

## **Position Paper**

### **PSACF**

The Fairs (PSACF) are a vital part of promoting agriculture and education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Fairs serve as a catalyst for tourism in Pennsylvania by hosting 5,500,000 visitors that provide valuable expenditures in their local area and many times. Fairs serve as the largest social event in their local municipalities, townships and many times the biggest event in many counties.

Fairs are economic engines for the local economy. Farmers view the latest farm equipment, technology and charities receive valuable funding through parking proceeds, vendor stands and donations.

Local political parties and candidates both incumbents and aspiring legislators meet their constituents at the Fairs, 4-H and FFA get to showcase their animals and projects. The fairgrounds become educational experiences found nowhere else in the Commonwealth. They are a part of America that is family centered.

We respectfully request that ample funding be maintained in the state budget to support this valuable resource. Because of the difficult economic times, we are requesting that funding be adequate for the fairs to maintain their program in years to come so future generations can enjoy all advantages provided by the Fairs. Funding should be determined by the Agriculture Committees in both Houses, the Appropriations Committees in both House and the Agriculture Department in consultation with the leaders of the 110 Fairs.

The Fairs would request 5 million dollars to accomplish the due diligence necessary. But funding between 1 million and 5 million would be a good first step.

The PSACF appreciates the time spent with our representative and we have confidence that during deliberations you will provide fair and adequate funding to the Fairs.

Thank you for your consideration of the Fairs and the programs that showcase agriculture, promote tourism, act as a catalyst for the local area and provide social interaction for the communities they serve.