



February 2026

Dear Friends & Supporters:

Welcome to 2026! What an outstanding year we experienced in 2025. From upgrades to the Junior Show grounds to increased exhibitor participation, new volunteers, and a successful show and sale, it truly was a great year. We sincerely thank our supporters, volunteers, past and present board members, and families. **It truly takes a village—and we are fortunate to have a strong one!** We are pleased to share a few updates and invite you to join us in supporting and attending the 2026 Milton-Freewater Jr Show.

Board of Directors Update

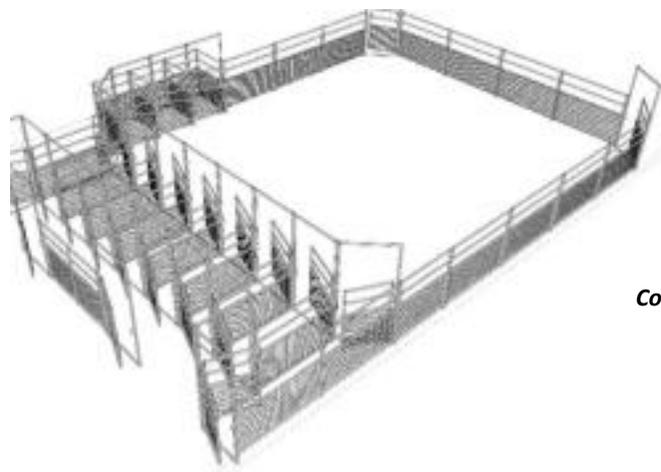
After many years of dedicated service, Ron Benjamin and Mary Gutierrez have retired from their board positions. We are grateful for their commitment and leadership. We are pleased to welcome Erica Turner as President, Sarah Zessin as Treasurer and Michael Waliser to our board. Our Board brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership skills, and we encourage you to reach out to any member with questions, ideas, or suggestions.

2026 Building Improvement Project

Each year, the Jr Show Board responsibly identifies critical building and maintenance needs for the grounds. For our 2026 Building Project, we have prioritized essential upgrades to the Pig Barn, focusing specifically on **Phase 1**: improvements to the Pig Show Arena. The current arena, a facility as old as the Jr Show itself, is showing its age. While the existing fence panels have served countless exhibitors, they are now dilapidated and functionally compromised. Crucially, the ground inside has become unlevel and uneven in spots, posing increasing safety and accessibility concerns for our exhibitors, animals, and spectators. Our **Phase 1** plan is a proactive step to preserve this vital learning space and ensure a safe, engaging experience for the next generation. The improvements will include:

- Installing updated, state-of-the-art panels for the show arena and pig staging area.
- Reconfiguring the bleacher seating to optimize the spectator experience.
- Excavating and leveling the ground within the building to eliminate safety hazards and significantly improve accessibility.

These planned improvements will not only enhance the show experience for our pig exhibitors and the entire community but will also ensure the organization continues to offer safe, fully functioning facilities for generations to come.



Conceptual Arena Layout

Milton-Freewater Jr. Show & Sale

P.O. Box 379 - 84487 Hwy 11 – Milton-Freewater, Oregon
97862 mfjrshow@gmail.com – FEIN: 93-0821256

The estimated cost for **Phase 1** of this critical project is approximately **\$13,000**. While the Board is actively pursuing grant funding, donations from our community and supporters are essential to ensure these much-needed improvements can move forward. We ask that you consider supporting this project when making your contributions.

Local Community Partnership Opportunities

Without the support from our communities and partners, it would be difficult to put on such a successful event year after year. Please follow the Milton-Freewater Jr Show Facebook page to stay up to date on upcoming activities such as the Father-Daughter Dance in February, Clean-Up Day in April, and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in October. We are always looking for ways to engage our community and appreciate all volunteers! If you have a little time, let us know.

We appreciate your help!

Looking Ahead in 2026

Our Board and Sale Committee are hard at work preparing for the 2026 Jr Show, and we are excited to continue supporting our youth in their project journeys. We look forward to seeing you at the show **May 7–10, 2026 (Mother's Day Weekend)**. Please also mark your calendars for the **Livestock Sale on Sunday, May 10, at noon**, where you can witness firsthand the dedication and hard work of our exhibitors. If you are unable to attend in person, the sale will be streamed online so you can participate from home.

The Awards Committee is currently planning and ordering custom awards for 2026. Providing meaningful, high-quality awards is a priority, and we greatly appreciate any financial support you can offer. Please feel free to contact any Board member, or Kylee Lund (509-200-3845) with any questions.

As we finalize preparations for 2026, we invite you to consider making a financial contribution to the Jr Show. A contribution form is enclosed. Please feel free to contact Dana Lane (509-301-9700) with any questions. Your support helps ensure that our youth can continue doing what they love and that the Milton-Freewater Jr Show remains strong and successful for years to come.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our youth—the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Milton-Freewater Jr Show Board of Directors

Executive Members

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Erica Turner, President 509-386-3011 | Camden VanOcker, Vice-President 541-861-8000 | Bob Waldher, Secretary 208-407-6805 | Sarah Zessin, Treasurer 541-561-3887 |
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Board Members

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jacy Tracy 509-730-9647 | Jerry Hennings 541-561-4677 | Michael Waliser 541-861-9876 | Trish Bunker 458-224-9199 | Jon Dowling 509-288-1867 |
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