

**Final Minutes
Virginia Sheep Industry Board
June 24, 2025 – 11:00 am
Mrs. Rowe's Family Restaurant
Staunton, VA**

Presiding: Mac Swortzel

Roll Call:

Members Present

Jason Shiflett
Mandy Fletcher
Larry Weeks
Clinton Bell
Tim Mize
Mac Swortzel
James Mumaw
Jack Shutte

Members Absent

Rosalea Potter
Lawson Roberts
Jason Geesaman
Lee Wright

Staff Present

Tracy Fitzsimmons, Livestock Services Program Manager, VDACS

Others Presents

Kyle Waters, USDA Wildlife Services
Dr. Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech
Cecil King, NRV Sheep & Goat Club
Matthew Sponaugle, Sponaugle Livestock
Mark Campbell, VAFB

Approval of January 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 4, 2024, meeting were presented.

- Motion by Tim Mize to approve the minutes as written.
 - Seconded by Clinton Bell.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

FY24 Annual Report Review

The FY24 Annual Report was reviewed by the Board.

- Motion by Jason Shiflett to approve the report as written.
 - Seconded by Clinton Bell.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Program Reviews:

Report by Kyle Waters - USDA Wildlife Services Report

- The team consists of 7 part-time employees covering all Virginia counties.
- Last year, Wildlife Services:
 - Provided direct control services to 117 livestock farms.
 - Offered technical assistance to 303 farms.
- Sheep predation by coyotes decreased by 40%.
- However, the predation by Black Vultures increased.
- The new sub-permitting program to control Black Vultures has been very effective.
 - This year, 111 sub-permits were issued to farmers to help them manage black vulture damage efficiently.

Report by Cecil King – New River Valley Sheep & Goat Club

- The G.O.A.T (Greatest of All Time) Festival was held in September 2024 at the New River Valley Fair Grounds in Dublin, VA.
- The festival attracted over 2,000 spectators.
- For the upcoming year, the festival will lose its \$3,500 premier sponsor.
- Mr. King reported on sheep sales in Southwest Virginia through local livestock markets.
 - 22% of lambs sold in Virginia originate from Southwest Virginia.
- The next G.O.A.T Festival is scheduled for September 27, 2025.

Report by Dr. Scott Greiner – 2024 State Fair Lamb Carcass Contest

- 2024 marks the 26th year of the Lamb Carcass Contest, held in conjunction with the State Youth Market Lamb Show.
- Dr. Greiner provided a detailed written report on the Lamb Carcass Evaluation (see Attachment #1).
- The program offers market lamb project participants a viable opportunity to receive fair market value for market lambs weighing 135 lbs. or more.

Financial Report & FY 26 Budget

The Financial Report for the FY24-25 was reviewed.

Cash Balance 7/1/2024	\$54,959.09
Revenue through 4/30/25	\$21,614.98
Expenditures through 4/30/25	\$6,508.83
Cash Balance 4/30/25	\$69,993.24

FY 26 Budget.

FY 26 Budget items	Budgeted
Meeting Expense	\$1,500.00
Agency Service Charge	\$250.00
Lamb Board Promotional Items	\$500.00
State Fair Lamb Carcass Contest	\$1,500.00
USDA Wildlife Services	\$12,000.00
Virginia FFA Foundation	\$500.00
VA 4-H All Star Livestock Judging team	\$1,000.00
Carcass Educational Support	\$1,500.00
4-H/FFA Youth Development Sponsorship	\$1,000.00
NRV Sheep & Goat Club (Goat Festival)	\$3,500.00
VSPA (Website project)	\$600.00
VSIB Marketing	\$2,000.00
	\$25,850.00

- Motion by Larry Weeks to approve the FY26 Budget with the following spending categories
 - Seconded by Tim Mize.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Member Term Update

Tracy Fitzsimmons reported that the Virginia Sheep Industry Members had been appointed by the Governor and had been notified with a term expiring 6/30/28 except for the following that have not been reappointed as of the meeting date:

- Purebred Representative
- Packing/Processing/Retail Representative
- Virginia Livestock Markets Representative

The Governors Office was given a list of nominees at the end of May to fill the expired seats.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **New Logo Presentation**

The Board was presented with the newly designed logo, which will be used for official letterhead, marketing materials, and promotional activities.



- **Carcass Project Funding**

The Board discussed the carcass educational support line introduced in the FY21 budget, intended to assist local clubs and organizations in promoting lamb carcass education, primarily through ultrasounding lambs at county fairs. The primary focus was the existing base reimbursement rate of \$5 per animal, capped at 100 animals.

- Motion by Larry Weeks to increase the reimbursement rate to \$10 per head, maintaining the maximum of 100 animals.
 - Second by James Mumaw.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

- **Fund Request – Application Process**

- Discussion focused on streamlining the fund request process for the Virginia Sheep Industry Board (VSIB).
- A new fillable PDF form will be created and made available to organizations and producers requesting funds.
- The form will be accessible on the VSIB website and will include a submission deadline.
- The Board discussed aligning the application deadline closely with the next board meeting to facilitate timely review.

Public Comment: None

Future Meeting Date

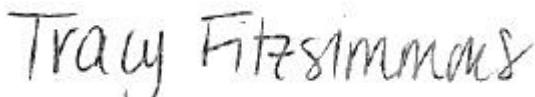
- Motion by Jason Shifflet to set a tentative next meeting date of May 19, 2026
 - Seconded by Amanda Fletcher.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, motion by Larry Weeks to adjourn the meeting

- Seconded by Amanda Fletcher.
- Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Fitzsimmons
Livestock Services Program Manager
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services