



Location: Brussels Library

Date: Wednesday, July 9th, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Crystal Blake, Reg Vinnicombe, Glenda Morrison, Sharon Loveridge, Monique Baan, Linda Garland, Joan Bernard, Jackie Garniss, Sandra Machan, Lori Vader, John Lowe, Judy Cooper?, Dorothy Cummings, Deb Shaw, Maggie Speer, Justin Morrison, Rhonda McArter, Peggy Aitchison, Mary Douma, McKenzie Diehl, Terri Gray.

Regrets: Rosie Kellington, Jeff Cardiff, Cathy Cardiff, Matt Cardiff, MaryAnn Thompson, Marie McCutcheon, Bridgit McCallum.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Motion made to approve the agenda by Dorothy, seconded by Reg, carried.

Approval of Minutes

The previous minutes (June 4th, 2025) were circulated before the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes by Lori, seconded by Maggie, carried.

President's Report

Crystal reported that the position of 2nd Vice President is still open.

Homecraft President's Report

Emailed in by Marie: It is so exciting seeing a few new volunteers emerging from the community! If we keep going the way we are advertising our need for these volunteers through social media posts and word of mouth we will get there.

I still need Job descriptions from the sections to keep one copy in their sections' tote and a copy to myself to keep in a folder for the Homecraft Presidents, I have only received Section J Preserves, and Section N plants and flowers. **ACTION: Job descriptions needed from; Section E & F Grain & Crops, Section G & H Fruit & Veg, Section K Culinary Arts, Section L & M Needlework, Section A & P Art & Photography, Section O Hobbycrafts, Section R Junior, Section R & I Youth, Section S Senior.**

Keep a look out for unique aprons and of course gather up those overalls for yourself and your section to put in a display incorporated in your section. **ACTION ALL: Gather Unique aprons & Overalls for display/decorations**

Our fair is fast approaching and we need everyone planning their availability to volunteer in the abundant activities going on. Keep in the spirit of our wonderful fair, Marie.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurers' reports were emailed out. 2 new donations were received, from an individual and one for sponsoring the milk for the school lunches. Donation letters going out shortly. The charity return was submitted on time. **ACTION: John to provide names to Glenda for sponsor letters.**

Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

Crystal reported that Sophia attended the Belmore Homecoming parade, where she met lots of people (and didn't get rained on).

Maggie presented a report from Bridget: Since the last meeting, Sophia and I visited Northwoods Elementary School to hand out Brussels Fall Fair books to the students. I had a really great time talking with the kids and meeting back up with Eric Kellington, who I am photographed with in the fair book. Over the summer, Maggie has planned some events for our ambassador team to attend. While I won't be able to make all of the events due to my busy ball schedule and summer school course I am taking, I will be able to make most and will proudly spread the word about the ambassador program and our upcoming fair. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to support the Society at this time. Thank you, Bridget.

Maggie reported that Emily's main focus at the moment is on her family after her grandfather was injured in a serious farm accident. She will be able to attend the next homecoming parade, and she has received her CNE package and is looking forward to attending.

Maggie was very proud of the young ambassadors and the confidence they displayed at representing the Agricultural Society at Northwoods Elementary to promote the Fair.

Wendts Jewelers (where we purchase ambassador tiaras) is going out of business and we were able to stock up on tiaras during their closing sale.

The Ambassador competition will be Aug 13 at 7pm at the Brussels Legion. So far they have 4 Littles, 1 Junior, and are working hard at recruiting ambassadors.

Little Ambassador: Grade 3-5 as of Sept 2025

Junior Ambassador: Grade 6-8 as of Sept 2025

Ambassador: age 17-24, must be 18 by August to compete at CNE the following year.

ACTION ALL: help recruit youth in these age categories for the Ambassadors competitions.

Entertainment and Fundraising Sub-committee Reports

-Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

Nothing to report, meeting next Tuesday, July 15th at the Presbyterian church at 7pm. Planning to build games for the entertainment that evening. Anyone interested in helping build the games, meet us at the church.

-Clinton Raceway Fundraiser Sub-committee Report

Reg reported that there still has not been any communication from the Raceway, but he has met with the Seaforth and Clinton Ag. Societies. It was decided that if each society does their part and brings the same amount of volunteers that the proceeds would be split equally.

Required from Brussels: Silent Auction items (value \$50+) 6-7 items. Bake Sale items (Crystal Whyte in charge) but everyone needs to contribute. Find 3 sponsors for \$150 each (needed ASAP). BBQ (Seaforth will bring their 4' bbq, Lyle Haney will have it there, and they will have all the food and condiments etc). Brussels is looking after the 50/50 raffle because we are the only Society with a raffle account. Reg has applied to Central Huron for the license.

Event is: Sunday, August 10 at [Clinton Raceway](#). About 12 volunteers needed at 11am until approx 4pm.

ACTION: Maggie to let Ambassadors know about this event.

Volunteers so far: Reg, Glenda, Lori, Dorothy, Jackie, Crystal, Monique,

Sponsor suggestions: Cowboy Loft/Brussels Agriservices, Orr Insurance,

Silent Auction Items: McKenzie Diehl offered one, **ACTION ALL: More silent auction items needed.**

ACTION: Rosie to send out signup list for Bake Sale donations and instructions for drop off time/location.

Marketing Sub-Committee Reports

Signage Sub-Committee

Road signs are ready to go up August 1. Finishing hemming on the table cloths. Need to make the runners still. Made 2 extra table cloths for the senior section.

Old Business

- Update on Draft Formal Agreement between HE and Ag. Society. No updates. **ACTION: Councillor Morrison will send an email to Lissa Berard to enquire about this.**
- Google Workspace and Canva for Nonprofits - Rosie and Crystal working through the steps.
- Children's Programming Sub-Committee - Rosie is looking into bringing a Lego display for 2026. Old Colony School closes early so Linda didn't get a chance to invite them. Linda will connect with McKenzie before September re Northwoods as she is a parent there, and Linda is away for the Fair. Lori priced aprons, cost is about 0.68 each (\$16/24). Markers work really good on this type of fabric. There are about 100 kids that come for the school program on Wednesday. Can be ordered at the August meeting.
- Fair Books - Rosie has them, contact her if you need any.

New Business

- BBQ/Dinner: Jeff reported by email: Tuesday evening BBQ (beef bbq, potatoes, salads etc., ice cream). Brett & Laura Fischer are on board with having their customer appreciation event at our event. Having their event in conjunction with ours gives us a huge boost. Jeff will ask Laura to come up with signage to state that line outside is for Pioneer customers only. There seemed to be confusion last year with our regular fair goers in the outside line then taking their food inside to eat. We do not need to advertise a specific menu just say it is a Beef BBQ. Suggestion is \$25 for adults , \$10 for children 12 and under. No charge for under 5 years of age.

Terri made a motion to go ahead with the Beef BBQ with the prices stated above, seconded by Reg, Carried.

Lori made a motion to give Brett and Laura 25 free tickets, seconded by Sandra, Carried

To keep track of ticket numbers, Glenda needs a ticket for everyone, including free for those under 5. Tickets can have a check box for Adult/Children/under5.

ACTION: Glenda to order tickets this week.

- Food Booth: Terri to look after. Same menu as last year. Will have booth open Tuesday night as well as Wednesday. Terri sent around sign up sheets. Need more volunteers than last year for the pie booth. **ACTION: Rosie to get these signup sheets emailed out/online or advertised - coordinate with Terri.** Need more people to assist with the food both from the community and Fair members will handle the positions with money. Booth will be open during the BBQ meal to give options to families. School meals (hotdogs) will be handled by the Booth. It will also be open a little earlier than noon on Wednesday to accommodate the livestock participants.
- Parade: John is not available this year. Jamie Mitchell has been contacted about the possibility of members from the Pipe Band. The Fire Department will be on board.
ACTION: John to contact Huron East for road closure. Maggie will be at the front with Ambassadors for judging the floats. Crystal and Maggie will look after forming up the floats.
- Assist Xpo: Reg completed all the updates. Will double check all entries against the Fair Book to make sure. Some sections deduct 10% of winnings for administration fee, but not all.

Dorothy made a motion to no longer deduct administration fees for winnings, seconded by Maggie, Carried.

ACTION: Note for 2026 Fair Book: \$5 was not in the fairbook instructions/rules.

- Basket Raffle tickets - Glenda has tickets ready. There are 5 baskets: Kids, Crockpot, Gardening, Mystery, and Sportsman. Glenda will make bundles of 15 (\$2 each, 3 for \$5).

- Snippity the Clown (Val) is booked for the same times as last year, we can modify if needed. She is keeping the same prices. \$100/hr per person (there will be 2 ppl.) Tues 6-8pm and Wed 12-3pm.-
- Health Unit application. Application sent in. Link sent to Jeff and Zoey for BBQ and Leo's as they are preparing food too.
- Hand washing station for Wednesday 4-H show. C&P hand wash station booked.
- Marketing proposal: Sharon created a sample trifold brochure and post card to advertise for volunteers and promote the Ag. Society and the Fair.

Motion made by Sharon to print 250 postcards for \$80 at Blyth Printing to promote the Fair events, seconded by John, Carried.

Motion made by Sharon to print 250 trifold brochures for \$159 at Blyth Printing to promote the Brussels Agricultural Society and to recruit volunteers.

ACTION: Maggie to send some notes and photos re Ambassador program to Sharon. Crystal to check with Zoey regarding post card from a few years ago. Justin to send some photos to Sharon.

- New volunteers: The Facebook post looking for volunteers has had some success, please continue to recruit by extending personal invitations to community members.
ACTION: Signage Committee, look into possibly getting a sign for outside the library during our meetings that has our logo and says "join us".
ACTION: Rosie to reach out to some of the sports teams for help with set up and take down.
- Ag. Society shirts: Sizes are XS to 4XL (fit small). \$45/shirt. Suggest no names on them so they can be used again by others. Contact Dorothy by email, before September 1, if you wish to purchase a shirt or call 519-530-8138.

Correspondence And Announcements

- Brussels Fall Fair, Sept. 16-17th, 2025, Overalls and Aprons.
- Fall meeting Oct. 28th, 2025 in Mitchell
- The OAAS Convention will be Feb 19-21, 2026.
- Brussels Fall Fair, Sept. 15-16th, 2026, Grow it, Sew it, Show it.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Terri.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug 6, 2025, at 7pm at the Brussels Library

Minutes Submitted by: Monique Baan

Minutes approved by: Crystal Blake