

MDGA General Membership Meeting  
May 25th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The MDGA General Membership meeting was called to order by President Shellie Gilbertson on Saturday, May 25 at 9:04 p.m. The meeting was held following the conclusion of the junior doe shows at the Best of the Midwest state show.

Roll Call: Shellie Gilbertson, Kelly Hovel, Laura Kieser, Wendy Lawliss, Rustianna Mechura, Cathy Prodoehl, and Kirsten Zoellner.

Secretary Report: Motion by Coe to approve the report. Motion seconded by Hovel. It was approved unanimously.

The last board meeting was on April 27 via Zoom. Agenda topics at the meeting included the Minnesota Livestock Breeder's Association/4-H State Fair award donation, the 2025/2026 Best of the Midwest Show, and the agenda details for the upcoming general membership meeting.

MDGA member Rodney Coe addressed the board regarding the NLBA/4-H donation. After considerable discussion and donation suggestions of \$500 to \$1,000, the board approved a \$750 donation. The donation does not lock the board into an annual donation.

State Show Chair Shellie Gilbertson has reserved places in Fillmore County in 2025 and Howard Lake in 2026 for the first weekend in June. This prevents the overlap of other shows in the region.

The general membership meeting will take place May 25, following the conclusion of the junior doe shows at the state show. Items that will be discussed include future state show locations and dates, updates to the Production Awards, and a vote on the proposed bylaw updates.

Treasure Report: No action was taken. The current account balance is \$20,761.61

#### Committee Reports

- Youth Committee:
  - Gilbertson updated the board on the changes to the Outstanding Youth program. Winners will now be announced at the state fair awards ceremony. Applications and supporting documents are due by July 31. The added award of a runner-up was removed.
- Development Committee:
  - Futurity: Gilbertson provided a futurity update in the absence of Futurity Chair Emily Thompson. The proposed changes were published in the GGG. Changes that will be implemented this year include a link to submit entries online. Required information includes the doe kids name and registration number. Registration papers are no longer required to be submitted. Entrants and the futurity chair will receive an email with the submission receipt. When entry closes

the Board Secretary will send the final list to the futurity chair. At state fair check-in, there will be a spreadsheet of eligible does for the current futurity year for you to circle your present futurity nominees. The winner will be announced in the ring and pictures will be taken. Winners will be awarded a check at the state fair award ceremony. Winning does will be announced on the MDGA website and social media platforms.

Gilbertson brought up several proposals for discussion regarding Futurity including moving futurity from the state fair to the state show to get more participation or keeping it at the state fair and whether or not to change to a two-year futurity, rather than a three-year. Lawliss favors moving it to the state show to be accessible to more people. Gilbertson stated the board looked at historical numbers. An equal number of farms enter the state fair and the state show. At least two farms with paid futurity fees do not show at the state show.

Rodney Coe asked about pushback from current and possible futurity members concerned about the constantly moving location of the state show and uncertainty of where it will be held. Show organizers are attempting to book shows for three years, but it is difficult. The board will vote on futurity changes at the state fair board meeting.

- Production Awards: Lawliss updated the membership on changes to the Production Awards entry process and guidelines. They were also published in the GGG. All changes will be rolled out soon, including a new JotForm entry system. The committee also defined the time frames for award-year lactations and the due date for award submission. "In progress" milk records were removed from the Lifetime Production Award to standardize and simplify calculations of milk production.

Lifetime awards include a one-time Working Girl Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. Annual awards are the Achievement Award and the Bucket Buster Award. In addition to these four, there are two Lifetime Production Leader Awards - one for does at the State Fair and one for all MDGA members. All awards will be highlighted on the website and social media. The timeline for production records is the most recent location completed by March 31 of the current year, no more than 305 days. The deadline to submit entries is July 1.

- Show Committee:

- Gilbertson detailed the potential locations of the upcoming state shows to the membership. The show has been in Sauk Centre for three years. The potential sites for the 2025 and 2026 shows are Preston in Fillmore County and Howard Lake in Wright County. The board is also considering moving the show from Memorial Day to June to avoid conflicts with other shows. Mechura referenced a map she'd created of pinned MDGA member locations in the state. She noted there is no concentrated population in any particular area. The board is seeking locations offering assistance with show coordination such as pen setup and take down. Local availability of food for exhibitors is also important. MDGA member Marge Kitchens suggested moving the date due to the heavy traffic and cost of travel on Memorial Day weekend. She also felt there

would be more exhibitors if the date is changed. The board will decide on future locations soon.

- Organizational/Finance/Operational Committee:
  - Gilbertson provided an update on the bylaw updates done by Zoellner. The changes were largely grammatical. The only substantive changes included the Outstanding Youth updates noted previously.
- Public Relations & Marketing Committee: No updates
- Education Committee:
  - Gilbertson detailed some of the plans for an educational conference at Howard Lake. By using FFA facilities, which are being donated, the MDGA will have access to agriculture, greenhouse, and food areas. A butcher is being consulted who is interested in teaching how to process a goat carcass. Other possible topics include an AI demonstration, embryo transfer, buck collection, and fecal testing. With the exception of one lecture, the conference will be hands-on topics.
- Futurity Committee:
- Historian: No updates

#### New Business

- Consideration of changes to Section XIII of the MDGA Bylaws regarding the Outstanding Youth Award. Motion by Karyl Dronen to approve the changes. Motion seconded by Alex Coe. It was approved unanimously.
- Consideration of changes to Production Awards as presented. Motion by Mechura to approve the changes. Motion seconded by Lawliss. It was approved unanimously.
- Consideration of proposed bylaw changes as presented to the membership. Motion by Mechura to approve the changes. Motion seconded by Alex Coe. It was approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Alex Coe. Motion seconded by Lawliss. It was approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for June.