



Kentucky Department of Agriculture

County Fair Coronavirus Guidance & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) has received a number of questions from Kentucky County Fair Boards regarding the ability to proceed with planning county fairs in 2020 amid the coronavirus pandemic. At this point in time, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture does not believe that county fairs will be able to operate in 2020 like they have in the past due to the pandemic. Local county fair boards should consult their local health department and their County Judge Executive about plans for hosting a fair, should the local board believe they are able to follow state and Centers for Disease Control guidelines. Of course, this is a fluid situation and these guidelines may be changed as more data about coronavirus becomes available.

General Guidance For Hosting A County Fair

- Establish a timeline for making a decision about whether to have a fair; preferably make a decision about a month before the fair is set to begin;
- Review contracts and evaluate if there are any penalties for cancellations;
- Talk with key community partners and stakeholders such as the local health department, County Judge Executive, and local cooperative extension service to develop a plan to protect public health;
- Talk with amusement ride operators about their employee safety plans during the pandemic;
- Estimate anticipated attendance; and
- Consider rescheduling your fair for later in the year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: If we reschedule our fair, are we still approved for KDA financial support?

Answer: Yes, as long as an Initial Request for State Aid form was submitted to and approved by the KDA's Shows and Fairs Division.

Question: Can my county fair board apply for a "split-date" fair this year?

Answer: Yes, a county fair may apply for a "split-date fair" to spread out their 3-day minimum across several weeks and even months. Those wishing to apply should notify KDA prior to the first event by e-mailing lashley.stith@ky.gov or mailing a letter to:

Attn: Lashley Stith
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
111 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601

The document submitted should identify the reason for the request, request approval, and state dates and events scheduled. The Fair Council will review the request at the next scheduled meeting.

Question: We have to cancel our carnival, motorsports, and other activities. Can we still have a fair with agricultural classes and receive KDA funding?

Answer: Yes, as long as you meet the following minimum requirements:

- Conduct an annual fair for at least three consecutive days (excluding Sundays and those fairs who submit a split-date request to KDA and approved by the Fair Council);
- Operate your fair under an incorporated local fair board



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- Present educational programming concerning agriculture through youth organizations such as Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, etc.
- Provide open divisions to both youth and adult exhibitors;
- Represent the following organizations in an advisory capacity on the Fair Board:
 - Local Farm Bureau, County Extension Service, Vocational Agriculture (FFA), Local Livestock Marketing Association (if existing), Local Horsemen's Association (if existing);
- Publish an official fair catalog; and
- Submit all required forms and reports to KDA's Division of Shows and Fairs

Question: Do we need to submit a rough draft of our fair catalog to KDA?

Answer: No, a fair doesn't need to submit a rough draft unless they are looking to obtain partial KDA funding prior to the fair.

Question: Do we need to submit an official catalog or website to KDA?

Answer: Yes, KDA will need a copy of your official catalog or website by December, but preferably at your earliest convenience.

Question: Will KDA award county fair grants this year?

Answer: Yes, the General Assembly has allocated \$300,000 for the KDA's County Fair grant program in 2021.

Question: Has the County Fair Grant program deadline been postponed?

Answer: No, the deadline will remain as October 1, 2020.

Question: Are county fair boards still eligible for a county fair grant if they do not hold a fair?

Answer: Yes, as long as an Initial Request for State Aid form was submitted to KDA's and approved.

Question: I have questions regarding details of our fair horse show and pageants. Who can answer my questions?

Answer: Please contact the Kentucky Association of Fairs and Horse Shows at info@kafs.net or (270) 384-5055.

Question: Can the Kentucky Department of Agriculture provide funding to compensate the county fair board in the case of cancellation?

Answer: The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has no funding or power provided to it by the General Assembly for this purpose.

Additional Resources:

Kentucky Department of Agriculture COVID-19 Updates: kyagr.com/covid19

Commonwealth of Kentucky COVID-19 Updates: kycovid19.ky.gov

Centers for Disease Control Resources: cdc.gov/coronavirus