

AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION/
FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, July 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.

The June meeting was held in the Extension Office Conference Room at the Youth & Agriculture Center and by Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Guthrie. Present in person in addition to Guthrie were Joe Mumm, Kathy Kopp, Pat Schroeder, Gary Northouse, Bob Keeney, Nate Dreckman, Amy Olson, Lori Vesperman, Bev Doll, Charisse Orth, Jordyn Sattler, Jackie McCarville, Chad Wieland and Lynn Perkins. Present by Zoom were Tonya White, Lynn Crooks and the Grant County Herald Independent. Joining by phone was Jeremy Reuter.

The meeting notice was posted at the Extension Office, Youth & Agriculture Center, Administration Building, on the Grant County website and emailed to media.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Kathy Kopp, to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 16, 2025. Motion carried.

Jackie McCarville, Jordyn Sattler, Bev Doll and Charisse Orth shared results from the Community Needs Discussion. Monthly reports were handed out to the committee.

Lynn Perkins gave the AED update. The FoodWIse program will end on September 30, 2025, due to federal SNAP-Ed funds being eliminated. Blake Roberts was hired as the Rural Economic Development Specialist position with Extension and will start mid-August. UW-Madison has asked all Colleges and Divisions to make budget cuts, due to recent federal budget cuts impacting the University. The Division of Extension has been asked to take a 5% cut. Extension will be freezing state positions. Any requests for co-funded county positions will be required to seek preapproval with Extension leadership before starting hiring process.

Discussion was held on filling the Community Development Educator position. Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Pat Schroeder, to eliminate the Community Economic Development Educator position and check into having a county position. After further discussion Gary and Pat rescinded their motions. Nate will do research on position descriptions and needed information to further discuss at a future meeting.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Kathy Kopp, to support moving forward to fill the Regional Livestock Educator position. Motion carried.

Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Kathy Kopp, to approve the Extension vouchers. Motion carried.

Amy gave the grounds and maintenance and Youth & Agriculture Center report.

A new motor was needed for the exhaust fan in the Grandstand Foodstand. Also, two new fans were purchased for the inside of the Grandstand. Work in the dairy poleshed is on hold until after the Fair. The shelf has been put in the crows next. No water has surfaced from the water leak by the Farm Bureau stand/Grandstand area. Adjusting has been done to the sound system in the Livestock Facility. Basic work had to be done on the west side of the track including netting. Future discussion will be held on the condition/maintenance of the track. Fair still needs an LTE maintenance for evening hours during the fair.

Fair and Fairgrounds Business

Discussion was held on the County Tractor Pull. Jeremy requested adding an additional class. Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Pat Schroeder, to add a class for the County Tractor Pull with Jeremy and the Fair providing \$500 each for the class. Motion carried.

Chad Wieland said he was asked to add a Powder Puff Class. If the pull ends early and there are enough females interested, he will run the class.

Lafayette County Speedway would like to add a Crown Victoria class to the Wednesday Stockcar Races. They expect six to seven cars from Wisconsin and would like a \$1,250 payout. The consensus of the committee is to allow them to try it for one year with the Speedway being responsible for the payout. Rain date for the Fair stockcar races will be the following Wednesday.

Swine loadouts were discussed. Loadout will begin between 4:00-4:30 a.m. A signup sheet for exhibitors to clean out the swine barn starting at 6:30 a.m. will be posted in the barn.

Committee member responsibilities for the buildings and grandstand were decided. Outstanding fair persons chosen are Tim Slack, Janet Nichols, Dick Keene and Cheree Klein. Manure will be removed during the week of the fair by Bob Mumm, using Doc Stader's truck. Emergency Management has generators that can be used in the Livestock Facility to help with electricity needs. Vendor tents are full and trophies ready. Amy reached her sponsorship goal. Dan Kieler will pick milk up on Monday after the Fair. Tents will be put up Wednesday, August 6. Amy gave a report of tickets sold so far. Gators are being lined up for use. Morning Side has residents that want to take a tour of the grounds Thursday afternoon. This will be done by the Fair Committee. Corn for the Kids' Tent is confirmed for delivery. Teams for the puzzle competition is full with alternate teams on a list. Meetings during the fair will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. All other meetings will be at the call of the chair. Amy will compose a letter confirming the number of barrows and gilts each exhibitor has entered into the fair. 4-H National judging teams would like to hold a fundraising event Saturday night where adults will be nominated for showmanship competition. Rain insurance is done. Amy has received an offer of grain bins possibly being donated to Friends of Grant County Fair.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm, to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Kathy Kopp, to adjourn. The next scheduled meeting is August 14, 2025, with call of the chair for meetings if needed. Motion carried.

Kathy Kopp
Secretary

Lori Vesperman
Recording Secretary