West Virginia Department of Agriculture





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 Atiles, 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
 - o Lamb/sheep tail docking
 - FFA and 4-H Programs follow AVMA guidelines
 - o 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:
 - o Mr. Bruce Sloan
 - o Dr. John Wilson
 - o Mr. Greg Mitchell
 - Dean Jorge Atiles
 - o 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, April 22, 2026 10:00 am at the WVDA Weston Field Office

Ledden, Samantha

From:

Rachel Dudok ·

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 9:19 AM

To:

Ledden, Samantha

Subject:

Animal care and disease reporting concerns

Attachments:

wv letter.docx

You don't often get email from rjdudok@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

[NOTICE: This email came from a sender outside of the WVDA organization. Please be careful when opening attachments and/or clicking links in this email.]

Good morning,

I have drafted a statement to be included in your meeting today as a response to conditions witnessed at a horse sale held in early October. I was very concerned at the poor condition and obvious disease of several of the horses offered. Should you have any questions please let me know.

Respectfully,

Rachel Dudok

10/14/2025

To Whom it may concern,

I attended the horse sale at Buckhannon Stockyards Sunday, October 5,2025. While I am aware that West Virginia does not require the same reporting or standards of care as my home state of Maryland the condition of several horses on the sale grounds was concerning.

A chestnut horse with a body condition score of maybe 2 but more like a 1½ with an active Strangles infection was not at all what I expected to see on the sale grounds. The horse was tied with no water or hay all day in a stall in the front of the barn. Meaning, all traffic to the sales ring had to pass this sick horse. The attending vet on the grounds was pulling blood for Coggins without PPE, or any cross-contamination preventatives. While I did not observe the sick horse having one pulled I can only assume it was necessary by the lack of care this horse had been given previously.

There were at least 2 other horses offered that day with BCS of 2 or less one being a weanling that will be the most at risk of death if it contracts strangles. It probably will by way of the all the folks sticking fingers in horses' mouths to check teeth and then rub all over the cute little baby. Very few horses had hay provided for the long day and none had water. One 5 gallon bucket of water was left in the aisle of the barn I assume, for a communal water option.

While I understand the livestock market and risk involved with any animal this was not the venue or sale that it was billed to be, "Good, quality horses". Maryland has 21 reported cases of strangles this summer alone. At least we know and can mitigate the risk of hauling, exposing, and spreading disease. Not a chance for anyone attending this sale who must now scramble and quarantine or not, and continue to spread contagious disease throughout our horse community.

I urge West Virginia to update their policies on infectious disease reporting and uphold the animal cruelty statute the state has. Medical treatment was withheld for an animal in obvious distress and obvious disease as well as overall neglect.

Rachel Dudok

Maryland Equine Professional and Animal Control Officer