

County Fair COVID-19 Guidance

County fair boards should consult state and local health departments about plans for hosting a fair if they believe they can hold events while adhering to state and federal social distancing guidelines. If fairs want to host livestock exhibitions virtually, they should consult the Board of Animal Health.

General Guidance for County Fairs

- Establish a timeline to announce if the fair will proceed or be cancelled.
 - Review contracts and evaluate if there are any penalties for cancellations.
 - Work with county and state public health officials if your fair is planning to proceed.
 - Consider cancelling your 2020 fair if you cannot ensure the health of vendors and attendees.
-

Frequently Asked Questions

If we cancel our carnival/midway and other activities, can we still have a fair with livestock exhibitions?

Yes, if you meet all Minnesota Board of Animal Health requirements for livestock exhibitions. Contact the Board at 651-201-6826 or animalhealth@state.mn.us if you have questions about exhibitions.

Does cancelling our county fair have any impact on our Minnesota Department of Agriculture County Fair Grant?

Yes, most Fiscal Year 2020 County Fair Grant contracts have expiration dates in 2021. The AGRI portion of your grant can be extended so that contract is in effect for a full three years (i.e., early 2023). The Legacy Fund portion of your grant can be extended until June 30, 2022. If your fair is cancelled, you should contact Lisa Sawyer at 651-201-6277 or lisa.sawyer@state.mn.us to inquire about extending your contract or revising your budget and work plan.

Does cancelling our county fair have any impact on our Minnesota Department of Agriculture Premium Payments Reimbursement?

Yes, county and district agricultural societies and associations that wish to receive premiums must conduct a fair and [meet all criteria under Minnesota Statutes \(M.S.\) 38.02](#). A virtual event that allows for exhibits, events or contests for paying premiums would qualify. If you cancel your fair due to COVID-19 concerns, it does not disqualify you under M.S. 38.02 criteria (1) for future years, as COVID-19 is a pandemic. If you have any further questions, please contact Melissa Olson at 651-201-6577 or melissa.olson@state.mn.us.