

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEVADA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW BOARD

PRESIDENT: Matt McKinney VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Cates
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Approved Minutes

April 7, 2026, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Nevada Department of Agriculture, Large Conference Room
405 South 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431**

Please note: The Nevada Junior Livestock Show Board may address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Board or aid the meeting's efficiency or effectiveness. The Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration and may remove an item from the agenda. Items designated "For Possible Action," if no other action is designated, are for acceptance by vote of the Board.

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

Called to order by Matt McKinney at 3:00 p.m. with the following Board members present: Sarah Chvilicek, Matt McKinney, Tom Cates, Travis Coombs, Dennis Hellwinkle, Alyssa Sowersby, Cara Goss, and board assistant Abbie Jaynes. Board members Absent – Sydney Botts. Department of Agriculture Members Present: Ciara Russel, Public Information Officer, Aaron Cuellar, Deputy AG, Juliana Hendrix, Executive Assistant, Monica Barbosa, Doug Ferris, Deputy Director. Members of Public: Susan Rogers, Sarah Shuster, Lindsey Stockton, Kelsey Ryan, Rhonda Leach, Taylor Laack, Clint Thiesse.

2. Public Comment – NONE

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

4. Review and approve March 3, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes: Tom Cates moved to approve the March 3 minutes; Travis Coombs seconded. Motion Carried.

5. Financial Report: Dennis Hellwinkel provided updates on current financials. There has been little change since the previous month's report, aside from interest earned on accounts. Ear tag sales were down by two animals from the previous year. Awards income and expenses will begin tracking as donations arrive. Belt buckles have been ordered and paid for. Donations not designated by species were placed into show operations. Sarah Chvilicek moved to receive and file the financial report; Cara Goss seconded. Motion Carried.

6. Review any Correspondence: Email from Kelsey Ryan requesting handicap-friendly gates in the swine show; Matt confirmed gates will be checked to ensure smooth operation.

A Thank-you card from Washoe Wranglers 4-H for YQCA coupons was distributed.

Notification from the Capurro family confirming a \$5,000 scholarship donation for 2026.

7. Continuation of consideration for Wolf Pack Meats for 2026, Harvest, processing, and grading:

The Board continued discussion regarding harvest, processing, and grading for 2026. All plants contacted are available. Dennis Hellwinkel noted Fallon Livestock Processing pricing came in lower, but buyers were charged the standard harvest rate. Concerns were raised about Wolf Pack Meats' surcharge when animals are not cut and wrapped through their facility. Sarah Chvilicek recommended posting all harvest and cut-and-wrap charges so buyers may select their preferred plant. Sarah Chvilicek moved that the NJLS processing sheet include all processing information; Travis Coombs seconded. Motion Carried.

8. Updates on Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project

Clint Thiesse reported the project is in its final stages, with the fire line connected and final patching and concrete work underway. Completion is expected in May. Additional bathroom areas may be added if remaining funds are allowed. Sarah Chvilicek noted the parking lot condition is poor; funding for paving will be determined on April 16. Doug Ferris estimated full repaving would cost approximately \$11 million.

9. Nevada Department of Agriculture Updates: Doug Ferris reported that on March 26, the RSCVA Board voted to dissolve the 1986 management agreement, effective June 1. NDA will assume full authority and management of the fairgrounds. All booked events will be honored, and efforts are underway to identify a new management company. Staff were offered severance and retention packages through May 31. Doug also provided updates on the Official State Fair, including vendors, county walking tours, a dark skies VR experience, carnival rides (Thursday–Saturday), a free Thursday concert, Next Gen bull riding on Friday, and the Governor's Sale of Champions on Saturday. Security planning is underway with multiple agencies. Fair tickets are expected later this month.

10. Nevada Western Heritage Center Alliance Updates – No Report

11. Reno Sparks Livestock Events Center Report: Rhonda Leach reported no additional updates. Staff is working to ensure smooth transitions for all events. Dennis Hellwinkel asked about internet plans; Doug Ferris confirmed a plan is being developed.

12. 2026 Show Report

For Possible Action

Committee reports – discussion of outcomes for the following:

Rules for the 2026 show have been approved and posted.

Show Logistics: The draft 2026 schedule has been approved and posted.

Concert logistics were discussed, including stage placement, opening ceremonies, parking fees, exhibitor wristbands, and gate usage. Parking permits will be included in exhibitor packets, with two per family available upon request. A map of entry and exit routes will be provided.

Youth Advisory Council – Alyssa Sowersby:

They have received 21 applications and want to work with Matt on how and where they will set up during the show.

The YAC will design T-shirts incorporating Reno Rodeo, 4-H, NJLS, and State Fair logos. Alyssa reported 21 applications and is seeking a meeting location.

Sho works Update:

PayPal integration was unsuccessful. Exhibitors will be invoiced via Square or can pay by check. The \$10 administrative fee applies; credit card payments incur an additional 4% or \$1, whichever is greater. Travis Coombs moved to authorize the fee structure; Tom Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Intern Application: The application has been posted.

Auction Updates — Travis Coombs & Cara Goss

Cara and Kevin met with JP to finalize dinner numbers (300 for sale, 100 for dinners). JP has donated the dinner. Dinner will be served from 4:00–6:00 p.m., with a final announcement at 5:30. Abbie will create dinner tickets. Traffic flow and mezzanine spacing are being evaluated. Buyer gifts were discussed, including drink tickets and wine tumblers. Dennis will monitor the buyer sign-ups.

Donors and Awards — Dennis Hellwinkel & Sydney Botts

Donation letters have been sent; contributions are arriving slowly. Buckles have been ordered. Showmanship buckles are approximately half funded. Approval was requested for banners and rosettes. Sarah Chvilicek moved to approve \$4,000 for rosettes and \$2,000 for banners; Tom Cates seconded. Motion Carried.

Media & Communications

Board members were reminded to cross-post content.

Scholarships — Matt McKinney

Eight applications have been received; the deadline is April 11. Matt will post a reminder.

13. Public Comment: None**14. Schedule for the next meeting**

May 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., committees can meet at 2:00 p.m.

14. Board Member Comment, Discussion of Future Agenda Items - None**15. Adjournment – Matt McKinney adjourned the meeting at 3:57**

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

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