

# West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner

Amie Minor-Richard, Deputy Commissioner



## Livestock Care Standards Board

October 15, 2025

Meeting Minutes

WVU Davis College of Agriculture

**Attendees:** Bruce Sloan, Dr. John Wilson, John Pitsenbarger, Greg Mitchell, Michael Morris, Mary Mikowski, Philip Gregg, Dr. James Maxwell, Dean Jorge Atilas, Dr. Robert Stenger, Chairman Amie Minor-Richard, Samantha Ledden

**Public attendees:** Amy Karnes, Brittaney Bragg, Ronnie Helmondollar, Craig Shaffer

Meeting called to order by Chairman Minor-Richard at 10:01 a.m.

### Old business:

- Chairman Minor-Richard requested approval of meeting minutes from May 7, 2025. Mike Morris moved to approve; Dr. John Wilson seconded. No opposition. Minutes from May 7, 2025 board meeting are approved.
- Legislative update: Public Markets rule (61 CSR 11 attached).

### Animal Care Activity Log Reviewed by Dr. James Maxwell

#### New business:

- Continuation of current topics
  - Lamb/sheep tail docking
    - FFA and 4-H Programs support but do not enforce AVMA guidelines
  - Equine
    - Welfare concerns in the State
  - Livestock Auctions
    - Well-being of livestock entering the facility and being sold.

#### Other:

- Travel documents and per diem forms were reviewed and provided to board members.
- The following re-appointments are pending in the Governor's office for consideration:
  - Mr. Bruce Sloan
  - Dr. John Wilson
  - Mr. Greg Mitchell
  - Dean Jorge Atilas
  - Mr. Mike Morris (upcoming June 2026)

**Public comments:**

- Amy Karnes – Livestock Auctions, care, quality of animals
- Brittaney Bragg – Animal Welfare, Equine, Livestock Auctions, WV Livestock Code and Rule enforcement.
- Craig Shaffer – Contagious/Communicable disease reporting, Livestock Auction concerns.
- Rachel Dudok – via letter from email (attached)

**Member Discussion:**

- Lamb/Sheep tail docking:
  - Continued discussion on concerns of prolapse in ultra tail docking in lambs and AVMA guidelines.
- Livestock welfare issues at auctions:
  - Dean Atiles motioned to send a certified letter from the Livestock Care Standards Board to the Public Livestock Markets across West Virginia attaching the LCSB Code and Rules, along with a set of biosecurity best practices. Dr. Stenger seconded motion, no opposition.  
*This letter will be drafted by WVDA, the biosecurity best practices cheat sheet will be provided by WVU (Ronnie Helmondollar) and will be shared with board members for feedback then sent to Public Markets.*

Meeting called to close by Chairman Minor-Richard at 11:47 am.

**Next Meeting Date:**

- Wednesday, May 7, 2026 10:00 am at the WVDA Weston Field Office