



Albany County Fair  
3510 S. 3rd Street Laramie, Wyoming 82070  
(307)742-3224  
manager@albanycountyfair.org

**ALBANY COUNTY FAIR BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
ALBANY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MEETING ROOM**

**JANUARY 28, 2022  
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING 11AM**

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 11AM by Scott Lake. All members are present.

No Public Comment

Consideration of Changes to Agenda

Correspondence regarding residency rule

All correspondence that was written and turned in on a timely basis was included in this packet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discuss and Take Action on Residency Rule for Regulations.

Andrea moved to accept the residency rule with the following amendment: current siblings of members

and members that are showing from out of state/county be grandfathered in. Brain Coxbill seconded the

motion. Andrea began discussion with her written statement which is attached at the end of these minutes.

Mark Wade and Brian also made comments from a typed statement. These are also attached to the end of

these minutes.

Scott Lake echoed what has already been said - he did firmly state that the ethical accusations were offending on many levels. This discussion has happened for 10 years. He has been contacted by people supporting our proposed rule - some individuals have been from other counties and have wondered why we allow people from out of county/state to show at our county fair. He also agreed with Andrea and Brian that they should be grandfathered in. Scott thanked Mary Louise for sending a letter with her opinion and talking to Scott on the phone. Even though they disagreed, they were able to have a respectful conversation. He ended his thoughts by saying that he would like to see the wording modified a little.

Katie Ogden was the last member to make a comment. She addressed Shelby that she was not targeted and other families would be affected. She commented that being accused of a conflict of interest was not

appreciated. The individuals that volunteer to sit on the board are going to be involved on different levels due

to the nature of the board. She is not amenable to grandfathering. She is amenable to a delayed start date.

Anyone saying we are taking away their option to show is not correct. They all have an option to show where

they actually live. If we are grandfathered we need a list of names that will need to be grandfathered. She did

state that there is a bank from out of town that buys every year. The representative from that bank commented on our sale and stated that it is much better and asked if their kid can come to the show. Katie's answer with

the current standing was "yes". Is that what we want?

Heather Alexander asked for a point of clarification and Andrea explained where the current rule is.

Brian Coxbill amended the motion to strike the wording "Albany County School" and change to "School in Albany County School District #1." Andrea Senior seconded the motion. Motion passes.



Brian amended the motion to strike livestock housing rule and replace it with "the animals must be raised and housed in the care of the exhibitor." Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Katie amended the motion to require families to be on a list today, by 5pm, in the fair office in order to be grandfathered. Brain seconded. Motion carried.

Andrea repeated motion:

Eligibility. To show at the Albany County Fair, a youth exhibitor shall be:

1. In good standing with their organization; **and**
2. A resident of Albany County; **or** attend an Albany County School District school; **or** reside in Albany County during fair due to a court ordered custody arrangement; **and**
3. Subject to ownership deadlines, required weigh-in dates, and other project requirements.

Livestock Requirements.

Exhibitors that participated in the 2021 and preceding Albany County fairs and their immediate siblings shall raise and house all exhibited animals in the immediate care of the exhibitor.

Andrea called for question. Scott asked Andrea to read the motion currently on the floor. He then entertained a vote. Brian, Mark, & Andrea voted yes, Katie voted against the motion.

**ADJOURN**



I would like to begin by making clear to all parties involved what an incredibly difficult decision this has been to make. Unfortunately, Albany County Fair and Albany County 4H Programs alike have in the past made general practice of applying rules and/or policy only in particular circumstances, or for particular individuals', leaving the current board with a very difficult decision to make.

I want to make sure it is clear how the residency rule came to be a focus of our board. For several years there has been discussion as to why certain exhibitors were allowed to show in Albany County, although they lived in Colorado, attended school in Colorado, and were eligible to participate in Colorado 4H Programs. My concern developed after these exhibitors blatantly ignored the rules of the Albany County Bred & Fed Contest by entering their calves, though they were not actually fed in Albany County. Historically, we have had other families take the honorable path or forgoing entry because their calves lived barely over the county line in Carbon County. This type of bold defiance is particularly insulting as the exhibitors' family has been largely responsible for the creation of the contest. The board must hold exhibitors accountable for rule violations of any kind that occur during fair. Though the Albany County Bred & Fed is arguably not a fair contest, it does occur during fair and thus falls under our authority. If anyone feels different I would encourage the organizing parties to rent our facilities for their show subject to availability, as that would not fall under the fair board's authority. Many of the same parties responsible for blatant favoritism of certain youth exhibitors are the same parties responsible for putting the board in the position we find ourselves in today. Simply put, a rule applies to all; rules created to provide exemption to any particular individuals are called exemptions.

The current rule, and I use the word rule lightly, was put into effect to provide certain youth exhibitors with an exemption, thus allowing them to show in Albany County. Not because they happen to live just over the border and still attend school in Albany County. Not because they are innocent parties to a custodial agreement forcing them to live in Albany County over the summer. Simply because the individuals tasked with the responsibility of rulemaking authority chose preferential treatment over what is clearly a simple geographical based rule. A rule that most county fair's uphold, I might add. One of the chief contributing factors that have led up to this situation is the blatant disregard for the authority of the fair board. The board is appointed by the county commissioners, with the task of managing the operations of the fair grounds. We have systematically allowed for the 4H Extension office to exercise authority beyond the scope of their duties by granting permission for youth to show in the Albany County Fair. Two examples of such behavior were documented in public comment when Mrs. Willdenborg & Mrs. Sinclair were advised by the county extension agent that they had permission to show in the Albany County Fair. We are not a 4H fair, nor do we act at the direction of 4H or any other youth organization for that matter. Any questions as to the eligibility of exhibitors' should be directed to the fair office, rather than the extension office.

As for the discussion that every member of the board has a conflict of interest, I would suggest that anyone with the misunderstanding that any member of the board has a conflict of interest familiarize themselves with the state statutes defining conflict of interest, specifically Wyoming State Statute 6-5-106. Not only does the statute define conflict of interest, which generally relates to pecuniary circumstances, but I can assure you research on board members is adequately provided prior to our

*Anna*



appointments. Interestingly enough, the conflict of interest in question is in relation to the board member's having children that are current exhibitors in the fair. I find this very contradictory as one of the individuals solicited to speak out on behalf of the impacted youth was also a fair board member while his children were exhibitors at the Albany County Fair. So I ask you, do you have a genuine concern as to a conflict of interest or is it possible that you are upset that we are not serving your purpose, and your purpose alone? Rather, we are concerned with doing what is right on behalf of all of our youth exhibitors?

Albany County Fair is for the benefit of Albany County youth, as it is largely funded by the residents of Albany County. Allowing for exhibitors from abroad by using language like "trade area" leaves the door open to anyone who is registered in Albany County 4H. While it isn't my duty to manage the 4H programs, it is my duty to manage the fair. We should have a fair & subsequent sale proportionate to our population. Allowing exhibitors from abroad could lead to disastrous consequences at our sale.

Though it would be very easy to react to the negative, nasty, and frankly disappointing behavior of several individuals, I feel my decision needs to be in the best interest of all youth exhibitors. The current rule, in my opinion, leaves the board wide open to discriminatory accusations as it does not apply to all, but allows an exemption for a few. However, we should not allow for prior poor judgement, in regards to rule making, to affect the heart of a youth exhibitor. The initial legal advice provided to me led to my initial motion, I have since learned we do reserve the right to allow grandfathering. Therefore, I feel it best we modify the language to allow for current exhibitors, as well as their siblings to continue to show in Albany County. It is my hope that all parties concerned with a perceived conflict of interest or general distaste for the board understand how fortunate you are to have a board comprised of members that genuinely care about the individuals involved. A board consisting of individuals without this mindset would most likely make the easy decision that Albany County Fair is for Albany County residents, period.





Discussion on Albany County Residency Requirement Rule.

Mark

I was appointed to the Albany County Fair board Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. During county fair of that year, I was approached with a lot of questions and concerns about the fair. The question that was brought to my attention by two different families was about the residency requirements to participate at the fair. I was not able to answer their questions therefore I promised to do my research and get back with them. At the 2018 September meeting I asked the questions that I could not answer and was given a definition about the "Laramie trade area" and how families that lived on county borders and kept projects in the county were in fact eligible. The rule at that time focused on the youth being an upstanding member in 4-H and completing their project though fair. I returned to the people who had asked me about the rule with my version of this rule. I had answered their question, but the definition of the rule was unclear and vague.

Every year at or after fair I am asked about this rule. I am asked its purpose and if it is being implemented and or enforced. I believe that it is brought up because it needs to be written better. If my memory is correct, we, the fair board attempted to rewrite the rule in the fall of 2019. It was after fair and the same discussions had surfaced and we felt like it was time. Through numerous discussions and lengthy meetings, we wrote the rule that is currently in place. I will admit that it wasn't easy to find the right words to define an area and include those who wanted to participate. I will be the first to say that the new rule may of not be any better than the original rule.

The 2021 fair was no different than the past 4 years. I was asked what the rule was and how people who are not living, going to school, working, or raising their animals in Albany County are participating in this fair. The 2021 October meeting the agenda was to discuss this rule and strike out to define it. The proposed rule was written, and the discussion has begun.

I personally have been contacted by no less than a dozen people. I have heard testimony to implement the new rule and to keep the old rule in place. In many of these discussions I have proposed a different question to whom I am talking to. That question is, does this rule make sense if we could take the families affected by it out of the decision? The answer has been 100 percent yes and that tells me we need to fix the rule as it currently is.

The January 2022 fair board meeting brought a completely new perspective to me. The support for the families that would be affected by the new rule was tremendous. Many people used

2/2

The response that I received to the proposal of this rule was outstanding. It was people that care, reaching out to express their opinion. To those who think I am not the guy for this position I would ask you to consider these options. Apply and be appointed to the fair board. Donate your hard-earned money to the programs and the kids in it. Volunteer your time and give up the time with your family to be involved. Come to all the fair board meeting and help in all the things that need work, not just the ones that you are upset about. Support our youth in all ways, not because they are owed it but because they are the future. Be role models in the community. Work to be better people that stand together not opposed for a common goal.

the outside looking in.

is "owed anything" and the first time you wait for what you are owed you will find yourself on someone for being successful. I believe that you get out what you put in. I believe that no one

this board without a conflict of interest, a lack of morals or ethics and I will never target coach, an employer, a supporter, and a volunteer in this community. I serve my community on kids of this county being my focus. Aside from being a fair board member I am a father, a

my position on this board for granted. I am here to help promote and support all activities, the support with all I have. I believe I am who I am today because of this community. I do not take I am born and raised in Albany County. I have a family and a business in this community that

rule. It needs changed and it needs changed now. A community member used his public comment to support the families affected by a rule change. In his time, he said that he could name families that competed under this rule for the last twenty years at this fair. Ironically, he defined the very reason that we are discussing this

keep them in Albany County".

removing kids from 4-H and its programs. It was said and I quote "we owed it to these kids to helped them be successful. One of the family members closed with the notion we were

member was a conflict of interest. My kids compete in this fair and I was making decisions that board was made up of unethical members. The idea was presented that me as a fair board targeting them because they had been successful at this fair. They proposed the ideas that the minutes of public comment to express their concern and let it be know that the fair board was

may affect those that do not qualify under it. The families that would be affected used their their 3 minutes of public comment to share their opinion about the proposed rule and how it

Brian

I am in full agreement that we need to have a residency rule. We need to protect our fair and our sale. The current rule is too vague and way too open to interpretation.

The livestock housing rule is also a necessity in my opinion. There have been situations in the past by former exhibitors in which their livestock was raised in other counties by the producers instead of the exhibitor. To me, the intent of this rule is to prevent that situation from occurring again.

However, my goal is not to exclude current and past members from our fair. I do not want to pull the rug out from under our current participants. The families that this rule will affect have not done anything that deserves ousting from our fair.

So therefore, Mr. Chair, I move to amend the current rule by adding the following wording to the end of the rule,

~~Exhibitors that participated in the 2021 and preceding Albany County Fairs and their immediate siblings are allowed an exemption to the Albany County Fair residency rules.~~

~~Exhibitors that participated in the 2021 and preceding Albany County Fairs and their immediate siblings are allowed an exemption to the Albany County Fair livestock housing rules as long as their livestock is raised and housed in their immediate care.~~

