



Albany County Fair
3510 S. 3rd Street Laramie, Wyoming 82070
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**ALBANY COUNTY FAIR BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
ALBANY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MEETING ROOM**

JANUARY 28, 2022

SPECIAL MEETING 11AM

Call to Order and Roll Call

No Public Comment

Consideration of Changes to Agenda

Correspondence regarding residency rule

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and Take Action on Residency Rule for Regulations.

ADJOURN



College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Albany County Office
Fairgrounds, 3520 S. 3rd Street, Suite A
Laramie, Wyoming 82070
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January 26, 2022

Dear Albany County Fair Board,

I hope each of you realize how much your volunteering for the Albany County Fair Board means to Albany County 4-H and to our community. I realize at times that it seems like a thankless job but you are highly valued.

I would like to go on the record that I am against your proposed residency requirement for the Albany County Fair. I do not see that this is a necessary rule. If a young person is in good standing in 4-H or FFA that should be enough. It takes a lot more than just enrolling to be in good standing.

If you are concerned about others coming to our county to participate because we have a fantastic sale, then limit those that can participate in the market animal projects. Less than 25% of the current 4-H membership are enrolled in market projects.

Why limit who can participate in the Albany County Fair? I think it is beneficial to have as many as possible to participate and bring their friends and family to the fair. The more that attend, the more revenue that is generated. In these divisive times it seems much more prudent to be inclusive. Wyoming 4-H does not limit who can participate in our program. A member may only participate in one county and/or one state.

The Albany County Fair is one of the most competitive fairs in Wyoming. I encourage you to continue to challenge our young people to bring THE best projects they can to compete but ultimately it is not about who wins the buckles and the banners, it is about the life skills that are learned.

Thank you for ALL of your time invested in our youth and to continuing a premier event for Albany County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Louise Wood".

Mary Louise Wood
University Extension Educator, 4-H/Youth Development

used to refer to the whole quantity or extent of a particular group or thing.

on·ly
/'ɒnlē/

verb

1. 1.

and no one or nothing more besides; solely or exclusively

GENERAL

2. Wyoming 4-H is open to ALL residents of Wyoming.....
(does not use the word ONLY, to indicate exclusivity from other states or county! In fact it says the opposite.)

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

1. Enrollment
2. Participation

- a. (last sentence.....) "This **ALSO DOES NOT LIMIT** someone from belonging to 4-H in a **COUNTY or STATE THAT IS NOT THEIR COUNTY or STATE OF RESIDENCE!**

OUR STORY

We called Mary Louise back in 2012-13 and asked her if we could be a part of Albany Counties'4-H program because we had

THE PROPOSED MOTION READS AS FOLLOWS;

"Discussion about the meaning of the rule,

Protection for our Albany county resident the ability to be competitive at our show. "

What are we protecting the county from?? COMPETITION??

It's not like we are going to Iowa or even Colorado buying high \$ steers and pigs! We buy from Albany County producer Parker Show Pigs and Todd Hixon and our own family herd of cattle that are in Albany county.

I THOUGHT 4-H WAS FOR THE KIDS.... NOT TO TEACH THEM THAT THE HARDER YOU WORK THAT ADULTS WILL COME AGAINST YOU!

DOUBLE MULE SHOE RANCH
14 FOX CREEK ROAD
LARAMIE WYOMING

plus \$ 150 to purchase A I semen to be used on their own herd. This was a total of \$ 2650 of prize money, given directly to the kids from sponsoring businesses and ranches from Colorado and Wyoming.

The second issue of eliminating competition in the guise of protecting the youth of Albany County is flawed. To say that my grandkids have an unfair advantage by feeding their animals at a lower altitude, I feel is not true. If there were any advantage it would certainly be offset by the searing temperatures at the lower altitudes. If there was a notable advantage then Albany County exhibitors coming from one of the highest altitude counties in the state would not be competitive at our state fair. If you are concerned about high altitude disease, a PAP test will detect the disease in any animal that might be purchased from a lower altitude. Shelby and Lane have never purchased a market beef outside of Albany County. They have either purchased one from an Albany County club calf breeder or selected one from our cow herd or their own.

Shelby and Lane have won enumerable showmanship classes, including Champion and Reserve Champion in the round robin class, where you have to show several different species of animals. Low altitude or high altitude has nothing to do with who wins these classes. Hard work and determination decide who the winners are here.

One more thing I feel is important and pertinent. Shelby applied for the Daniel Scholarship. This is a very prestigious scholarship, and she was selected as a finalist. After a test and an extensive interview, she and few others were awarded this scholarship. This is a very prestigious scholarship, where the recipients receive a four-year, full ride (tuition, books, and board and room) at the university of their choice. Which university did Shelby choose? She went back to her roots! She chose the University of Wyoming. She chose Albany County again.

This is not the first time a family on the other side of that imaginary line has chosen to belong to an Albany County 4-H club and exhibit at the fair. The Walker family did so a few years ago and no one from Albany County was harmed!