sent to all members of the Nevada Junior Livestock Show Board and other interested persons who have requested an agenda from the Board. Persons who wish to continue to receive an agenda and notice must request them in writing on an annual basis. Anyone desiring additional information regarding the meeting is invited to call the Board office at (775)339-9472. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Board at (775)393-9472 no later than 48 hours before the meeting. Requests for special arrangements made after this time frame cannot be guaranteed. Supporting materials for the meeting may be obtained from Sarah Chvilicek, 775.336.0236, at 4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEVADA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW BOARD OFFICE
LYON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE
WASHOE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE
CHURCHILL COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE
PERSHING COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE NEVADA
PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE – [HTTPS://NOTICE.NV.GOV](https://NOTICE.NV.GOV)
<http://agri.nv.gov/Administration/NJLSB/NJLSB/>