



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025
DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – KIRK HALL
MINUTES

Dean Elliott - Chairperson, called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on August 21, 2025. The meeting was held in Kirk Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

*John Adams
Pat Candelaria
Scott Candelaria
Dean Elliott
Sarah Fischer
Jennifer Foss
Tom Harris
Wes Jacobs
Scott McHenry
Dr. Phil Riesselman
Patti Russel
Pat Salazar
Hayden Schmidt
Pam Spradlin
Lori Sorenson
Lora Talbert
Rob Tkach
Gary Turner
Lisa Turner*

Associate Members Present:

*Tori Checkal
Linda Jefferies
Ryan Kennedy
Chayse Lutz
Garrett Northrop
Jean Sabulsky
Frank Silici
Ted Sorenson
Danny Talbert*

Other Guests Present:

Cindy Duckworth

Staff Members Present:

*Laurie Anderson
Zach Burns
Sharon Hines
Teresa Kutt
Michelle Mannes
Tori Thelen*

Board Members Absent:

Debbie Mills

Associate Members Absent:

*Clay Adams
Nick Candelaria
Matt Coyle
Deb Dilley
Josiah Fredricks
Lauren Heaton
John Holst
James Jamison
Ty Quintana
Gabriel Ryan
Dick Sabulsky
Chris Spyke
Cynthia Tkach
Monica Wilson
Kate Wormington
Matt Wormington*

6:32 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting**

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Rob T. moved to approve the last meeting minutes. Pat C. seconded. No further discussion. All approved.

Consent Agenda: No committee meetings took place in August.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Reports From Other Groups

4-H Foundation: The Shade Sales in the Midway were utilized a lot during fair. The board approved 2-\$1500 scholarships for 2026 Leg UP program. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their support.

CSU/4-H: None

Youth Council: None

FFA: None.

DCSO: Laurie thought it was a great fair.

Regular Agenda

Staff Report: Zach mentioned that the board will begin using an online platform called Zech to improve communication and file sharing.

For Fair, revenue, sponsorships, food and alcohol sales and website visitors all increased. Show Management entries increased in almost all categories. The Livestock Sale increased by \$100,000 over last year. Farm-to-Table received good reviews and was well-received. The Unbridled Rodeo partnership with Developmental Pathways was a great success. The BOCC had a positive experience.

Fair Review

Dean asked everyone to list the pros and cons of this year's fair:

- Pat C. said the IT team's support during the livestock sale was a great help. The con was the goat showman judge.
- Scott C said our volunteers and the group from Canvas Credit Union had a positive experience. Con: Fair is over
- Wes said the support of the county staff was incredible. Con: release of animals
- Rob said the county staff helping in the show ring, set up was a great help. Con: the sound in the sale barn was hard to hear in the auction block.
- Hayden said that his pro was county staff. Con: the departure of Chris Dumas and the timing of the release of animals while the public was on the fairgrounds. 4H communication and parking were frustrating.
- Ryan reported that county staff were a huge plus, especially in dealing with the moisture in the arena. Another plus was the purse size for the rodeo. Con: Marketplace vendor experience.

- Sarah felt the draft show was a great addition, and she experienced more of the fair. Con: Farm- To-Table caterer.
- Ryan felt the county staff and fair board were a great help, and during the livestock sale the kids were beaming with pride. Con: gaps in the volunteer schedule
- Jean said Dick felt the 3rd golf cart to provide better service for our guests. Con: no clowns.
- Jean said the fairgrounds were welcoming and clean. Con: she couldn't finish the last two days of fair.
- Lora felt the livestock sale went well, the Event Center layout was good. Con: Kirk Hall was under-utilized.
- Scott McHenry liked the draft horse show support and that operations ran smoothly. Con: opening act of the concert and need to rework the Midway schedule to get better audiences for entertainers
- Cindy listed her pro as the draft horse show. Con: livestock sale credit card lines were too long, and only one was available
- Phil felt that the county staff for livestock sale was great and the fairgrounds were in great condition, no cons.
- Patti Russell said county staff assistance was great, the con was gate greeting and carnival open hours
- Chase had great feedback from contestants. The con was unauthorized people in contestant areas.
- Zach felt the Branding Iron Lounge was enjoyed by guests, and the con was Marketplace.
- John felt hospitality from the front gates to the rodeo was great; he had no cons.
- Garrett felt blessed to be at Fair and to be able to assist Friday night. There were no cons, but he would suggest fixing the handicap button on the bathroom doors.
- Tom said the canine unit had 860 people over 3 performances. There were no lost kids at mutton bustin. Royalty was everywhere. Lots of hard work by directors, no cons
- Jennifer felt a con was the vetting process for judges, the pro was the Unbridled Rodeo, and the number of activities.
- Tori: entertainment vendors were good. The con was Marketplace vendor selection
- Teresa listed pro was the Unbridled Rodeo; the con was the merchandise booth in the marketplace
- Michelle felt that fair was great, the directors were in a lot of different areas, and the con was volunteer numbers
- Lauri noted a great collaboration between county staff and volunteers. She felt the con was at the marketplace entrance. 9 medicals the first weekend because of the heat, suggests better signage on Kirk Hall and misters.
- Sharon listed her pro was that she just loves the fair and seeing the volunteers. No cons
- Frank thanked the board and staff for their support of the Master Gardeners. They had 871 entries. Con is next year they're going they're going to have to make it better
- Pat Salazar said it was a wonderful fair. There were the most exhibits: 1507. The junior division had 78 kids and 118 exhibits. Douglas County School at Legacy campus recruited kids to participate, and an additional partnership with Wellspring brought in more participants. The con is that she lost three superintendents and needs more volunteers and more space.
- Linda's pros were staff, Michelle, IT, and Lori Sorenson for pitching in. She suggests that we put benches between the Event Center and Kirk Hall for people to rest upon.
- Tori C.: Pro: livestock sale was the best. No cons
- Danny felt Sunday ran smoothly. Con animal movement during livestock sale
- Ted felt staff and kids invested in Ag programs for youth. Con entry point at the stairs
- Lori S. felt that the collaboration between staff and volunteers was awesome. Con: Farm-to-Table on grass causes a mobility access issue for some of our guests
- Lisa T.: Gate Leads worked very well, and the leads also picked up the slack on the schedule. The con was that Farm to Table's caterer was not prepared
- Gary Turner, his pro was the branding iron lounge. Con: volunteer recruitment

Dean wrapped things up by sharing how much he appreciated the support from County staff and how collaborative this year's Fair was. He thanked everyone. It takes all of us — staff, board members, the Fair Foundation, and 4-H — working together to pull it off. He encouraged us to see any challenges as opportunities

to make next year's Fair even better and asked the board to take a moment to celebrate everything we accomplished this year.

Adjournment at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting: September 18, 2025

Rules for Citizen Engagement at Fair Board Meeting

To have orderly, efficient, civil, and productive board meetings, the following rules apply to all citizens who have a desire to address the Board:

1. Citizen comments will be heard during the public comment section at the board meeting.
2. All citizen comments must be addressed to the Board. Directing comments to staff or other members of the public is not permitted during Board meetings.
3. The public comment section is limited to ten minutes collectively.
4. Citizens are asked not to repeat comments made by others; merely indicate their concurrence.
5. Citizens will be asked to use a microphone so that Board members and the audience can hear their comments.
6. Clapping, cheering, booing, and the like are not permitted at Board meetings.
7. Failure to abide by the aforementioned rules of engagement is considered disruptive to the public process and will result in a warning to the violation citizen(s) by the Board Chair. If after that warning the citizen(s) continues to violate these rules, they will be asked to leave the meeting. If the citizen does not leave the meeting when asked, the appropriate steps will be taken by the Board Chair to have them removed from the meeting.

Mission Statement: The Douglas County Fair and Rodeo is the premier annual community event in Douglas County bringing together the best of Rural Heritage, Agriculture, Western Sports, Youth and Adult Exhibits and quality Entertainment.