

DATES TO REMEMBER

—2024—

October 1

Junior Fair Person of the Year apps.
Due

October 10

PSACF Board Meeting-Pleasant Gap

October 15

Showcase applications due
2025 Request for Fair info material,
PSACF Associate Dues Invoices,
PSACF/PSSA Convention material,
Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 16

Zone 4 Mtg - Yoder's Restaurant

October 17

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

October 18

Zone 1 Mtg. -

October 19

Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair

November 1

- Fair Person of the Year apps. Due
- Communications Competition apps
due
- Queen Competition Applications due

November 15

- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund
due
- Baking Contests Summaries due

November 30

FAIRTALK material for December is-
sue due

December 1- 4

- IAFE Convention and Trade Show
Phoenix, Arizona

—2025—

January 4 - 11

- Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 22—25

- 112th Annual Convention Hershey

—2026—

April 9—11

- IAFE Zone 1 Conference
Breinigsville, PA



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NO. 2

PA TO HOST THE IAFE ZONE 1 CONFERENCE IN APRIL 2026

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

Great news to share with you. The PSACF Board of Director's has agreed to host the IAFE Zone 1 Conference in Pennsylvania on April 9, 10 & 11, 2026. As a side note, this will be a celebration year for Zone 1 as it serves as our 50th conference.

Although the planning for this event has just started, we can share with you that the conference will be held at the Delta Hotels by Marriott in Allentown, Lehigh County, Breinigsville, Pa. The hotel was chosen based on several factors which also includes the proximity to the Allentown Lehigh Valley Airport, as well as the hotel is located just off Interstate 78 when driving.

There will me many more details to share as we finalize the planning for the event. However, in the meantime, please save the date as we look forward to making this conference one to remember.



From our President

Summer may just be starting, but fair season is already in full bloom! I'm sure you all are as busy as my own board getting everything ready for another successful fair season.

Harry, Craig, and I have had a busy spring, taking advantage of opportunities to share how important fairs are to their local communities, and continuing to learn ways to make PA fairs as successful as possible.

In March, we were able to attend the yearly Cornucopia event at the State Capitol. This is a great chance to speak with PA Legislators one on one, getting to know them, and making sure they know how important dependent local fairs are on the funding they get from the State.



April, we held our State Board meeting and then travelled to each of the 4 zone meetings around the state. It's so great to connect with all the fairs around the state.

May, we went to the IAFE Zone One conference in Springfield, MA. I attended a workshop on sponsorships. EVERYTHING can be sponsored - the act of supporting an event, activity, person, or organization financially or through the provision of products or service. Sometimes you just have to think outside the box - a pallet of water for volunteers with pre-printed labels, or signage on the refrigerators. One important takeaway - it's your responsibility to follow through on the sponsorship agreement. If you promise sign placement, it's your responsibility to get the sign. Additional workshops included:

- One led by an FFA member from Eric County Fair NY. She talked to us about how to get and keep the FFA and 4-H involved in your fairs. Don't be afraid to ASK them to help and be involved.
 - Attracting Exhibitors - How? Social media, demonstrations at the fair or in the community?
 - Competitive Exhibits - what's hot and what's not. Is your fair keeping up with modern crafting? are guidelines and instructions clear? Do you offer both online and paper entry?
 - Professional vs Non-professional Exhibitors. Is there a distinction at your fair? How do you judge the different distinctions? Are the premiums different for each distinction?
 - Keeping Exhibitors - Do we make things clear for the exhibitors where and when to drop off their exhibits. Do we make the exhibitor feel welcome? Hospitality mindset- face to face. Is your display a secure area so exhibitors feel their entries are safe?



Ray and I are looking forward to attending fairs around the state this summer and fall. We've got a trip coming up where we'll be visiting 3 fairs in three days. What can I say? I LOVE FAIRS! I hope to see you at the Fair.



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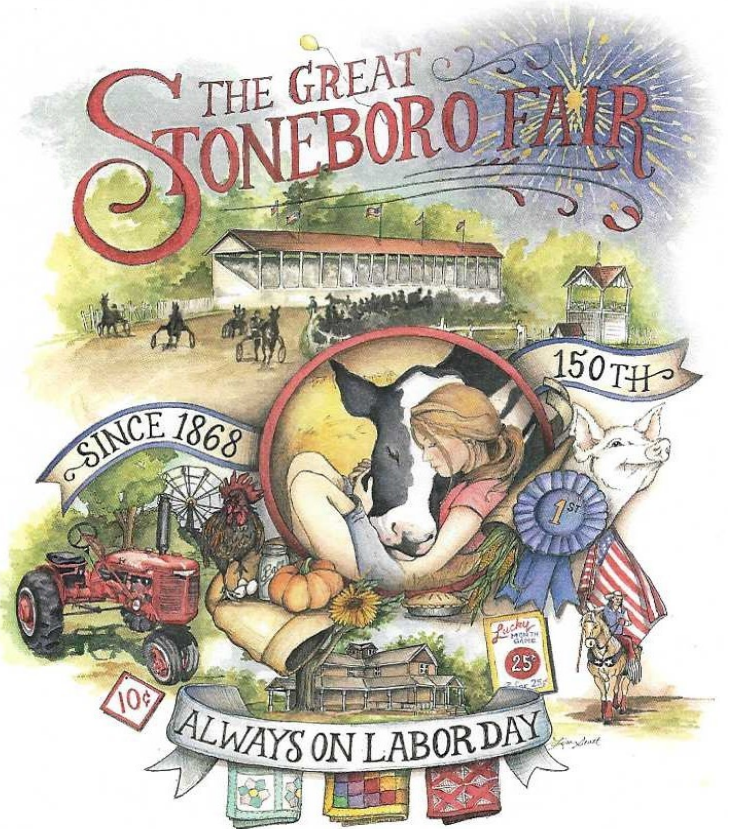
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FAIRTALK published four times per year by the Association. Send information for the publication to:
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The Great Stoneboro Fair began in 1868 near the railroad station near the lake. It soon outgrew that space and moved to its present unique location with 67 acres. This location accommodates everything from sheep and goats to horses and cows as well as rabbits. The Sportsmen's building even houses stuffed wild animals. The Fine Arts building holds arts and crafts, sewing and quilts as well as photos and portraits. The Ibb's building houses vegetables, fruits and many delicious cakes, cookies, and pies. Vendors include many who have attended for over 50 years such as Fowler's Taffy and the Lion's Club with their sausage sandwiches along with the local Firemen French Fries. Other long standing vendors are Campi's pizza, Mijavic's with their steak hoagies, the dairy producers with their ice cream, and Shannon's Candies. In short, there is something for everyone. Our attendance has averaged 25,000 + attendees. People come from near and far in the United States.

FY 2023-2024 Fair Program Calendar Deadlines



June 1, 2024

Friend of the Fair Award Nominations Due

June 30, 2024

FY 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Project Matching Funds Grant Applications Due

July 1, 2024

FY 2023-2024 Contract Extension Requests Due for Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants

August 1, 2024

FY 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Matching Fund Grant Projects Complete

August 31, 2024

FY 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Matching Fund Grant Final Report/Certificates of Completion, Photos and Invoices/Proof of Payment Due

November 1, 2024

Last day to submit Fair Poster Contest Entries

November 15, 2024

Fair Premium Reimbursement Applications Due

You don't have to wait until the deadline to submit your reporting paperwork; you can file it with us well in advance. **It will help to speed up the payment process!**

Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program

June 2024
Submitted by Karen Dobson

PA Fair Queen Program

The Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program has always aimed to maintain the highest standards of excellence. Our program has received support and respect from legislators, the PA Department of Agriculture, and fair executives across the nation for being a top-notch commodity program.

Many former fair queens have credited how the experience helped them to build confidence, further their education, and open doors to meaningful careers in agriculture, management, education, science, healthcare, law, politics, public relations, marketing, foreign exchange, and administration.

It was an exciting time this past month as we followed a few of our former PA State Fairs in their recent successes. Congratulations to our 2023 PA Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner (Lebanon Area Fair) on being selected as the 2024-2025 Pennsylvania FFA State President. We will be rooting for our 2018 PA Fair Queen Liz Voight (Lebanon Area Fair) as she competes in the Miss Pennsylvania USA pageant at the end of June. Best wishes to our 2016 PA Fair Queen Darby Kasper (Tioga County Fair) who secured her first job as an Emergency Room Physician. These ladies remind us of why it is so important to continue our work to provide this fair queen scholarship program.

We welcome the new 2024 fair queens as they start their journey! Competitions are underway throughout the state. The newly crowned queens become eligible to compete at the state finals in Hershey in January 2025.

Fair Queen Coordinators need to download the **Fair Queen Contest Packet** from the website - <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/queen-program> and click on the link to be re-directed to the Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program's website.

Make sure the 2024 contest rules, behavior and dress code policies, and judging criteria are reflected in the fair's premium book, website, and other contest advertisements. An important rule to follow is that **all contestants must be at least 16 years old by June 1, 2024.** Check contestants' applications to make sure they meet the age and other eligibility requirements.

The 2025 state competition will be held from Thursday, January 23 through Saturday, January 25 at Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. The application process will be done entirely online, with a deadline of November 15, 2024. The application link will be sent in June to all fairs that registered their queen program for 2024.

Important Notes:

- Each Fair will be responsible for registering everyone who is attending convention – **including the queen contestant**, family, chaperones, board members, etc. – using the PSACF Convention Registration Form.
- Quarter-zip pullovers with a PA Fair Queen logo will be offered again. Order forms will be included with the State Application and accepted through November 15 for those wanting to pick up the items at convention.
- 2nd Annual Fair Queen Scrapbook “People’s Choice” awards will be held in the Trade Show at Convention. Votes are \$1 each. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 contestants whose scrapbook receives the most votes. One queen scrapbook per fair. Fairs may elect to enter their outgoing 2023 Queen’s or their incoming 2024 Queen’s scrapbook, but not both. Participation is optional and does not affect any of the contestant judging.

See Fair Queen Program next page

...Queen Program continued



The Fair Queen Program is gearing up for another exciting fundraising event at the 2025 convention. A new item will be a quilt made of fair tshirts. If any fairs did not get a chance to donate a shirt at their zone meeting, we will still collect them. Contact Jami Kempfer to learn how you can participate – jrkemphe@gmail.com. Other fundraising opportunities include basket raffles, a live auction, 50/50 raffle, and donations and sponsorships.

There are already some awesome prizes that have been donated including high-end handbags from Kate Spade and Dooney & Bourke, a handmade shawl, and a bicycle just waiting for a rider!



We encourage all fairs to participate in the fundraising effort. The program is seeking items for the Basket Raffle table or for the live auction. Cash donations are also acceptable. Reach out to potential sponsors, donors, and vendors from your fair or community to procure donations that will support our mission to provide scholarships to worthy young ladies in PA. Ideas include household décor items, fashion accessories, artwork, handyman tools, celebrity memorabilia, gift certificates, tickets to PA attractions, or electronic technology. Just remember, the one thing we cannot accept is any baskets containing liquor or wine per Hershey Lodge's rules.

Planning is in the works to take fair queens to Capitol Hill this fall for the first-ever Fair Queen Advocacy Day. It will be a voluntary event allowing PA's local and county fair queens the unique opportunity to schedule a legislative meeting with their district's legislators, introduce themselves, and talk about their fair, community, and local agriculture. The PA Fair Queen Program sincerely thanks Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations Executive Director Lizzie Bailey and government relations and advocacy firm Milliron Goodman's Senior Associate Kerry Lange for taking the lead on planning this event.

Having the PA Fair Queen at your Fair is a great way to publicize your special events. But dates are filling up fast! So download the **PA Fair Queen Appearance Request** form and submit your request now to Bryndil Kemler - <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/queen-program> and click on the link to be re-directed to the Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program's website. Requests are handled in the order they are received and the PA Fair Queen's availability.

Zones 2 and 4 will be electing a representative at their Fall Zone meeting to serve on the PA Fair Queen Program's board of directors. Candidates must be from a member fair of the PSACF and be able to serve a 2-year term (2025-2027) as Director. Specific nomination deadlines can be obtained from the Zone chairpersons.

The Pennsylvania Fair Queen Board and Committees are honored to have the opportunity to keep the tradition of the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen alive. As we move into the 2024 fair season with the PSACF theme - *Pennsylvania Fairs: Flourishing With Opportunity, Rooted in Agriculture*, we look forward to providing the next generation of young women with opportunities to flourish as leaders and advocates for PA fairs and agriculture.

#



PA Fairs Special Baking Contest

June 2024
Submitted by Karen Dobson

Across Pennsylvania, fairs are ordering ribbons, confirming judges, and preparing displays for their 2024 Special Baking Contests.

Exhibitors are gathering their recipes, donning their aprons and getting ready to measure, whisk and decorate their cakes, pies and cookies/brownies/bars. Everyone is waiting with anticipation to see who the blue-ribbon winners will be who get the chance to advance to finals at the 2025 PA Farm Show.

All fairs interested in conducting the special baking contests this year should have already submitted their Participation Form. All baking contest notifications and updates will be sent to the Coordinator listed on the Participation Form. Baking contest coordinators should **download the *Special Baking Contest Packet*** from <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/baking-contest>

Below are some reminders as the 2024 preliminary competitions begin:

- Fairs are responsible for any ribbons, trophies, etc. for all special baking contests.
- Display the Angel Food Cake and PA Preferred Junior Baking sponsor banners. Store your banners in a safe place after the fair.
- Fairs are encouraged to display their own signage to show that PSACF sponsors the Apple Pie and Chocolate Cake contests (*there is no special banner provided by PSACF for these contests*)
- The PA Preferred Junior Baking contest is only for cookies, brownies, or bars entries.
- Every participating fair must submit the Contest Summary Report by November 15 either through the Google Form <https://forms.gle/ch8hfi76JdCLqQcJ6> or by paper form. It will help us communicate better about the PA Farm Show finals if fairs can provide their winners' email addresses.
- There are only sponsored premiums for the Angel Food Cake and the PA Preferred Junior Baking Cookies, Brownies, Bars contests. Fairs are responsible for premiums for Apple Pie and Chocolate Cake contests.
- Fairs are **no** longer responsible for filling out the Farm Show Certification Entry forms. This is now handled by the PA Special Baking Contest Committee. Fairs will be contacted if no summary report has been received within thirty (30) days of their fair.

If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests –

Kevin Bieber (484-256-8009, email kbieber1123@comcast.net)

Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests –

Karen Dobson (610-212-6180, email kardob@msn.com)

Follow us on Facebook at @pafairsbaking where we will share information about different fairs' contests and the PA Farm Show. Fairs are encouraged to "like" and "share" the page to generate excitement about the special baking contests. # # #

.....From Baking previous page

- The PA Preferred Junior Baking entries must be either cookies, brownies, or bars only. Recipes must include a minimum of two (2) PA Preferred or locally produced ingredients. The recipes must specifically list the PA Preferred ingredient and its source.
- Angel Food Cake recipes shall include eggs that were produced in Pennsylvania, if possible.
- Contestants for all special baking contests must be amateur bakers. Anyone who bakes for a bakery business, derives a consistent income from baking, and/or advertises set pricing for purchasing their baking is considered a “professional” baker and should not compete in the fair contests.
- Every participating fair must submit the Contest Summary Report by November 15 so that the PA Special Baking Contest committee knows who the eligible contestants are for the state competition at the 2025 PA Farm Show. Summary reports are requesting winners’ email addresses so we can contact them directly with PA Farm Show information.
- The Farm Show Certification Entry forms for the fair winners are now handled by the PA Special Baking Contest Committee. Fairs will be contacted if no summary report has been received within thirty (30) days of their fair.



The PA State Association of County Fairs room block is OPEN and guests may begin to reserve their room reservations.

Your guests may begin to reserve their room reservations by calling the **Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108**, and asking for the room block for the **PA State Association of County Fairs, January 21 - 26, 2025**.

The Hershey Lodge Reservation office hours: Monday - Sunday, 8:00am - 8:30pm

Your Group's Room rate is:

- One person in Room: \$125.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes
- Two or more persons in the Room: \$128.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes

We are asking guests for their credit card numbers to guarantee their reservations, the card will be charged for one night at the time of reservation.

Your Group's cancellation policy is:

Cancellations must be received by the end of day, Monday January 13, 2025. Any room reservation cancelled after this date, will forfeit the one night charge made at reservation time.

Guests who need to reserve their room reservations in the Showmen Hallway, Rooms 2200 - 2250, please have them call me, and I will assist them with reserving their assigned room in this section. Could we ask these guests to contact me by Friday, Oct 25, 2024. I could provide you with the names of the guests who have not reserved their room reservation after this date, giving you time to check to see if the guest will be attending your conference. (Michele Maxwell - Office Number: 717-534-8696).



Whoever first said that “time flies” wasn’t kidding. I can’t believe we’re on the edge of the 2024 fair season. I’m really looking forward to seeing all the amazing entries, meeting fairgoers and volunteers, and of course hugging all the animals I possibly can once again this year.

I was going through my 2024 Farm Show photos and came across the one featured above of the PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest winners. There were nearly eighty entries this year. If you’ve ever wondered about the waning interest of today’s youth when it comes to the fairs, have no fear, the next generation is eager to participate. While some of these folks will continue to enter baked goods, home products, and show animals well into the future, many are looking for other ways they can give back to their “home fair.”

There’s no time like the present to identify potential youth volunteers that will become board members in the future. The next generation can bring a lot to the table. With a little training, guidance, and experience they’ll be prepared to serve your fair in years to come. If your fair doesn’t already have one, you should consider forming a youth fair board. Engaging these youth early will help them learn existing processes and provide much needed help in the months leading up to fair week. It will give them an opportunity to get to know how the board functions and how the fair operates. You can lean on their strengths and ask them to help out in “uncharted” territory. One fair I know has tasked one of their youth members with entering the capital improvement grant application into the EGrants system. Another has given several members social media responsibilities.

Consider finding little ways to include the next generation in your fair planning this year. They’ll be a big help, and will give you more time to actually enjoy your fair. Who knows, maybe you’ll have some free time and get to hug a few animals yourself! See you on the fairgrounds!

Poultry and Swine

Please be sure to familiarize your fairs with the 2024 Animal Health Rules for the Fairs which can be found on PDA’s website. Here are a few highlights:

- **Poultry:** *The General Quarantine Order; Exhibition of Ornamental Feathers, Unfertilized Eggs, Market Poultry and Feathers used for Arts and Crafts has been revised for the upcoming fair season; it will be published in the PA Bulletin on March 30th. Fairs will be required to comply with the rules and regulations set forth in the revised order. Additional information will be provided at the Spring Zone Meetings.*
- **Swine:** *The Swine Quarantine order is still in place. Swine Health Monitor Training is offered by Penn State Extension and must be renewed annually. Breeding swine and market swine cannot be on the fairgrounds at the same time. Breeding swine must be shown first, market swine second. All marked swine must go directly to slaughter following exhibition at the fairs. Swine CVIs may now be dated within 30 days of a fair/show. This allows for more time than the previous 14-day CVI.*
- **Rabbits:** *There is no current prohibition of out-of-state rabbits for exhibition at Pennsylvania Fairs. Sections 15 & 16 of the 2024 Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs contain both requirements and recommendations related to rabbit exhibition at the fairs.*

Fair Capital Improvement Project Applications

Applications are due by **June 30, 2024**. We will open the grant application website on **April 1st**. Here are a few tips and reminders:

- Please don’t wait until the week before or the day of to begin and submit your applications.
- The project and authorization to submit the application must be approved at a fair board meeting and the minutes from the meeting must be uploaded with the application. The signature page must be downloaded, printed out, signed, scanned back in, and uploaded with the application.
- Be sure to indicate the priority order of your project in the “project name”. For example: *“Priority 1 Project: Horse Arena Roof Replacement.”*
- Remember, expenses related to your 2024 project application must be made after **July 1, 2024**. Expenses made prior to that will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Message from Our Associates



Greetings and Happy Summer! Somehow, it's hard to believe that we are a little under 2 weeks until it's July.

Welcome new associate members! The dates for the next convention are January 22 – 25, 2025. We are told our reserved block of rooms is open for booking. Those planning to attend and stay at the Lodge can call the Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108 and ask for the room block for the PA State Association of County Fairs. There is more information on the www.pafairs.org website.

The Talent Showcase will be held Wednesday, January 22nd. Each eligible act (you are eligible to apply if you are new or if you have not showcased in the last 2 years) will receive an application later this year in the fall. Additionally, strolling acts/street musicians/grounds entertainers are encouraged to apply to entertain prior to the banquet on Thursday evening in the Chocolate Ballroom lobby. During your summer's shows and entertainment is an ideal time to have yourself recorded as live footage excerpts are to be submitted via YouTube (or similar platforms) to be considered.

Many fairs across the Commonwealth have booked acts from previous showcases for which we offer many thanks! The associate members of the PSACF play a big part in bringing a level of expertise and professional entertainment, attractions and services to fairs each year.

Have a great fair season!

Galla gallaanddan@gmail.com

Welcome New Associates!

Musical Attractions

Nick Ferraro and the All Stars

716 Rockford Dr Harrisburg, PA 17112

Phone: (717) 606-4583 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: FB - Nick Ferraro and the all Stars E-Mail:
nick.ferraro12@yahoo.com

Info: We are a 6 piece band that plays 60's, 70's, 80's
RockNRoll, Motown Fun Dance Music

Education

Choo Choo Barn

226 Gap Rd Strasburg PA 17579

Phone: (717) 687-7911 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: choochoobarn.com E-Mail:
jen@choochoobarn.com

Info: A traveling model train layout to spectate and enjoy for all ages!

BUY SALE TRADE

A new column for you to place your surplus items that may be needed by another Fair.

PITTSBURGH - (May 29, 2024) - Melanie Querry, President and Founder of Beyond Spots & Dots, has been inducted onto the prestigious Marquis Who's Who list. This list, a beacon of recognition since 1898, showcases the achievements of individuals across diverse fields such as politics, business, medicine, law, and entertainment. Querry's inclusion in this list further solidifies Beyond Spots & Dots' standing as a leader in the industry.

BEAD Challenge Process

I mentioned the BEAD challenge process that will be getting underway shortly. The fair boards may be helpful to their local municipalities, or for themselves, if a challenge is being undertaken.

Here's the link to the page. There's a Resource Guide at the bottom and a video about it the challenge process. [BEAD Challenge Process - Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority \(pa.gov\)](#)

Thanks.

Mark

Mark Critz
Exec. Dir. Rural Dev. Council
Western Reg. Dir. PA Dept. of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 743-8696, cell/direct

The [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) aims to help everyone in America get affordable, reliable high-speed internet by funding infrastructure deployment and adoption programs. A requirement of the BEAD program is for Pennsylvania to conduct a map challenge. This map challenge will determine which Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) will be eligible to be served by BEAD funded networks. Any changes made to [Pennsylvania's Broadband Map](#) will be based on evidence submitted during the challenge process by qualified participants.

Pennsylvania will be administering its BEAD Challenge starting in spring 2024. The final map will determine how we will use the \$1.16 billion in BEAD program funding to close the digital divide in the Commonwealth. A [Challenge Process Fact Sheet](#) is also available as a printable reference.

Directory Change

President Claysburg Farm Show
Aaron Hileman
3729 Pine Hollow Rd
Claysburg, PA 16625
ahile314@gmail.com
814 414-9909

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From the PA State Fair Queen

I truly cannot believe that I am almost halfway through my reign. Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to put my crown and sash on many times for several events. Each time I open my crown box, I still cannot believe that I get to have this wonderful opportunity to represent Pennsylvania Fairs. I am incredibly grateful to get to travel to our commonwealth and I am excited for the start of fair season!

I have attended a few events since the beginning of April including the Washington County Ag Days where I got to judge the kids costume contest and, along with other Washington County and West Alexander Fair royalty, assisted with the Apple Pie Auction. A few weeks later I headed back to Washington County to celebrate our rich history in the sheep and wool industry for the Running of the Wools event where they run sheep down Main Street! Later that next week, I supported my county fair queen coordinator, Denise Leigh, as she was a Washington County

Athena Award finalist, I walked alongside cancer survivors at the McGuffey Relay for Life, I read a book and had lunch with the Rainbow's End pre-k class, and I caught up with some members of my old 4-H club as I got to judge their speech competition. As I got farther into May, I also got to travel to The Spring House for Heritage Days, give a milk toast at the Washington County Dairy Princess Coronation, ride on the back of my uncle's tractor in the Memorial Day Parade, and head back to my home FFA chapter to speak at the annual banquet.

I love heading back to my home county for events because it always reminds me of where I came from and the incredible support that I have from those back home. However, I have also enjoyed attending events across the state, as I have so much support there too. I made a trip to the Pennsylvania Capitol building to attend the Blessing of the Balers event where farmers as well as state representatives come together to pray for farmers for a productive upcoming hay season. I then went to the PA Farm Show Complex for Farm City Day where I got to escort grade school students around to different stations to teach them about opportunities in the agricultural industry.

All of those events have been exciting and rewarding in their own way, but I am also ready for the beginning of fair season. I was excited to attend my first fair queen coronation in Bloomsburg and give remarks of my year so far.

My next event was the Butler Fair Queen Coronation. I got to help one of my very best fair queen friends, Kendyl, crown the next queen. I have appreciated these past two events because it makes me think of where I was about a year ago, when I didn't know what the next year had in store for me. I am excited to follow the 2024 queens on their journey from when they are crowned to the state contest.

I have been invited to so many fairs and other events so far, and I am excited to see more invitations come in. Right after I was crowned, I had said "I am so excited for the many miles I will put on my car" and now I am seeing those miles add up! It is so rewarding to have this opportunity to spend countless hours and miles driving across Pennsylvania and meeting so many wonderful people. I am excited for many more fairs, and many more miles. If you would like me to attend your fair, visit the PSACF for the request form!

Yours truly, Erica



The Bedford County Fair has been promoting and educating our community in the science of agriculture, horticulture, household arts, and family living since 1873. We encourage youth by providing competitions and exhibits during our annual county fair and educate the non-farm community of the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. We hope you can join us in celebrating our 150th Anniversary as we continue to promote agriculture and community pride!

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HARRISBURG OVERVIEW***2024-25 Budget***

With a constitutional deadline of June 30th, the Pennsylvania General Assembly is in prime budget season and closed-door leadership negotiations have begun.

Democrat Governor Josh Shapiro proposed a \$48.3 billion budget plan, \$3 billion more than the 2023-24 budget. It included an *increase* in public school funding by an additional \$1.1 billion.

However, legislators from the Republican caucuses argue that much of the Governor's proposal is unsustainable and will deplete the state's \$14 billion surplus within a few years.

In a counter proposal, Senate Republicans recently passed SB 269, which would provide for a \$3 billion tax cut, including cutting the personal income tax from 3.07% to 2.8%. Republican leadership maintains that if the state is sitting on significant reserves, it should go back to the taxpayer. Republicans estimate that their plan would save taxpayers \$13 billion over the next five years. They are also advocating for some school funding to be directed towards private schools.

The details of the final budget package remain to be seen. But the Milliron Goodman team remains actively involved and will keep you updated as negotiations progress.

BUDGET LINE ITEM

Governor Shapiro's proposed 2024-25 budget fully-funded the county fairs at \$4,000,000.

LEGISLATION**Solicitation of Funds for Volunteer Fire Companies**

HB 794 (Ecker, R-Adams): Amends the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act (Act 202 of 1990) by exempting volunteer fire companies from audit requirements regardless of whether they utilize a 3rd party fundraiser, which only handles tasks such as mailers, and the money received goes directly from the contributor to the volunteer fire company.

We've incorporated language to amend the definitions of "professional solicitors" and "solicitation," with the goal of clarifying that showmen are not to be considered "professional solicitors" and would not have to register with the Department. The bill was introduced and referred to the House State Government Committee on April 3rd, 2023.

Our language is in response to a Commonwealth Court case between the Department of State and a showman business. Unfortunately, the Court decided (7-0) that the showmen are to be considered professional solicitors and register with the Department. If implemented across the state, this would change the entire business model of every showman business. They would have to keep a registration of all "contributors," submit all contracts to the Department, pay fees, etc. As far as we are aware, the Department hasn't approached any other showmen with this, but they may be encouraged now with the ruling.

Because Republican-sponsored bills are struggling to gain traction in the House, we asked a couple of Senators (Republican and Democrat) to seek written clarification from the Department of State on why their interpretation of the law suddenly seemed to change. The response from the Department was not ideal. According to Senator Chris Dush's office, "They assert that it is not a belief or interpretation, but a requirement in the law. Because solicitors take a percentage of profits as payment, the Department says those entities need to register with the Department."

So we are continuing to work with Representative Ecker and committee staff on a few different strategies to try to get his bill language moving forward in committee

See M&G for continuation next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

Protecting the Public from Contact with Wild Animals

[HB 1451](#) (Hohenstein, D-Philadelphia): Amends Title 34 (Game) by prohibiting menagerie and exotic wildlife permit holders to permit the public to feed or have direct contact with exotic wildlife or wildlife, EXCEPT for ruminants.

Ruminants are defined as “even-toed ungulated mammals that chew the cud regurgitated from their rumen. The term includes cattle, sheep, antelopes and deer and their relations. The term does not include giraffes.”

The restrictions would not apply to a nationally recognized circus.

The bill narrowly passed the House with a vote of 109-94. It is now waiting for consideration by the Senate Game & Fisheries Committee.

Banning Traveling Animal Acts in Pennsylvania

[HB 1114](#) (Shusterman, D-Chester): Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses) by prohibiting the transport of animals for the purpose of a participating in a traveling animal act.

The bill was introduced and referred to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on May 5th, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

We have officially reorganized the Pennsylvania Fair Caucus! The Pennsylvania Fair Caucus is a bicameral (House and Senate), bipartisan (Republicans and Democrats) caucus.

Representative Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) and Senator Lynda Culver (R-Columbia) are the Republican co-chairs. Both represent the Bloomsburg Fair. Senator Culver served on the original fair caucus (under Representative David Millard) when she was a state Representative!

Representative Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin), a former employee of the state Department of Agriculture, is also a co-chair of the caucus.

We collectively identified a few goals to work on throughout the next year:

Identify fair champions in the Capitol;

Provide continued education for fellow legislators about the importance of fairs for our local communities;

Encourage legislators to visit their local fairs and refresh relationships; and

Support the fairs with annual budget line-item initiatives.

Legislative caucuses tend to be relatively informal but provide a solid foundation and list of fair supporters and advocates in the Capitol. Caucus members will be able to help with future line-item requests as well as any other legislative issues that the fairs may encounter.

Below is our robust list of members:

1. Rep. Jamie Barton (R-Berks)
2. Rep Aaron Bernstine (R-Butler)
3. Rep Marty Causer (R-McKean)
4. Rep Eric Davanzo (R-Westmoreland)
5. Rep Torren Ecker (R-Adams)
6. Rep Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin)
7. Rep Ann Flood (R-Northampton)
8. Rep Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna)
9. Rep Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland)
10. Rep. Charity Grimm Krupa (R-Fayette)
11. Rep. Joe Hamm (R-Lycoming)
12. Rep Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon)
13. Rep Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia)
14. Rep Zachary Mako (R-Northampton)
15. Rep Dave Maloney (R-Berks)
16. Rep. Milou Makenzie (R-Northampton)
17. Rep. Ryan Makenzie (R-Lehigh)
18. Rep Kristin Marcell (R-Bucks)
19. Rep. Clint Owlett (R-Bradford)
20. Rep Eddie Day Pashinski (D-Luzerne)
21. Rep. Tina Pickett (R-Bradford)
22. Rep Jack Rader (R-Monroe)
23. Rep Kathy Rapp (R-Warren)
24. Rep. Dave Rowe (R-Snyder)
25. Rep Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)
26. Rep Mike Stender (R-Montour)
27. Rep. James Struzzi (R-Indiana)
28. Rep. Ryan Warner (R-Fayette)
29. Rep Dave Zimmerman (R-Lancaster)
30. Sen. Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill)
31. Sen Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington)
32. Sen Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester)
33. Sen. Lynda Culver (R-Columbia)
34. Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango)
35. Sen. Patrick Stefano (R-Fayette)
36. Sen. Judy Ward (R-Blair)

Cornucopia

PSACF participated in the annual Cornucopia event on March 18th. This was a great opportunity for PSACF to showcase the industry with legislators and PDA officials in the State Capitol.

Fair Queen Advocacy Day

Milliron Goodman is planning to host a group of fair queens for an advocacy day during the fall session. We’d like to get the youth more engaged in the legislative process. Additional details will be forthcoming.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to



On behalf of the PA State Association of County Fairs (PSACF), we wanted to share a timely request to each member of the PA Fair Caucus. Please keep the county fairs' budget line item in mind over next few weeks.

We're off to a good start! **Governor Shapiro proposed full funding for the PA County Fairs at \$4,000,000 (as shown below). We respectfully request your continued support and protection of this line item as budget negotiations continue.**

June 17th, 2024

The Honorable Scott Martin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
281 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203013
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Vincent Hughes
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
545 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203007
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Jordan Harris
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
512E Main Capitol
PO Box 17120
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Seth Grove
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202196
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: STATE SUPPORT FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S COUNTY FAIRS

Dear Chairmen:

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) is a non-profit organization that was founded over a century ago and represents the interests of over 100 fairs and fairgoers across the state. According to the "Economic Impact of Pennsylvania's Fair Industry" study in 2013 by the Shepstone Management Company, fairs and vendors offered over 6,000 part-time jobs and 1,700 full-time jobs. They had an overall economic impact of \$126 million in the state. And over 80% of fairs raised funds for local fire and ambulance services. We also note that civic organizations, granges, and churches often hold fundraisers at the fairs and that money is channeled back into our local communities in various capacities. In addition to the positive impact fairs have in their local economies, they also play a critical role in Pennsylvania's culture. Each fair, association and society showcase the state's agriculture and horticulture and offer a wide variety of educational and entertainment opportunities. Over 5 million fairgoers each year can attest to their quality experiences.

While we understand that budget negotiations are still underway, Governor Shapiro's budget proposal fully funds Pennsylvania's fairs at \$4,000,000.

This funding supports the grant programs created under the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act of 1986. Because of the state's continuous support of the Fair Fund, fairs can apply to the

Department of Agriculture for assistance with:

Operational and Premium Reimbursement:

Partial reimbursement of annual general operating costs and premium expenses for exhibitors.

Capital Improvement Grants:

Improve buildings and grounds, add land, pave roadways, install fences, etc. To be eligible, fairs must match 50% of the grant. The maximum grant award is \$25,000.

The state dollars also go towards reimbursement opportunities for the FFA and 4-H programs as well as Statewide Agricultural Organizations to support events with an agricultural mission.

For many years, the county fairs have been generously recognized in the state appropriations budget bills with a \$4 million allocation. **We respectfully request your continued support of**

Pennsylvania's rich culture and the various local economies by fully funding the county fair line item in the 2024-25 budget.

Sincerely,
PA State Association of County Fairs

IN MEMORIAM



Myra L. "Dutch" Hemminger, 87, of Somerset, died March 2, 2024. Survived by her husband Jay William Hemminger to whom she was married 38 years. Myra was assistant treasurer for the Somerset County Fair.



Jay William Hemminger, 87, of Somerset, died May 14, 2024. he was active with the Somerset County Fair, Farmers and Threshmens Jubilee.



Dana Arvin Wilson, of Washington passed away on March 28, 2024. Dana was the Vice President of the Jacktown Fair. He also was an events announcer at the Jacktown and Washington County Fairs for many years



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Update from The Zones

1

Zone One – Sam Zaffuto

By the time you read this article, the Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair, the first fair in zone one, will be history and all the other zone one fairs will be preparing for their fairs. Fair season 2024 has begun. Please remember that applications for the Msgr. John Mignot Memorial Scholarship program are due by June 30. This is a great opportunity for young people involved in your fairs to be rewarded for all the hard work they provide for your fairs. Please encourage them to apply.

Capital Improvement applications are also due to the Pa Department of Agriculture Fair Fund Office by June 30.

2024 is an election year. If you are interested in serving your state association on the Executive Committee, please watch for nomination information coming later this summer. An election will be held at our fall zone meeting and six directors will be elected to represent zone one for 2025 and 2026.

At that meeting we will also present the zone person of the year award and the Junior Fairperson Award. Information for the Junior Fair Person Award can be found on the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs' website: pafairs.org.

Hope you have a great fair season

2

Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

I would like to thank everyone for attending the spring meeting at Beaver Community Fair. Everything went well making for a great meeting. We had 20 out of 24 fairs in attendance. Our fall meeting will be at Bloomsburg Fair on October 19, 2024. I am hoping that we can get all 24 fairs attending.

Monsignor Mignot Scholarships are due on June 30, 2024.

Capital Improvements are also due by June 30, 2024. Junior Fair Person of the Year nominations are due by October 1, 2024; and, Fair Person of the Year nominations are due on November 1, 2024.

Hopefully Mother Nature cooperates this fair season and everyone can enjoy the entertainment, fun, food, and fellowship.

The directors will be out visiting our zone two fairs.

3

Zone Three— Debbie Stephenson

Zone 3 meeting was held on April 18, 2024, at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds at 6:30 pm. President Martha Ebersole gave discussion on Vice President Craig Lash gave us a few laughs with some jokes for the evening as well a update from Milliron Goodman, Legislative Caucus, Showcase, and Judging school list and the Queen report from Ruth Trombetta who was unable to be with us. Harry Reffner gave the updated financial report of the association.

All fairs are to have their dues paid for the current year. Our new Pa State Health Vet is Dr Bissett who has been around our area for several years and moved and has returned to us. He had a great presentation on all feathered animals that are still not permitted at these years fairs. Many questions were answered. Questions on any animals should be directed to his office for further assistance. Department of Agricultural Tracy Barone addressed our zone with details on paperwork for each fair to have filled out as much as you can and return to her office by May 15th. It is very important that this is done for items she needs from all fairs across Pa. We were saddened by the loss of fellow director from the Jacktown Fair Dana Wilson he will be missed. Door prizes were greatly appreciated from many fairs and a wonderful meal by the Catering service Post Avenue. You will be seeing your directors of zone 3 at your fairs for their annual visit please be able to answer their questions as your answers are very important to us. If along the fair season questions arise for your fair we are here to help you. Thanks to all of you and have a great fair! !

4

Zone Four— Kevin Bieber

The Zone 4 Director's are once again looking forward to getting out and visiting your fairs. During your visit, please take the time to speak with your assigned Zone 4 Director for that visit. Let them know what we as an organization can consider doing to help your fair, but at the same time, let us know what has been done that helped as well. Our PSACF organization strives to make you and your fair as successful as it can be. Another avenue that you should visit is the inviting of your local legislatures. Please invite them to your fair, and when they arrive, make sure you show them around and really show them how proud you are of your fair and what you have done to help educate the public about agriculture. Also, please remember to thank them for keeping PSACF funding in the budget. Please keep in mind all the deadlines that will quickly be approaching. Those deadlines include Fair Person of the Year nominations, Zone Fair Person, as well as Youth Fair Person of the Year and Baking Contest Summaries. This shall also serve as a friendly reminder to book your rooms for convention. We look forward to having as many Zone 4 fairs at convention as possible. On behalf of all the Zone 4 Director's, we wish all of you the best of luck with your fairs and we also wish the best weather possible on your fair days. Please have a safe and fun Fair !!



PSACF Association Update



As I edit this addition I look at the thermometer and it is registering 95 at 10 am this morning, more of the heat to continue the rest of this week. Makes me wonder what Mother Nature has in store for us this Fair season.

Be sure to check out the new column Debbie Bigelow from Huntingdon County Fair suggested a want and surplus list from each fair. "I just thought that if Fairs had items that they needed and another Fair had items they wanted to dispose of, it would be beneficial to each".

Hershey room reservations were opened earlier this month. Please note the change in policy that "We are asking guests for their credit card numbers to guarantee their reservations, the card will be charged for one night at the time of reservation." As we had mentioned at the Zone meetings there were 200 room cancellations Monday before the 2024 Convention, the PSACF room committee decided to change the policy to the above. See article on reservations in this issue.

Planning is well underway for our 2025 Convention; banquet pricing has been given to us from Hershey, and is not as steep as the first pricing for 2024. Kevin and his committee have had sessions.

Judges school has been posted to the website under Member Fairs Only.

Msgr. John W. Mignot/PSACF Scholarship Program Deadlines to remember: applicant must submit completed application to sponsoring fair by June 30; sponsoring fair must complete endorsement section and submit application to zone chairperson by July 31. Funds are currently available to release all 6 scholarships.

Harry



Above the 20 (the President's husband was MIA for the photo) that attended the IAFE Zone 1 meeting in Springfield in May. "The Fairchick Fund" to extend Marla's influence and empower the next generation of industry leaders which PSACF initiated at our 2024 Convention raised \$9,500 during the meeting's auction.