



HCYLSA
November 18th 6 pm
Silvies River Charter School

Present: Ann Becker, Autumn Toelle-Jackson, Melissa McElhannon, David Bohnert, Staphanie Falck, Rachel Beaubien, Kurt Beaubien, Mesa Beaubien, Amanda Tyler, Christy Keerins, Pat Horlacher, Kailin Horlacher, Craig Neher, Nicole George, Jay Nelson, Shylee Davis, Diana Davis, Shani Hodge, Shane Otley, Crystal Otley, Clay Guetling.

1. Approve October Minutes – Autumn Toelle-Jackson

- Motion made by Diana Davis to approve minutes. Seconded by Melissa McElhannon. Passed unanimously.

2. Treasures Report – Ann Becker

- \$80,855.97 in checking account, \$34,326.23 in savings account, for \$115,182.20 total in both accounts.
- There are still twenty-two uncashed checks from the fair totaling \$46,623.99. Most of these are checks that are still waiting to be picked up at the extension office.
- When checks clear, the total balance in the checking account will be \$68,459.21.
- The Make-A-Wish check was already issued and cleared.
- Ann submitted an invoice to Lindsey to come out of the HCYLSA line item in the Fair Board Budget. They covered the ribbons, which were \$2,243.15. Other items the Fair Board covered were:
 - Sure Tap Springs: \$828 (50% of the invoice, the fair used their budget for the remaining 50%) for spider boxes and lights needed beyond the ones donated for fair.
 - C&B Sanitary: \$637.50 for the shaving dumpster and emptying it.
 - Foster Facilities: \$4,200 for additional toilets and hand-washing stations in the livestock area.

This totals an additional \$7908.65.

- Ann will have an annual report at January's meeting to show what the total cost was to run the show in 2025 compared to 2024 and to use as a basis when establishing next year's budgets.
- Stephanie will need to do reporting for some of the grants we were awarded this year, but they are not due until May. She will work with Ann to get the needed information.

3. Open Show vs. 4-H/FFA Show – Open Discussion

- Survey Monkey Results – Autumn
 - I want to make it clear that I am aware that as the HCYLSA Secretary (which is a voting position) and the OSU Extension Agent for 4-H in Harney County I have a conflict of interest. Therefore, as this is a HCYLSA meeting, I am going to abstain from all votes on this topic. I am also not going to spend too much time going over my thoughts on it, as Clay from the extension office and Stephanie from the 4-H association are both here.
 - Quickly walked through the Survey Monkey Results handout. Survey Monkey created the handout, the only modification was deletion of the last question, where those who wanted to be added to the HCYLSA email list entered their email. See handout for more information.
 - Lots of good comments for both pros and cons. However, a lot of the comments seem to have incorrect information about 4-H in them. The handout with HCYLSA, FFA, and 4-H Information includes a FAQ section to try to correct some of the misinformation.
- Required Rules
 - Reached out to FFA. There really are no rules other than those around eligibility and official dress. Record books are not required unless the FFA advisor requires them for their chapter (Crane FFA does require record books).
 - For 4-H, the rules are around code of conduct, which are consistent with the HCYLSA rules already. In addition, all 4-H kids, including 4-H independents, would be required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training to show, which can be done online or in person (the extension office will provide multiple opportunities before fair. 4-H also requires a liability waiver, photo opt-out (if they do not want photos taken), and parent/guardian code of conduct to be signed. 4-H currently does not have a community service or record book requirement and that is left up to each club.
 - Fees are \$38 for the year (without a late fee). \$30 go to the state and \$8 to the county, with \$1 of those dollars going to cover 4-H member insurance. Each family only pays for the first two youth; any additional youth can be added with no charge. Youth that are active in the program can receive hundreds of dollars in benefits (see HCYLSA, FFA, 4-H Information Handout, 4-H FAQ section).
- Burns FFA Advisor Statement (emailed): I will be unable to attend the meeting tomorrow night due to an FFA event. I would like to tell you my thoughts on changing the fair back to a Harney County Fair instead of a Harney County Youth Livestock Show. Personally, I strongly agree that the fair needs to be back under 4-H and FFA. I feel like by doing this it would be more structured, and we would have more rules to follow, which would be good. I also feel like we would have more buyers at the fair that would be supporting 4-H and FFA members. I have had a lot of parents come to me expressing that not all exhibitors at the fair were created equal. I feel if 4-H/FFA took this over, this problem would be resolved. Aside from that, I have helped at the Wallowa County Fair for many, many years and was the beef superintendent for a year there before moving here and I would be more than willing to help organize the classes if needed.

- Round Robin Comments/Discussion – All those present had a few minutes to provide their opinions.
 - Amanda - in favor of allowing the show to become a 4-H and FFA show. It provides multiple benefits and reduces redundancy in volunteer work and time requirements.
 - Shane – Saw a lot of benefits in his kids from the 4-H program before they moved into FFA. This is just a return to how the show was pre-COVID.
 - Ann – In favor of returning to a 4-H/FFA show. From a financial viewpoint, there are benefits in allowing OSU extension to pick up work during their paid time, providing overall support to HCYLSA. We'd want to have an MOU allowing it to return to a non-4-H/FFA show if we needed it too.
 - Clay – Working on an MOU would be easy; the MOU can be designed to have any sidebars the HCYLSA wants it to have.
 - Shani – Still learning and listening.
 - Christy – Strongly feels kids get more information and education from 4-H. Saw it in her own kids both in Alaska and in Harney County. Likes the increased level of responsibility it brings.
 - Pat – Here listening.
 - Craig – What does it mean that 4-H kids do not have a complete 4-H project?
 - For 4-H there is a resume that is broken out into 4-H events and non-4-H events, so for Harney County, kids show they have a 4-H project, but it looks like they didn't finish it by showing at a 4-H show/fair because fair goes under the non-4-H category. So, for scholarships, at a state/national level, they would be dinged because it shows less 4-H participation and reduced completion of projects.
 - Craig - So can they not apply at all? Online it seems like they can apply no matter what and not having a 4-H show would not limit their ability to do so.
 - They can still apply; the issue is when it comes to judging/ranking applicants. Those with less 4-H activity, and projects that were not completed within 4-H are not ranked as high (recognizing that ranking is often subjective and based on who is on the awarding committees).
 - Craig – Why can't we just have a 4-H component and leave everything else the same?
 - We can, but partnering with 4-H/FFA reduces redundancy in awards, sub-committees, meetings, volunteer work, etc. The committee can really vote on anything and change their rules however they want to, so it may decide to add the 4-H/FFA component and not change anything else. However, that is a different issue and would be decided when we discuss rules for the 2026 fair. It was a 4-H/FFA show prior to 2020, and it did have an open component then, though only 4-H/FFA could sell at auction.
 - Craig - Can it be a 4-H show also and have an open show still? I lean towards leaving it open to all youth, but it makes sense 4-H kids should get credit for their projects. In the survey comments, there were lots of pros which were focused on

accountability and rules. The cons were that going to 4-H/FFA would result in too many rules.

- There seems to be some miscommunication about rules, there aren't other 4-H rules that are different than the committee rules, so there really wouldn't be new rules, other than 4-H youth would have to complete the YQCA training and sign required codes of conduct.
- Craig - There was a lot of concern about not allowing adults to help at fair, is that a 4-H rule?
 - Yes, 4-H is about youth getting hands on experience and helping each other and fair is an opportunity for them to demonstrate those skills, with youth helping youth, and adults providing verbal guidance when needed and helping in situations where there is a safety concern. However, in 2025, that was an HCYLSA committee rule, so currently, the two rules are in agreement.
- Jay – I do not want to discourage anyone from getting credit for their 4-H projects, it is a great program. But it is not the program for everyone, so would like it to stay an open show as well.
- Pat – Is there a rule or would the committee make it so open youth cannot sell?
 - That is a committee rule, which would be discussed more at future meetings when rules are discussed. This current discussion is really if we are going to formally partner with 4-H/FFA and have a component of the show that would be specific to the youth enrolled in those programs. The committee would not dissolve based on this change; it would still be needed to run the auction and to support OSU Extension/4-H/FFA with the show. Each year the committee goes through and updates the rule book. Partnering with 4-H and FFA would not automatically mean there is not an open component.
- Shylee – Talked to senior class at Crane, the majority of them wanted it to go back to 4-H and FFA, they don't feel like it really changes the show that much but it counts as a 4-H/FFA event and it doesn't have to change anything else. No independents (non-4-H/FFA) were talked to, but one FFA youth has a sibling who shows currently open (too young for FFA), and they did not think it would be an issue, and they would be willing to join 4-H.
- Diana - For changing it back to a 4-H and FFA show.
- Melissa – For changing it back to a 4-H and FFA show. If we continue to have open youth, there needs to be more required than just a stall card. We need to require two hours of community service or records or something that requires them to put in additional effort.
- David - For changing it to 4-H and FFA show. The reason 4-H and FFA were pulled out in 2020 was not due to OSU rules over Covid. The rules did not have such drastic impacts in other counties, where other counties continued to have 4-H or FFA shows, some were virtual, and some were live. The real issue was a personality conflict, which became a power struggle. David and Shane were both on the committee at this point as well. It is a local misconception that it was a result of the 4-H required rules. There were ways to solve the issues and still comply with the state rules and state law.

- David - If we do continue to have independents (open), no matter what, they still must follow the rules that are established by this committee. While 4-H/FFA youth would have to follow rules specific to those organizations, ALL youth must follow the rules of this committee as we decide the rules about eligibility and requirements for the show and auction. If there are open youth, they would not have to be 4-H or FFA, but they all need to play on the same playing field and put in work to make sure fair is a success.
- Stephanie – Comments from the survey talk about how well the show has been run. A lot of that was due to Autumn’s work. Now as the extension agent, she can do that and get paid for it, reducing required volunteer hours needed to run the show and auction. It is hard to find people to volunteer for anything, especially for larger roles. By making the show a 4-H/FFA show, we can make the fair stronger due to additional insurance, additional funding, increased events, and reduced stress on volunteers. I have concerns about open exhibitors. I do not want to paint them all with the same brush, but the attitude is often “I’m just going to show up and sell.” Youth get such high sale prices as a reward for putting in extra work and going above and beyond just the basics of raising an animal. How do we fix that without removing the open component? The HCYLSA is here to help teach youth, not just get checks.
- Rachel – Nothing new to add that has not already been said. In favor of becoming a 4-H and FFA show.
- Kurt - In favor of becoming a 4-H/FFA show. There is so much to learn in 4-H /FFA, especially in clubs with older youth that help teach the younger kids. The kids that put in the effort and work and keep records, should be rewarded for learning how to run their “business.” It is good preparation for the future.
- Nicole – Grew up in both programs (4-H and FFA). Also, I show in jackpots, which is a bit of a different world, where there are professional fitters. 4-H and FFA teach kids to be accountable and responsible. At the end, they sell the animals, and they get the benefit of a higher sale price. In favor of becoming a 4-H/FFA show. As far as membership requirements to join 4-H or FFA, you must pay the fees, become a member, and follow the rules, for everything you want to do. What the event is does not matter (jackpot, fair, livestock show, rodeo, sports, etc.), that is just what is required to get to participate in that event. Fair should not be any different.
- Crystal – For it becoming a 4-H and FFA show.
- Amanda – Would really like to have OSU Extension be able to help with the workload. If people really want to be able to sell but do not want to enroll in 4-H or FFA, they can go sell somewhere else.
- Craig – What would happen if this committee voted to make it a 4-H and FFA show only, and the Fair Board disagrees?
 - Hopefully, conversations would be had. However, that is not really the point of this current conversation. Whether or not we offer open classes is not tied to whether or not we return to partnering with 4-H/FFA. That would be a conversation when we are going over the rules for the 2026 fair and developing the Exhibitor Book at future meetings.

- Stephanie makes a motion that: *The HCYLSA and 4-H/FFA will enter into a 2-year trial MOU, authorizing the Harney County Youth Livestock Show to be recognized as a 4-H/FFA show at the Harney County Fair.*
 - Melissa seconded.
 - Any Discussion? Discussion is only on this component, specific to entering an official partnership with 4-H and FFA. The motion is not discussing any potential rule changes, figuring out any details, or automatically resulting in the show not being an open show.
 - 4-H/FFA would be recognized, allowing for credit for completing projects, correct?
 - Yes.
 - That also means in interpretation of this motion, that the motion would not change any rules on whether or not it is an open youth show, but would require 4-H/FFA to require rules specific to their organizations. It does not change that fact that ALL youth, no matter what, must follow rules THIS committee would establish at future meetings.
 - Right now, this is basically just a name change, to recognize it as a 4-H and FFA show. It would also formalize partnering with 4-H/FFA in running the show, by establishing responsibilities for each entity in the MOU. It is not changing what we do or do not allow at fair. Those are rules that this committee will decide upon at future meetings.
 - Proposed Amendment to the motion: Add a clarifying sentence to the motion that states that: *This motion does not exclude any Harney County Youth Livestock Exhibitors from the Show and Auction.*

Note: Huge thanks to Shylee for using that FFA knowledge of parliamentary procedure to line us out on how we do the voting when there is an amendment to a motion!

- Voting: Autumn abstained. All other votes were in favor. The amendment to the motion has passed.
- The amended motion: *The HCYLSA and 4-H/FFA will enter into a 2-year trial MOU, authorizing the Harney County Youth Livestock Show to be recognized as a 4-H/FFA show at the Harney County Fair. This motion does not exclude any Harney County Youth Livestock Exhibitors from the Show and Auction.*
 - Melissa seconded the amended motion.
 - Discussion:
 - Do we still need a MOU?
 - Yes, it is what gives OSU authority to really support the show and auction through the official partnership. It will also identify who does what.
 - There are still concerns about youth not having other rules or requirements to show. That is a discussion for a later date. This committee will update all rules and eligibility requirements later, when we begin working on the fair book. Whether or not we agree to have a 4-H/FFA Show and enter an

MOU with 4-H/FFA does not automatically result in rule changes. The HCYLSA will address these topics at a future meeting.

- Nothing changes with this motion. All it does is allow us to enter an MOU with 4-H/FFA, and allow the show, or a portion of the show, to be recognized as a 4-H/FFA event.
- Voting: Abstained – Autumn. All others in favor. Motion passed.
- Specific rules, including eligibility requirements, will be discussed during future regular meetings, as that is the process this committee has followed in previous years.

→ Action Item → Autumn will draft an MOU using other examples from around the state. Once a draft is ready, she will circulate it to the Executive Committee members for review and comments, resulting in a draft MOU for full committee review in January.

4. Questions/Concerns/Additional Topics

- In January at our next meeting, we will vote in new board members. Do we have any nominations?
 - Nope. Shylee, can FFA post about the open positions again? We have the vice-Chair, Secretary, Show Chair positions open (is there a fourth one?), as well as Goat Superintendent and Small Animal Superintendent. Nominations for other superintendent positions can also be made.

→ Action Item → Shylee, make social media posts looking for board position nominations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.