

Livestock Council DRAFT Minutes

Monday, February 2nd, 2026

6:30 pm – Redeemer Lutheran Church

****SWINE REGISTRATIONS DUE****

1. Welcome & Call to Order

- Meeting started at 6:34PM

2. Pledges

- Pledges completed, started by Charlotte Tallieu

3. Roll Call

- Completed

4. Additions to the Agenda

- Nothing to add

5. Approval of the Agenda

- **Motion: Greg Bancroft**
- **Second: Gretchen Sauvage**

6. Approval of the Minutes from January 12th

- **Motion: Jason Gill**
- **Second: Rick Tallieu**

7. Treasurer's Report

- Report not reconciled today, but will be at the end of the week and will then be available for all to view.

8. Public Comments * - On Agenda Items

- Tammy Nemenskal: Has anyone applied for open positions that meet requirements?
Answered: One applicant for treasurer that meets requirements has been submitted.
Can we abolish or suspend bylaw that states the Livestock Council Board are the only ones to vote on person(s) who put application in for appointed position that meets needed requirements?
Not at this time, Bylaws can be amended in the fall 2026.
- Johnson foundation scholarships due in May. This year can now fil out application online. More information on applications will be available soon on Livestock Webpage. \$63000 in scholarships given for candidates last year.

9. Fair Board News

- Laurie Ashley: 187 days until fair
- Premium book online, no printed copies. Will be online on Fair website when finished.
- 5 new positions now open for applications for the fair board. Currently have received 2 applications. Openings available, applications are online on Fair website. No deadline until positions fill. New positions to fill were approved to be open on Jan 30th. Members will be added to help with work load.

10. 4-H Staff Spotlight

A. Benzie

1. Project Fish - Upcoming Training & Benzie Conservation District partnership
2. 4-H Day at the Breslin
3. 2026 Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
4. Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers

A. Leelanau

5. Lambing half day workshop February 18th, noon to 4.
6. Babysitting spin club will start in March. Registration opens in February.
7. Animal Nutrition half day workshop March 22nd. Noon (12pm) to 3 p.m.
8. Suttons Bay 4-H Window Display – March!
9. 4-H Exploration Days registration opens on March 12th. Scholarships are available.

A. Grand Traverse

10. MakerFest April 25th
11. 4-H State Awards, March 1 st – April 1 st to register
12. Giveaway room – Free Items at the GT MSU Extension Office
13. Future-Ready Fridays - Resume Writing, Job Applications, Scholarships Event

The Leaders Association is hosting a job and college readiness series for 4 nights on Fridays, Feb. 20, 27, and March 6th and 13 th . This will be an opportunity for youth to learn and receive hands-on assistance for the first two nights with writing a resume, cover letter and filling out a job application. The following two Friday nights youth will learn what scholarships are available in our area, how to successfully apply for them as well as other tips to help set yourself up for success in college. There will be dinner provided for each event. The meal will be from 6:00 – 6:30 and the evening will conclude at 8:00.

MSU Extension Education/Events

- Youth Teen rep applications and teen rep applications are currently online on Livestock Page.

Gretchen – MSU Advisory Council Update

- Nothing to add

11. Old Business

a. Swine Species Chair & Treasurer

- 2 applications for treasurer, only one meets requirements
- 1 swine specie application, but does not meet requirements

Randy Stockfisch is the Treasurer Applicant, with appropriate requirements according to bylaws.

The Livestock Council Board and Applicant stepped out to hear verbal application and vote. Council board majority voted YES to accept person to Treasurer Position.

- **New Treasurer voted in:**
- **Randy Stockfisch**

b. Potential Bylaw Suspension

- Discussion and explanation by MSU and Keri on what this means and why it is being discussed as a last resort in order to get someone in place for the open positions.
- Open position remaining: Swine Specie Chair. Swine program can not move forward without a Specie Chair in place.
 - **Dave Robinson makes Motion to suspend Bylaw Article VI, section regarding good standing requirement (requiring 3 Livestock Council Meetings). To be reinstated by March 31st, 2026**
 - **Motion: Dave Robinson**
 - **Second: Samantha Bence**

Comments and questions regarding Motion proposed:

- David Dreeves suggesting that we can not suspend bylaws according to ROBERTS RULES. MSU states they have been advised this can happen in this circumstance.
- Samantha Bence states that this would be sad for kids to be exempt from swine program if bylaws are not suspended as last resort to get someone in place.
- Question asked: What is the last possible date that a swine specie chair can be absent before program is cancelled?
Keri answered: Specie Chair needs to be in place by animal Possession date, May 1st, 2026.
- Shannon Baton: Asks if you can still get education credit for swine.
MSU: Yes, but No additional specie education or clinics regarding swine barn or with animals can take place, but education can be completed.
- Discussion regarding gold member vs in good standing and what they mean/require. Member could get to Gold Level within 30 days per MSU and then would be required to attend 3 meetings, however Specie Chairs are required to be present at Livestock Council Meetings.
- Elaine Taholm: inquiring about date proposed for bylaw suspension, March 31st, 2026 and if this would stay the same or be extended? MSU states person could obtain Gold Level Volunteer stated within that time frame and then be on a probationary period to make sure they are attending Livestock meetings.
- Jeff Dreeves: Concerned about the motion to suspend bylaw because this makes it possible to suspend bylaws whenever members wanted. MSU explains that they agree however they have been advised to do so because this is a last resort to fill positions.
- David Dreeves: Speaks against bylaw suspension and explains why, that he doesn't believe this is the best option and that there needs to be another option. Suggests extending deadline. States you can not change or suspend bylaws according to ROBERTS RULES of Order.

- Samantha Bence: Expresses concerns that the kids have worked hard and it's not fair to them to not try in order to get a Swine Specie Chair in place.
- Daryl Robinson: States you have to follow ROBERTS RULE OF ORDER if specifically listed in your bylaws. However you can make changes if it's not listed in bylaws. We can use them as a guide, unless they are specifically listed in bylaw. But states it is not specifically listed inside this proposed bylaw itself.

Additional discussion took place, back and forth regarding everything mentioned above.

- Member in crowd stated they would be willing to Step into Swine Specie Chair position.

With an active Motion on the floor no further discussion regarding this person taking the Swine Specie Chair position can take place.

- Motion requested to be rescinded:

Greg Bancroft: Does person who made the motion to suspend Bylaw Article VI want to rescind motion, or to strike the motion?

Dave Robinson: Yes, to rescind motion

Second: Samanth Bence, yes to rescind motion second

Motion to suspend Bylaw Article VI Rescinded

- Person volunteering to step into the Swine Specie Chair and who meets requirements per bylaws stood up and introduced herself and who she would have to be her assistant.
- **Mary Lynn Robinson**
- **Assistant : Mary Ann Willsey**

Council board stepped out with volunteer to hear verbal application and vote

Council board majority voted YES to accept person to Swine Specie Chair.

- **New Swine Specie Chair Voted in:**
- **Mary Lynn Robinson**

c. Farm Bureau Record Books

Swine Llama Lamb

\$ 60 Truth Honeycutt- \$60 Grace- \$60 Margaret Ritola

\$ 40 Beaux Stein- \$40 Kingsley Crowther- \$40 Gracie Yanska

\$ 20 Sylvia Witzke- \$20 Miranda Ashley- \$20 Olivia Taylor

Steer Rabbit Goat

\$ 60 Kenneth Grant -\$60 James Forro- \$60 Grace Abbring

\$ 40 Garret Grant- \$40 Voilet Claar- \$40 Jackson Anderson

\$ 20 Ariyah McKinley- \$20 Truth Honeycutt- \$20 Laney Michels

Jr. Beef Dairy Dairy Beef

\$ 60 Evelyn Grant- \$60 Layla Needham- \$60 Carley Bancroft

\$ 40 Eli Noonan- \$40 Cameron Bedrick

\$ 20 Ella Noonan- \$20 Haleigh Bedrick
Cavy Chicken
\$ 60 Avery Meakin- \$60 Audrey Cole
\$ 40 Kyara Taylor
Grand Champion Reserve Grand Champion
\$ 60 Margaret Ritola- \$40 Audrey Cole
Overall Record Book
\$ 100 Charlotte Tallieu

d. Animal Registrations

- **February 2nd**
- Swine
- **March 2nd**
- Dairy Feeder, Jr Beef, Lamb, Poultry, Goat
- **May 4th**
- Horse, Llama/Alpaca, Rabbit/Cavy **June 1st**
- Dog

e. Education Expo

- March 1st at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

12. New Business

a. Food Coalition

- The Northwest Food Coalition presented information regarding Program. See information at northwestmifoodcoalition.org
- Farm to bowl- Local roots, Shared Food event on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Location: Howe Arena, Traverse City, Michigan from 11AM-2PM. Tickets available at both Oryana Locations or at website listed above. Tickets are \$29 ahead of time, \$35 at the door, kids 15 and under free.
- If you volunteer you get in for free.

13. Species Chair Updates

- Updates will be emailed to Species 4H members individually

14. Differently Abled Report

- Nothing to add

15. Public Comments *

- No Public Comments

16. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:07

- **Motion: Jason Gill**
- **Second: Beth Stephens**