Fair Foundation Update | Spring/Summer 2021 Edition

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2021 Cowboy Ball



I am honored to be Chairing this year's North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation's Cowboy Ball being held on June 11, 2021. In celebration of our 10th Anniversary, we are introducing a Patriotic theme. I believe it is quite timely for a number of reasons, many of which are obvious,

but one, perhaps not as much.

Personally, I was so moved and deeply

touched by our Cowboys and Cowgirls at the most recent National Finals Rodeo, who stood for the American flag, saluted their God after a safe ride, shared animals and celebrated in each other's successes and expressed

sincere concern for those injured. I don't

believe there is any other sport whereby such patriotism is so visible and widespread as the sport of rodeo. We should celebrate and be proud of our rodeo community! Whether you participate in these rodeo activities, watch them from the arena grandstands or on television....it is hard not to be brought to tears or emotions stirred, when viewing these 'cowboy traditions.' I am filled with pride and so proud of these athletes who put their lives on the line for our enjoyment.

As part of this year's Cowboy Ball, I hope we can keep this same patriotism and spirit integrated throughout our event. Let's be proud to be an American and sing aloud, belting it from the rooftops when Kelly Hughes sings the ever popular, 'Proud to be an American' song during the event. We will have our traditional activities, dance contest, best dressed male and female, gun raffle, grand Silent and Live Auctions, and much of what you have come to know and love about this annually sold out gathering.

We currently, have a record number of Scholarship sponsorships and even three new companies, Edwards Smith Construction, First Interstate Bank and a second

> scholarship from John Magnuson and Hollice Houston thus far, who have stepped up and will be supporting the program this year. Additionally, Barb Renner is our Founding Contributor to our newly launched 4-H Student Grant Program and this recipient will also be recognized on our scholarship wall at the event.

As registrations come in, sponsorships secured, and our first 'Kick-Off' meeting having been held, I can feel the energy and excitement and I am so grateful to those willing to step up and volunteer for such a wonderful cause, the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation.

A special thanks to our returning Title Sponsors, Knudtsen Chevrolet, Kootenai-Shoshone County Farm Bureau and Gem State Mule Company.

Thank you all for your continued support! Kindly,

Gayle Stegmann-Foundation Board Member

Announcement from the President

It is with excitement that I introduce the 'Friends of the Fair' Membership Program. This is a collaborative effort between the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation and the North Idaho State Fair Board to offer support at any level your budget allows and provide fun benefits you can enjoy with your loved ones at the 2021 North Idaho State Fair.

The North Idaho State Fair is a family tradition soon to be 100 years old in the making. It's a place where memories are made and the future is cultivated. The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation is a charitable nonprofit 501c3 organization supported by individuals who recognize the role that the North Idaho State Fair and all its programing plays in our community.

By becoming a part of the 'Friends of the Fair' you will be joining others in enriching the unforgettable memories and traditions you experience only at the North Idaho State Fair. Please join me, the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation Board Members and the North Idaho State Fair Board Members in kicking off this exciting new program with a big bang and join us in becoming a Friend of the Fair. Visit www.northidahofairfoundation.org and click Ways to Give to become a member or call the 208-765-4969.



I look forward to seeing all our Fair Friends at the 2021 North Idaho State Fair this August!

Dwayne Glemser President

President North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation



Recognition Benches and Tables Available

Honor loved ones and memories at the North Idaho State Fair!

We have recently introduced a new program that will add seating to the fairgrounds, support the nonprofit mission of the Foundation and is a great way to honor loved ones and memories. It also provides an opportunity to promote your business for a minimum of 5 years, which is the warranty guarantee on each table/bench.

Tables and Benches can be purchased for a minimal amount of money and your contribution is completely tax deductible.

To learn more about this exciting new program, please contact Gayle Stegmann at 509.994.6098 or Rachel Peters at 208-661-7971.

A Message from Alexcia Jordan, General Manager

With 2020 behind us we are thrilled to say we are moving forward with many events and the fair. For each event, we work closely with our promoters and our local health officials to ensure a COVID Action Plan is in place to help make certain we are hosting safely for those who wish to attend. Events certainly look a little different than before, but they are moving forward, and the best part is each promoter has received great feedback and exceptional turnouts. This gives us much hope for the year ahead.



As we prepare for all that we hope lies ahead we have remained busy to keep improving the grounds. Some things you will notice when you come to the Fairgrounds this year are a new restroom/shower facility and beautiful landscaping at the RV Park. You will also notice new ADA-compliant seating sections in the Findlay Arena. If you come to the

fair you will see new props to better display the over 6,000 exhibits entered into the Fair. Those are just a few of the many projects that have kept our crew busy through the winter and early spring months.

In addition to the annual fair we are also planning some other events that continue to provide quality family entertainment and educate our community on the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Farm to Table Day, Meet a Farmer, North Idaho's Great Pumpkin Fest, North Idaho's Cowboy Christmas and National Finals Rodeo Viewing Party are all set to move forward. You can find more information on these great events at www.kcfairgrounds.com

With more events on the grounds and increased planning needed to produce a ten day fair, it had become time to replenish our staff. I am so pleased to announce we have three new faces at the Fair Office that each bring a valuable skill set to our team. We are entering into a new and exciting time. We are adapting and working extremely hard to see a successful 2021 and bring our community together once again.



Welcome to the Board!



The North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation would like to announce the addition of *Elizabeth Berkenkamp* to our Board of Directors. Elizabeth is the Owner/

Manager of HVR (HooDoo Valley Ranch) Performance Horses, Priest River, ID. She was born and raised in Nashville, TN and with her husband, Karl, who raised cattle and now they raise performances horses. She has served in a volunteer capacity for the Fair's 5D Barrel Series and brings many skills and talents to our board, particularly in her desire and willingness to assist with our major fundraising events, including The Cowboy Ball, Chicks n Chaps and Farm to Table.

When asked about her passion to join the board she said "I believe my background as a paralegal will bring skills and fundraising experience that will be valuable to the board. I also feel my organizational skills and

having previous board knowledge will be an asset." "We are fortunate to have Elizabeth on our board" said Dwayne Glemser, Board President. "She will be a tremendous

Elizabeth can be contacted at Etberkenkamp@gmail.com or Ph. 208.946.0352

resource and knowledgeable contributor in the years to come."

The North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation would like to announce that

Diana Lillefloren has agreed to serve on our board. Dwayne Glemser, President, said, "with her combined previous volunteer service for the Fairgrounds and background knowledge in sales and marketing, she has a deep understanding of our board desires and I am confident she will carry these out with her service on the board."



Diana moved here ten years ago her husband Jay, who retired from the United States Marine Corps after serving 28 years of service. At that time, they started raising cattle and became involved with the fairgrounds by showing their cattle in conjunction with the annual North Idaho Fair and Rodeo.

She has 30-year background in fundraising, sales & marketing and serves on several boards in the community and throughout the United States. She has been a volunteer and sponsor for various events held at the Fairgrounds including Chicks n Chaps, Farm to Table, the North Idaho Fair and the Kootenai Classic.

"My goals are to continue communication and develop relationships with our past, present and future donors. I am excited and honored be a new board member for the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation. I'll be working with some truly inspirational people whom are on the Fair and Foundation board. I look forward to this fantastic opportunity and challenge" said Diana.

Diana can be contacted at diana@northidahofairfoundation.org or Ph. 208.215.4460



We are thrilled to welcome longtime Post Falls, ID resident *Rachel Peters* to our North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation Board. Rachel has been involved with the fair and

our North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation Board. Rachel has been involved with the fair and rodeo for the past ten years and her passion for joining the NIFRF Board is to "continue to grow and give our community the absolute best. From my many years of volunteer service, I know the dedication it takes."

Rachel works alongside her husband, Dr. Bob Peters, as Co-Owners of McKinlay Peters Equine Hospital. "We are passionate about our business and with that comes long hours, hard work, and leadership in order to provide the best service for our customers" Rachel said. She believes because of these things, this same discipline can be transferred to our board, providing added benefits in areas we are seeking these qualities.

In Rachel's first week of serving on the board, she agreed to step up as Chair of our newly introduced, Table and Bench program. (Refer to page 2 for more information on this exciting opportunity to honor loved ones and more). We are thrilled she has accepted and is willing to champion this worthwhile cause.

Rachel currently serves as President of the Northwest Mounted Shooters. Her personal dream is to have an event center at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. That is a lofty goal but with this kind of thinking, we are grateful she has chosen our board to work towards achieving this level of success!

Rachel can be contacted at Sureshot60@gmail.com or Ph. 208.661.7971

2020 Chicks n Chaps raisees over \$12,000

2020 taught us you can't keep a cowgirl down! When we heard that the rodeo was cancelled the committee that coordinates Chicks n Chaps scrambled for ways to raise funds because cancer wasn't shutting down. Chicks n Chaps hosted a "non-event event" by selling 75 wine cups filled with goodies and a raffle ticket for a beautiful pink stone necklace from Bedrock Jewelers.

Thanks to Valley Glass, Texas Roadhouse, Simply Bloom Designs and Bedrock Jewelers and our amazing table sponsors who offered their 2020 registration fees as a donation, Chicks n Chaps raised over \$12,000. Not bad for a non-event event!



Those donors, Advanced Benefits, Gem State Mule Company, Idaho Forest Group, Mountain Power and Valley Glass, have already booked their tables for 2021! We are so grateful for their continued support and look forward to hosting our 13th Chicks n Chaps at the Gem State Stampede on August 27th with the title sponsorship from the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort and Hotel.

Also not about to be left down and out, the Karlgaard Family and Friends hosted their own pink day at the river this summer with games and an auction with the funds raised being donated to Chicks n Chaps. They even had pink t-shirts to commemorate the day! For the last two years this group of family and friends have purchased the VIP table during the Chicks n Chaps auction outbidding all others to earn the special treatment during our Friday event.



2020 check presentation for the Kootenai Health Foundation



Why is Agriculture Education Important? Everyone, by virtue of the fact that they eat food each day, participates in agriculture – they are the end user of what farmers and ranchers produce. The United States agricultural producers make up less than 2% of the population while the other 98+% of the population enjoys the ability to go about their days doing other things and using less of their disposal income for their food than in any other country in the world.

Why is agriculture important to the Fairgrounds? It begins with the history of Fairs being a place for farmers and



their families to proudly exhibiting their animals, crops and wares and learn from each other. As times have changed, Fairs still serve those who grow our food but more importantly they provide an opportunity for that other 98% to experience animals and agriculture so that they can be more knowledgeable, appreciative consumers. Tradition binds Farmers and Fairgrounds together as a place to tell the agriculture story.

So, what is the history of agriculture in our area? It begins in the 1890's with logging to support railroads and mines and the growing of food and forage to support Fort Sherman and the developing towns and mining communities. As the area matured, farming took on a wide variety of crops from orchards, vegetables, grains, hay and cattle. Then with the development of deep wells and systems to water the alluvial Rathdrum prairie soil, the most lucrative crop to emerge was bluegrass seed production which elevated the area to a global leader in that

crop's production. However, within the grass seed production, the practice of burning stubble to physiologically shock the plant to regrow and provide weed control, was met with resistance from another important area industry, tourism and recreation, and in the end those other interests prevailed, and grass seed production moved to other less desirable production areas. Coincidentally at this time Kootenai County was also seeing the beginning of increased population growth. Over time, with this growth, it has become increasing more challenging and economically less viable to farm and that has led to heart wrenching, end of tradition, decisions for many farm families to sell rather than pass the land on to the next generation.

Of the very few families in our area who still make their entire livelihood from agriculture pursuits they continue to produce cattle, grass hay for local horses, alfalfa hay for export, and wheat. Timber, once the king of the area, is still growing but harvest is very limited largely due to environmental restraints and hampered by a lack of local mills as golf courses, parks, subdivisions, and commercial areas now reside where those mills once set. In our more rural areas, we also have many small acreages with those living there either simply embracing "their space" and maybe having a horse or pet animals as well as those who are into agriculture part-time and often sell their garden produce, beef or goat products directly to their customers.

Many of these small acreage families are also involved in 4-H projects. Kootenai/Shoshone counties currently have the largest 4-H enrollment of any county in Idaho. The Fairgrounds functions, during a typical year, as a venue for many opportunities for youth to show their animals, attend workshops, and of course, sell their market animals at the Market Stock Sale that happens during Fair. Beginning this year, with our new 10-day fair, there will be opportunities for open class livestock showing and a place for more of our community to participate with their animals.

Moreover, The Fairgrounds also hosts the annual Farm to Table Ag Field Days for all the 5th graders in our three local school districts. This event can include over 1500 students and entails 20 plus stations taught by farmers who tell their story and explain how food is grown. For adults there is the Meet a Farmer Tour that is organized in partnership with the Fairgrounds, Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber and Kootenai Farm Bureau. Ongoing is the development of a Farm Park at the Fairgrounds for prime education opportunities during our Fair as well as other times during the year.

While agriculture is on the decline in our area, across our nation, 98% of all farms are still family owned. Farmers today are producing more affordable, healthy, and nutritious food on less land with less environmental impacts than ever before. They do this with advances in technology, precision, dedication and hard work. This is a story we all, as consumers, should understand and one that our Fairgrounds will continue to help tell.

Foundation Scholarships



Participation as a board member of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation has a lot of personal benefits such as being a part of great events like the Cowboy Ball and Chicks n Chaps and seeing capital improvements at the Fairgrounds become a reality like the lighting at Findlay Arena. One of the unsung yet truly inspirational benefits is offering scholarships for continued education; funds that come by way of sponsorships to the Cowboy Ball.

Over the past several years, The Fair Foundation has consistently and annually offered a minimum of ten scholarships to area high school seniors or college students continuing their education. The program continues to garner more awareness and support in our community with record funds available to recipients. From November to March, applications are submitted

RETURN TO: Fair Foundation

to the Foundation, then reviewed and ranked by community leaders. The rankings are tabulated by the Foundation's Scholarship Committee and sent to the Executive Committee for the final stamp of approval.

It's a great thing as a scholarship committee member to make those phone calls advising an applicant that he or she will be receiving a scholarship from us. The smile reaches right through the telephone.

Scholarship recipients are recognized at Cowboy Ball through a 'Wall of Honor' viewed by guests as they walk the red carpet. The Fair Foundation also hosts a luncheon attended by recipients and the donors in whose name the scholarship is awarded.

Receiving money for hard work and community involvement is a great thing. Giving money and recognizing someone for his or her hard work and community involvement is a greater thing.

Submitted by Mary Luann Larson, Scholarship Committee Member

DONATION FORM

DONOR NAME:	4056 N. Government Way Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
AMOUNT OF DONATION:	

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Events are changing rapidity due to COVID-19 please see our website.

MAY 18 - 19, 2021	FARM TO TABLE DAYS
MAY 29 - 31, 2021	CDA DOG FANCIER'S SHOW
JUNE 11, 2021	COWBOY BALL
JUNE 18 – 20, 2021	KOOTENAI CLASSIC LIVESTOCK SHOW
JUNE 24, 2021	MEET A FARMER
JULY 1 – 4, 2021	NORTH IDAHO DRAFT HORSE AND MULE SHOW
AUGUST 6 – 8, 2021	NORTH IDAHO OPEN HORSE SHOW
AUGUST 20-29, 2021	NORTH IDAHO STATE FAIR & GEM STATE STAMPEDE
AUGUST 26-29, 2021	GEM STATE STAMPEDE AND XTREME BULLS
AUGUST 27, 2021	CHICKS n CHAPS

Thank you to our 2020 Donors!*

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