Draft Animal Committee Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2026

The Draft Animal Committee met with the General Manager to discuss fair committee policies, procedures, and upcoming fair planning.

The committee discussed a potential donation of several horse-drawn carriages and sleighs from a veterinarian in Saratoga County. Although these items are not eligible for inclusion in the Washington County Fair Museum collection because they do not originate from Washington County, the committee agreed they would provide valuable opportunities for educational displays and demonstrations.

The committee also discussed expanding the draft animal exhibit by inviting additional breeds of draft horses to participate in the fair. As part of this discussion, the committee reviewed the current tent accommodations and determined that a larger tent would better support the growth of the exhibit and improve the experience for exhibitors and fairgoers.

The next meeting of the Draft Animal Committee will be held on July 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

Recommendations to the Board

Saratoga Mounted Police Demonstration

The Draft Animal Committee recommends inviting the Saratoga Mounted Police to provide a public demonstration during the 2026 Washington County Fair. The committee requests use of the riding arena on Wednesday from 2:00–3:00 p.m. during the scheduled draft horse demonstrations, or alternatively from 4:00–5:00 p.m. following the Youth English Horse Show and prior to the Youth Gymkhana. There is no fee associated with this demonstration; however, participation is subject to final approval from the agency.

Volunteer Fair Support

The Draft Animal Committee would like to assist with fair operations by organizing volunteer crews to:

- Conduct daily morning litter and trash pickup in the parking areas.

- Drag and maintain the horse arena between shows and events throughout the day.

Feed Race Demonstration

The Draft Animal Committee recommends adding a traditional Feed Race Demonstration to the fair's educational and entertainment programming. This event would showcase historic draft horse farming practices while providing an engaging experience for fair attendees.

Tent Expansion Request

The Draft Animal Committee recommends upgrading the draft animal tent from 40' x 40' to 40' x 60'. The larger tent would provide additional space to accommodate more draft horse breeds, improve exhibitor comfort, and enhance the visitor experience. The cost difference for the larger tent is $310, and the committee requests permission to utilize a portion of its donated funds to cover this expense.