

DATES TO REMEMBER

— 2021 —

April 15

- PSACF Board Meeting - Zoom

April 21

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Zoom

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Zoom

April 22

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

April 23

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

May 13 - 14

- IAFE Zone 1 meeting— York

May 31

- FAIRTALK material for June due

June 24 (week of)

- 2nd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

August 31

- FAIRTALK material for September due

September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2022 Convention mailed

September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

September 30

- Zone Junior Fair Person nominations due to Zone

October 15

- Showcase apps. Due

- 2022 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 21

- PSACF Board Meeting

October 27

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - TBA

October 28

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - TBA

October 29

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - TBA

October 30

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - TBA

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 issue due

— 2022 —

January 19 - 22

Convention — Hershey



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NO. 1

From our President



I'd like to thank all the Executive Committee members for their support in electing me your president for the next two years. Also, a special thank you goes to Sally Nolt, our Immediate Past President, for all she has done for PSACF and for all the help and assistance she has given me. I would be remiss if I neglected to thank our secretary, Harry Reffner. He is the heart of this Association. We are so fortunate to have someone so dedicated to keep our association running. I'd like to welcome our new directors: Bev Gruber from the Great Allentown Fair, Shirley McIntire from the Mercer County Grange Fair, Dave Cowden from Washington County Fair, and Jody Lambert from the Sullivan County Fair. Also, thanks go to Dave Hallstrom from Clearfield County Fair, John McMullen from Indiana County Fair, Jeff Romesburg of Somerset County Fair, and Lyn Klingerman from Green Dreher Sterling Fair for their many years of service to PSACF. Last year was certainly a challenging year with most of our fairs being cancelled. Then our annual convention was also cancelled. Thank you to Karen Dobson and the Fair Queen Board for presenting a Virtual Fair Queen Program. Congratulations to Addison Neff, from Elizabethtown Fair, our 2021 Pa Fair Queen.

I'd like to thank the Department of Agriculture, our lobbyists, Milliron & Goodman, LLC, and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association for working together with us to develop a Re-Opening Plan for our Fairs this year.

What to expect in the future is not real clear as we prepare this newsletter. We are encouraged that several fairs in Florida have operated successfully with some restrictions on occupancy. We have been working on some re-opening guidelines that hopefully will be ready to distribute to all fairs in time for our spring zone meeting(s).

See "President" next page

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FAIRTALK published four times per year by the Association. Send information for the publication to:
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From "President" previous page

As we get closer to fair time, I hear that most fairs are planning their fairs for this summer. Many probably will have many changes as we work to mitigate COVID-19. As more and more people receive their coronavirus vaccinations, lets hope that this summer will see a prosperous fair season.

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2020 FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR

Presented by Beverly Gruber



Hazel and John Blaney

At the 2021 virtual conference of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) a local man was honored. The organizations most prestigious award of 'Fair Person of the Year' was presented to John D Blaney Jr. of the Fayette County Fair.

John Blaney attended the very first Fayette County Fair held at the present fairgrounds in Dunbar, PA. He has shown animals in 4-H, participated in the livestock sale founded by the local PSU Extension Office and his family. He is a former 4-H Leader, has served on the 4-H Advisory Board, is currently on the 4-H Scholarship Committee and Livestock Sale Committee. John has participated in tractor pulling since the age of 12, starting with dead weight pulling, advancing to weight transfer pulling with WTPA (Westmoreland Tractor Pulling Associates), then on to be a PTPA (PA Tractor Pulling Association) official, then State President and currently serves as an official with NTPA (National Tractor Pulling Association), Lucas Oil Pro Pulling, Full Pull Productions and is the Head Tech Official at the Louisville Farm Machinery Show & Tractor Pull each February. He has been a USHRA (United States Hot Rod Association) tech official for over 25 years where he has officiated truck & tractor pulls and monster truck shows in the United States and Canada.

John has served on the Board of Directors of the Fayette County Fair since 1985 and has been the Treasurer since 1998. He also oversees the off-season rental, serves on the Building and Grounds, Budget, Entertainment, Sponsorship, Parking and Security Committees. He and his wife serve as co-chairs of the Outdoor Arena Committee with support from their family and a large committee of friends.

John represents his local fair and Zone 3 of PSACF on the State Board of Directors since 1998, where he has served on various committees such as: Auditing, By-Laws, Chairman of Communications (5 years), Chairman of Table Topics (4 years), Spouse Committee where he and his wife are Co-Chairs. He was elected Vice-President and is now a Past President of the PSACF Board of Directors. During his term in office, he worked with past president Ron Miller and legislator David Mallard to get full funding restored to the fairs. John and his wife visited all but four of the member fairs in Pennsylvania. He also represents PSACF on the PA State Farm Show Committee and has been appointed by the PA Governor to the Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board.

He has attended nearly every IAFE (International Association of County Fairs) Convention over the past 25 years where he has acquired immense knowledge to bring back and share at the state and local levels. John resides in Franklin Township near Perryopolis PA with his wife of 54 years, Hazel. He is extremely proud of their daughter Jacki, grandson Dalton, and granddaughter Staci Lynn that are involved in most of his endeavors.

John believes in his Fayette County Fair and the fair industry as a whole and works with the local tourism agency and local officials to help assure the growth of agriculture in the public eye.

A SPECIAL 'THANK YOU'

I am honored and pleased to be the recipient of the 2021 'Fair Person of the Year' award. I need to extend a thank you to the Board of Directors of the Fayette County Fair for submitting the nomination and for permitting me the opportunity to be involved with the fair industry at the state and international levels. I am also very grateful for the state committee who chose me for this very special honor. Fairs have become a very large part of me and my family life. These fair activities have provided me with many mentors and very special friends throughout the years. I also extend this thank you to the State Board of Directors that I am privileged to work with and appreciate their support in our joint efforts to improve the fairs in PA.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS



From the PA State Fair Queen

Hello!

My name is Addison Neff and I am honored to serve as the 2021 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. I am the 20-year-old daughter of Dale and Janell Neff of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I have two younger sisters, Alyssa and Alexandria Neff. Together my sisters and I raise French Angora rabbits, Dutch rabbits, Belgian Bearded D'Annver Bantam chickens, and Sumatra Bantam chickens. I was a member of Dauphin County 4-H from age 11- 19 and served as the 2019 Pennsylvania 4-H State Council Vice President. In 4-H, I completed numerous projects including rabbits, chickens, quilting, weaving, spinning, sewing, cake decorating, embroidery, photography, and knitting along. My participation in 4-H clubs has included holding various officer positions and traveling to multiple states on 4-H exchange trips. Competing at the National 4-H Egg and Poultry Conference and attending National 4-H Congress have been two

highlights of my 4-H career. Currently, I am in the process of being coming a Dauphin County 4-H volunteer with the hope of serving and giving back to the 4-H program.

The Elizabethtown Fair is my home fair. For the past eight years, I have attended the Elizabethtown Fair exhibiting rabbits and competing in showmanship along with volunteering in the animal petting area, exhibiting family living items, and demonstrating spinning and weaving. When I look back over the years of being involved in the E-town Fair, I am grateful for the new and deepened friendships, the opportunities to exhibit and participate in contests, and the memories I have made. The Elizabethtown fair is always an event I look forward to all summer.

In 2019, I graduated from Covenant Christian Academy in Harrisburg. In high school, I played on the varsity girls' volleyball and basketball teams, along with singing in the high school choir. Currently, I am a Sophomore at Lancaster Bible College studying Early Childhood Education (PreK-4) with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. I am thankful for the opportunity to represent the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and the agriculture industry. This summer, I am excited for the opportunity to meet new people and to see

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Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

PA Fair Queen Program

By Karen Dobson

For the first time in the PA Fair Queen Program's history, the glitz and glamour of the Coronation did not happen in person in Hershey, PA, but rather virtually over the internet. But COVID can't stop fair queens, and we are proud of the fact that we did not miss a year and were able to our 35th consecutive queen. Congratulations to Elizabethtown Fair Queen Addison Neff of Harrisburg, Dauphin County on being chosen as the 2021 PA Fair Queen!



Addison, the 19-year daughter of Dale and Janell Neff, is a 2019 graduate of Covenant Christian Academy, and is currently a sophomore at Lancaster Bible College where she is studying elementary education to pursue a career as a teacher. Addison was a member of the Dauphin County 4-H member for 8 years and served as Vice President of Internal Affairs for the 2019 Pennsylvania 4-H State Council. Her 4-H projects included showing rabbits and chickens, as well as weaving, spinning, quilting, embroidery, baking, and cake decorating. She has been involved in the Elizabethtown Fair exhibiting rabbits and volunteering in the animal petting zoo for the past 8 years.

Addison will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs at the end of her reign in January 2022.

COVID and event gathering restrictions had an impact on the number of contestants this year since most fairs did not have a 2020 contest or fair event. However, 20 contestants were eligible to compete for the state title and did an outstanding job of navigating the many changes and the technology that were necessary to proceed with a virtual event. The judging was done entirely through Zoom. Each of the 20 contestants was evaluated on written communication, interview and public speaking skills, as well as their knowledge of the fair and agriculture industries,

Five finalists were chosen and gave impromptu answers to a unique question for each finalist that was randomly drawn out of a "hat" by 2020 PA Fair Queen Grace VanSciver.

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Gary Moore, Treasurer,
Ruth Trumbetta, Director
Dr. Sally K. Nolt, PSACF President 2019-2020

2020 PROGRAM COORDINATORS:

Amy Utegg, Correspondence
Karen Dobson & Shelly Shaffer, State Contest
Martha Ebersole, Events/Publicity
John Berne/Judy Kmetz, Ruth Trumbetta &
Linda Grove, Amy Hawn, Charlotte Williams, Fundraising

Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program



Somerset County Fair Queen Abigail Knapp, 18, of Hooversville, PA, was selected as Alternate 2021 Pennsylvania Fair Queen. The daughter of Michael and the late Deborah Knapp, Abigail is studying chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and is involved in the ROTC program. She is a 2020 honor graduate of Shade High School where she was president of the National Honor Society, vice president of her class and secretary of Student Council. She is involved in her 4-H club as secretary, serves on the 4-H Somerset County Council, and shows livestock at the Fair. She enjoys volunteering for the 4-H Rifle program and serves as captain of the Shanksville/Shade Rifle Team.

Other top five finalists were Bloomsburg Fair Queen Bryndil Kemler of Nescopeck, Columbia County; Clearfield County Fair Queen Sarah Swope of Luthersburg, Clearfield County; and McKean County Fair Queen Emma Barr of Smethport, McKean County. Due to the virtual circumstances, there was no Miss Congeniality chosen this year.



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Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

This year's judging panel included Kirk Sattazahn of Pennsylvania, Lynn Talbert of Maryland, and Renee Wilson, also from Maryland. Several past PA fair queens also participated in the coronation ceremony by sending in small video clips of well wishes and encouragement including Denise Sustrik Leigh (Washington County Ag Fair, 1990); Wendy Will Altenbrun (Somerset County Fair, 1991); Jana Duttry Davidson (Clearfield County Fair, 2000); Krystal McCracken Pizarchik (Westmoreland Fair, 2004); Kristi Rooker Kassimer (Fayette County Fair, 2005); Nicole Clemson Mirra (Luzerne County Fair, 2009), Casey Hall McMasters (Troy Fair, 2010); Drew An Brubaker (West Lampeter Community Fair, 2012); Darby Kasper (Tioga County Fair, 2016); Madeline McEachin (Butler Fair, 2017); Elizabeth Voight (Lebanon Area Fair, 2018); and Mikara Anderson (Huntingdon County Fair, 2020).

Since special Queen activities could not be done in person, the program created a "Queen Week" full of virtual seminars, orientation and rehearsals for the contestants to attend. Thank you to Denise Sustrik Leigh (1990) for her online presentation about "Our Role and Opportunities as Women Leaders", Nicole Clemson Mirra for her program on first impressions, public speaking and interview tips and tricks; and to FFA State Officers Mikara Anderson (2020) and Emily O'Brien for their insights on "Staying True To Your Why".

Each contestant received a designed SWAG bag filled with commemorative items including contest t-shirts sponsored by Tina and Sydney Elder of Erie County Fair, glassware etched by Linda Ochoco on behalf of the Middletown Grange Fair, handmade face masks sewn by Lois Butts (Elizabethtown Fair) and her friend from the Elizabethtown Masonic Village Ruth Montalbano, hand sanitizer, special queen program face masks, and copies of the 2020 PA Fair Queen's event brochure and 2021 Coronation Booklet.

This year's state contest could not have been possible without the "can-do" spirit and collaborative efforts of so many from the fair community. We are grateful for the effort so many people put forth to ensure the Fair Queen Program moved forward and persevered.

- 2020 PA Fair Queen Grace VanSciver and Queen Mom Holly VanSciver for handling this challenging COVID year with grace and understanding
- The PSACF Board for its financial support of contest expenses.
- The awesome fair queen coordinators across PA for their encouragement and support throughout the every-changing contest plan.

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Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program



- Our production team of Kevin Bieber (emcee), Dan and Galla (music/sound) and Tim McGowan (videography and livestreaming) for the many long Zoom planning meetings ensure a special and professional virtual event.
- Our FFA friends – Executive Director Mike Brammer and the state officer team for the Zoom breakout rooms training.
- Anita Martin for her steadfast support throughout the planning process, and for setting up a virtual *ThirtyOne* fundraiser to help cover contest expenses.
- Leah Haas of Oley Valley Community Fair for designing the 2021 Coronation Program book cover, and to Tina Elder of the Erie County Fair for producing the book in under 2 days!
- Our friends from the Oley Valley Community Fair who offered their facility for the livestreaming event and made sure all COVID protocols were in place and that our cast and crew were well-fed.
- The following sponsors: Bissinger's Catering & Concessions; Huntingdon County Fair, McKean County Fair, Stineman Ribbon (contestant numbers), Cheryl Army/Zippity Stitch (sashes) and the West Lampeter Community Fair.

Watch Addison and Abigail's official crowning ceremony to be livestreamed through the program's Facebook page [@pafairqueen](#) on Saturday, April 10 at 2:00 pm from the Lebanon Area Fair's Expo Center. They are both anxious to spend the remainder of the year touring PA promoting fairs and agriculture. All appearances must be submitted to PA Fair Queen Events Coordinator Martha Ebersole in writing using the official Scheduling Request Form (available at www.pafairs.org under the "Members-Queen" menu). All requests will be scheduled based on the date the request is received, and the Queen and Alternate's availability. Contact Martha at mebasket@embarqmail.com or 717-834-4435 with any questions.

The 2021 PA Fair Queen Program's Rules and Guidelines for the local contests can be downloaded from the PSACF website: www.pafairs.org (under the "Members-Queen" menu; no login required). Fairs will be asked to complete an official Intent to Participate forms to be added to the list to receive the official 2022 State Competition Application Packet.

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As we approach Spring, we move into nicer weather and final preparations for the Pennsylvania fair season. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to adapt to new methods of doing business, communicating, and gathering in our local community. The pandemic has also caused an increased demand on our charitable food system. Demand remains high and food banks are still addressing that increased need within their communities.

My name is Tom Mainzer and I serve as the Director of Agricultural Partnerships with Feeding Pennsylvania (www.feedingpa.org). Feeding PA helps promote and aid our nine member food banks covering all 67 PA counties in securing food and other resources to reduce hunger and food insecurity across the state. We also advocate on the issues of hunger and food access within the Commonwealth. In my role, I manage the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) Program and help get agricultural producers and food companies involved in our charitable food network.

I am sharing my information in hopes of building upon a successful livestock auction/donation program and expanding to other areas of the Commonwealth. The Central

Pennsylvania Food Bank has partnered with Deb Seibert (Manheim Community Farm Show) to organize "Bid-Buy-Donate" programs at youth livestock auctions in the Lancaster/Lebanon area. Winning bidders can donate their animals and PASS Program funds are used to cover transportation and processing costs for meat that goes to the food bank.

There are multiple winners with this type of program. The youth contestants sell their animal and receive the funds. Those who win the bid and donate would be eligible for a tax benefit. We aim to use local processors and the food banks receive meat products (which are not frequently donated) to share with our neighbors in need. Animals typically include finished cattle, hogs, goat, and lamb.

I look forward to discussing this program with those who may be interested in participating, including fair administrators, livestock superintendents, local agricultural educators (including FFA and 4-H), and even local USDA-certified meat processors.

I am grateful to Harry Reffner and the PSACF for allowing me to share information on this opportunity for your fairs and events. I understand the outlook for the 2021 Fair Season is promising and that there is also much hard work to be done as we approach a new normal. I am available to work with you and your colleagues to provide additional information as needed. I wish you all the best as you move forward with planning and preparations for the 2021 PA Fair Season!

For further Information, please contact Tom Mainzer at 717-257-9850 or tmainzer@feedingpa.org.



In the March 2020 issue of Fair Talk, there was no mention of COVID-19. We knew this virus was beginning to circulate widely, but we had no idea about the devastation it would cause. A year without fairs

was unimaginable; however, that quickly became our reality. Of our 108 agricultural fairs, 103 canceled last fair season. Needless to say, 2020 was not a great year for the fairs, and like many of you, I'm ready for 2021!

As I write this article, I'm cautiously optimistic about the viability of the 2021 Fair Season. On March 15, 2021, the Governor announced revised maximum occupancy limits, allowing 50% occupancy for outdoor events. This should allow fairs to operate while limiting crowd capacity. Mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing will be required, and fairs will need to implement additional measures to help keep fairgoers, vendors, and staff safe this year.

The Manatee County Fair in Florida, the first fair to run in 2021, opened its gates in early January. While attendance was down slightly, the fair manager indicated they had a successful event. They operated with safety mitigation efforts in place and went to great lengths to keep attendees safe.

The PA Department of Agriculture has been and will continue working with PSACF to keep you informed, circulate guidance, and provide examples of best management practices you can use to host successful and healthy fairs.

Things will look a little different, and it won't be business as usual, but we're hopeful it can be done! We will keep you posted with updates and additional information as we move toward the 2021 fair season.

FY 2020/2021 Fair Reimbursements

The Fair Reimbursements have been processed for payment. Fairs should receive their checks by April 1.

FY 2021/2022

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grant Applications

We will open the next round of applications in **May 2021**. Applications will be collected online using the commonwealth's e-grants system.

FY 2020/2021

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Contracts

The contracts for the FY 2020/2021 Capital Improvement Matching Funds grants are in circulation for signature by the fairs. As was done last year, the contracts will be sent and signed electronically, so please be on the lookout for those emails.

FY 2019/2020

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grant Extensions, Final Reports & Payment

Fairs that submitted final reports for their FY 2019/2020 Capital Improvement Matching Funds Project have been paid. All others have been granted an extension of time to complete their projects by June 15, 2021. If your fair feels it will not be able to meet this deadline, please let me know as soon as possible.

2021 Animal Health Regulations, 2021 Youth Fair Poster Contest & Friend of the Fair Awards

The Animal Health Regulations for the 2021 Fair Season, contest rules and entry forms for the 2021 Youth Fair Poster Contest, and Friend of the Fair Award nomination forms can be found on the PA Fair Fund page of PDA's website: agriculture.pa.gov.

You can always call or email the Fair Office:

tbarone@pa.gov, office: 717-772-3094; cell: 717-510-8037
hzarefoss@pa.gov, office: 717-787-6298



2021 Calendar Deadlines

June 1, 2021	Friend of the Fair Awards Due
June 30, 2021	2021 Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grant Applications Due via E-Grants
November 1, 2021	Youth Fair Poster Contest Entries Due
November 15, 2021	Fair Reimbursement Applications Due

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**Okay, 2020 was our 10 Year Anniversary of being in business, but hey, we're calling a "Do-Over" because it was, after all, 2020...*

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:

On January 5th, the Pennsylvania General Assembly held swearing-in ceremonies to kick off the new legislative session (2021-2022). Committees Chairs were named and membership has been assigned. Co-sponsorship memos have started circulating and bills are starting to be introduced and referred to their perspective committees. The two-year legislative session has officially begun.

To officially commence the budget season, Governor Wolf gave his annual budget address (virtually) on Tuesday, February 2nd. The Governor's \$37.8 billion plan is an 11% increase from last year's budget and includes a PIT increase from 3.07% to 4.49%. For the sixth time in a row, his proposal again called for an increase of the minimum wage. According to his plan, the state minimum wage would increase from \$7.25/hour to \$12/hour on July 1st, 2021. Then there would be incremental \$0.50 increases every year until reaching \$15/hour in 2027.

Typically, shortly after the Governor gives his budget address, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees host budget hearings with the various state agencies to discuss the budget plan in more detail. The House Appropriations Committee already completed their budget hearings. However, due to on-going concerns pertaining to COVID, the Senate Appropriations Committee delayed the start of all hearings until March. The Senate hearings are expected to run through April 22nd.

As far as the election outcomes, Republicans still hold a majority in both the House (112-90) and the Senate (28-20). And there were some notable internal leadership elections as well:

House leadership in 2021 is comprised of some of the following team members:

- Republicans:
 - *Representative Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)* will continue as Speaker of the House.
 - *Representative Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre)* will continue as the Majority Leader.
 - *Representative Stan Saylor (R-York)* will continue as the Majority Appropriations Chairman.
- Democrats:
 - *Representative Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia)* became the first female and first African American Democratic Leader of the House.
 - *Representative Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)* will continue as the Democratic Appropriations Chairman.

Senate leadership in 2021 is comprised of some of the following team members:

- Republicans:
 - *Senator Jake Corman (R-Centre)* will serve as the new Senate President Pro Tempore (Joe Scarnati retired).
 - *Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland)* will be the first female Majority leader in the Senate.
 - *Senator Pat Browne (R-Lehigh)* will continue as the Majority Appropriations Chairman.
- Democrats:
 - *Senator Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)* will continue as the Democratic Leader of the Senate.
 - *Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)* will continue as the Democratic Appropriations Chairman.

See Milliron next page.....

From Milliron, previous page...

Tourism Committee Chairmanships (Three Changes):

The House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee will continue to be led by *Majority Chair David Millard (R-Columbia)*. Representative Mary Jo Daley (D-Montgomery) will now serve as the new Minority Chair.

The new Majority Chair of the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee will be Senator John Yudichak (I-Luzerne). And the new Minority Chair will be Senator Amanda Cappelletti (D-Montgomery).

2021 Fair Industry Reopening Guidance

Since mid-January, we have been working closely with both PSACF and PSSA board members to ensure that the fair industry has reopening guidance for the upcoming season. Ultimately, we collaborated to develop reopening guidance that would do the following: 1) Continue to protect the health and safety of event employees, staff and attendees and mitigate further spread of COVID, 2) Supplement state and local health and safety rules, AND 3) Allow for a safe, healthy, fun fair season across the Commonwealth. These initial guidelines were in the format of a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation was given to the Department of Agriculture. They reviewed to make sure that it's consistent with the Governor's Executive Order. If we receive additional feedback, we will adjust our guidance accordingly.

We also want to make note that the association is developing more detailed day-to-day guidelines and will distribute to their members shortly. Stay tuned!

Budget Line Item

The Governor's recent 2021-22 budget proposal includes level funding for the fairs. Under his proposal, the state appropriation would be \$4,000,000. Of course, we'll continue to advocate for the fairs throughout the upcoming budget negotiations. We want to make sure this line item is protected and remains in place, so that it crosses the "finish line."

As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We're excited to continue working with you this session!

In Memory of



Neil H. Baxter, 84, of Albion, died on Thursday December 31, 2020 at UPMC Hamot Hospital.

Neil was a member of the Erie County Cooperative Extension, Milk Marketing Cooperative, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Erie County Holstein Association, the Northwestern School Board, Grace United Methodist Church, Albion Area Fair Board, as well as President of the Albion Area Fair Board for seven years.

2021 Directory Changes

Following were not listed in Directory:

Mimealot 30 Mohawk Trail Greenfield MA 01301

Phone: (413) 695-4001 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.mimealot.com E-Mail:

chris@mimealot.com

Info: 'Sir Mimealot' strolling mime & 'The Copper Cowboy' human statue/robot

Echo Valley

377 Echo Valley Rd New Galilee PA 16141

Phone: (724) 714-9625 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: echovalleybluegrass.com E-Mail: [echovalley-](mailto:echovalley-bluegrass@gmail.com)

bluegrass@gmail.com

Info: Echo Valley has been entertaining people of all ages since 2009 with their variety of traditional bluegrass, gospel, Celtic, and folk styles.

DerbyDog Productions P.O. Box 104 Madison OH 44057

Phone: (440) 479-0376 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.derbydog-productions.com E-Mail:

fhejduk908@yahoo.com

Info: Demolition Derby Promoter.

Following Address Changes:

KOI Drag Racing

238 W. Seminary St Owenton KY 40359

Phone: (859) 576-7380 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: <http://www.koidrAGRACING.com> E-Mail: blossom32379@aol.com

Rock N Roll Pet Store Kids Show

123 Daws Drive Brookville PA 15825

Phone: (814) 715-2609 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.rocknrollpetstore.com E-Mail:

mike@rocknrollpetstore.com

Typo:

KRE Security LLC

11 South 3rd St Hamburg PA 19526

Phone: (610) 562-0971 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: KRESecurity.com E-Mail:

jemes@KRESecurity.com

Fair Personnel changes:

Barry Yarnell - President Centre County Grange Fair

Steve Scalise - President Albion Area Fair (814) 881-9413

Welcome New Associate!

Musical Attractions

Jess Kellie Adams 1117 Millshed Dr Nolensville TN 37135

Phone: (513) 600-1622 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.jesskellieadams.com E-Mail:

jess@jesskellieadams.com

Info: Country music entertainer/band

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Congratulations 2020 State Junior Fair Person



Brandon Sauder from the Ephrata Fair was selected the State Junior Fair Person. He attended the virtual coronation ceremony at Oley and was presented his award.



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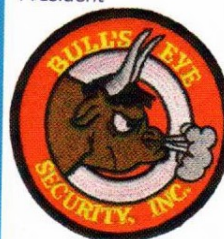
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Cell 814-442-0019

BullsEyeSecurity@Verizon.net

SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

— Karen Dobson



There are four steps you need to know when it comes to the 2021 Special Baking Contests:

1. SIGN UP
2. DOWNLOAD
3. PLAN & CONDUCT
4. POST CONTEST

SIGN UP: Fairs and baking coordinators were emailed a link to register their fair for this year's contests. The deadline to register was March 15. Currently only 89 fairs have responded. If your fair has not yet registered, please do by filling out the short form. <https://forms.gle/qCSqYJkxJbKenbdT6> The information will be used to update our contact database so that fairs can receive updates/changes throughout the year.

DOWNLOAD: The 2021 Special Baking Contest packet is available and can be downloaded from the

PSACF website <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/baking-contest>. Please note that packets will not be mailed or otherwise distributed in paper form this year.

The Contest Packet Homemade Chocolate Cake, Blue Ribbon Apple Pie and Incredible Angel Food Cake contests includes the rules, press releases and Farm Show certifications for the winners. Fairs must update their premium books, websites and other publicity with the 2021 rules. Not using the correct rules will affect a fair winner's chance of winning at the PA Farm Show state competition.

PLAN & CONDUCT: A Contingency Plan has been developed to help fairs whose events may be impacted by COVID restrictions. Fairs will be allowed to postpone their special baking contests to a later date, but no later than October 31, 2021. Here is a summary of the plan:

PLAN A - all PSACF fairs conduct baking contests on regular fair dates and PA Farm Show 2022 runs a normal show in January

PLAN B - fairs conduct baking contests during fair dates OR at a later date/time when it is safe to gather; but no later than 10/31/21. PA Farm Show 2022 runs normal show in January

PLAN C - PA Farm Show is virtual; baking contests are not allowed. State finals date/time TBD when it is safe to gather. Location based on availability and space requirements. Event/Judging livestreamed to broaden sponsor's visibility

3/2021

Remember that fairs are responsible for any special ribbons for these baking contests, and there will only be sponsored premiums for the Angel Food Cake and the PA Preferred Junior Baking Cookies/Brownies/Bars contests. Fairs should also check to make sure they have their Angel Food Cake and PA Preferred sponsor banners.

POST CONTEST: Fairs must submit their final Contest Summary report by November 15 either through the online form or by paper. Sponsor premiums will only be distributed to fairs that submit the contest summary information. Fairs must also provide the official Certification Entry Forms to their winners. If the first-place winner is unable to attend the state finals, fairs have the option to certify the next available winner.

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

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests –

Kevin Bieber (484-256-8009, email KBieber@BBandT.com)

Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests –

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

AND THE EMMY GOES TO . . . our wonderful cast and crew that helped film the videos that were used for the virtual 2021 PA Farm Show. Check them out on our YouTube and subscribe to our channel – [PA State Assoc of County Fairs](#)

Baking a Blue Ribbon Apple Pie - <https://youtu.be/kB6ePYvQzlk> (8:17 min duration)

Homemade Apple Butter - <https://youtu.be/iYOkk0F4k2I> (6:37 min duration)

Judging Photography - <https://youtu.be/52GN83UI5Z4> (7:32 min duration)





PSACF Association Update

Department of Agricultural Poster Contest

The theme is Cultivating Tomorrow. The Contest rules and entry form are posted on our website. By going to www.pafairs.org, highlight the "MEMBERS" banner, a drop down will appear with the Contest toward the bottom.

Msgr. John W. Mignot PSACF Scholarship Program

The 2021 scholarship material has been posted to the association's website. Funds are available for releasing all 6 scholarships. Thanks to the number of individuals and Fairs that have donated.

Recent Mailing

All associate members were mailed membership packets in February. If any associate member had not received their packet, please contact the association office. Due notices have been delayed until after the Fairs receive their 2020 Fair Reimbursement which should be received by April 1. The notices will be sent out later in April.

2021 Fair Theme

"Making Memories One Fair at a Time" will be retained from last year.

IAFE Zone 1 Conference

The meeting will be held May 13 - 15, at Wyndham Garden in York. See schedule in this issue.

Animal Health

The 2021 Animal Health document as presented at Convention is available in the "Fairs Only" section of the website, also on the Department of Agriculture website.

Harry

American Fairs & Exhibitions

The history of fairs is clouded and the record is less than complete. Nonetheless, the story of mankind is replete with references to fairs, not in an institutional context, but as a part of everyday social intercourse. A casual observer might conclude that fairs and exhibitions came fresh out of eighteenth century western Europe, delivered to the colonial docks of Boston and Halifax with a predisposed mission to serve agriculture and animal husbandry. The history of fairs is clouded and the record is less than complete. Nonetheless, the story of mankind is replete with references to fairs, not in an institutional context, but as a part of everyday social intercourse. A casual observer might conclude that fairs and exhibitions came fresh out of eighteenth century Western Europe, delivered to the colonial docks of Boston and Halifax with a predisposed mission to serve agriculture and animal husbandry.

In 1765, less than 300 years after Columbus finished his work in the New World, the first American fair was presented in Windsor, Nova Scotia. The same fair continues to operate today. In Upper Canada, as Ontario was known in early Confederation, a fair was held in 1792, sponsored by the Niagara Agricultural Society. As with Windsor, the Niagara Fair remains in operation today. In addition, many small fairs were held during the early 1700's in French Canada while under French rule.

Similarly, in the not-yet formed United States, a fair was chartered in York (Pennsylvania) in 1765 and it existed as a 2-day agricultural market.

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Please tell everyone that we are looking forward to seeing our PA Zone 1 friends and we are delighted that they will be joining us. The entire schedule, subject to change, follows. Registration is on the IAFE www.fairsandexpos.com/Zone-1 Happy Spring! Kathryn

iafe **Zone1**

May 13-15, 2021
Wyndham Garden
York, Pennsylvania
Hosted by the York State Fair

THURSDAY, MAY 13

5:00-7:00PM	Registration	Main Ballroom Lobby
7:00-7:30PM	Reception	Indoor/Outdoor Courtyard
7:30-10:30PM	Hospitality	Indoor/Outdoor Courtyard

FRIDAY, MAY 14

8:00-12:00PM	Registration	Main Ballroom Lobby
8:15-9:00AM	<i>"Getting It Done in 2021- Fairs That Opened & How"- Jessica Underberg, CFE Erie County Fair NY</i>	White Rose Conference Room
9:15-10:00AM	<i>"Persevering in Trying Times" Marlene Pierson-Jolliffe, CFE Virginia State Fair</i>	Red Rose Conference Room
10:15-11:00AM	<i>"Livestock Shows – Post Pandemic" Kelly Tuckwiller Collins, CFE State Fair of West Virginia</i>	White Rose Conference Room
11:00AM-11:30AM	BREAK	
11:30-12:30PM	Lunch & Keynote- LIFE IS FULL OF "IFS" Marla Calico, IAFE President & CEO	Crystal Ballroom
1:00PM	Depart for Downtown York Tour	Ballroom Lobby for Pickup
2:00-5:00PM	York Agriculture and Industry Museum, Golden Plough Tavern, Colonial Courthouse, Central Market	
5:30PM-6:30PM	York Expo Center Tour	
6:30-7:30PM	Dinner- York Expo Center YPI FUNDRAISER	
8:00-8:45PM	Todd Charles (Comedy/Variety)- York Expo Center Sponsored by Variety Attractions	
9:00-11:00PM	Hospitality- York Expo Center	

SATURDAY, MAY 15

8:30-9:00AM	General Session Gene Cassidy, CFE IAFE Chair Eastern States Exposition	Crystal Ballroom
9:00-10:00AM	ZONE 1 Meeting	Crystal Ballroom
10:15-11:15AM	Carnival Operations – Post Pandemic Jay Strates Strates Shows	White Rose Conference Room
11:15-11:30AM	BREAK	
11:30-12:45PM	Lunch & Keynote <i>"Take Care"</i> - Jeremy Parsons, CFE IAFE 1 st Vice Chair Clay County Fair, Iowa	Crystal Ballroom
1:00-2:30PM	Institute of Fair Management <i>"Government and Community Relations"</i> - Rick Pickering, CFE California State Fair	Red Rose Conference Room
2:45-3:15PM	<i>"The Economic Importance of Fairs"</i> Gene Cassidy, CFE IAFE Chair Eastern States Exposition	White Rose Conference Room
3:30-4:15 PM	<i>"Event Security"</i> Rick Trout, Chief of Police York State Fair	Red Rose Conference Room
4:30-5:15PM	<i>"Sparking Joy -Rediscovering Your Passion & Reenergizing Your Team"</i> Jennifer Giesike, CFE IAFE 2 nd Vice Chair Washington Town and Country Fair, Missouri	White Rose Conference Room
5:30-6:00PM	Happy Hour (Cash Bar)	Crystal Ballroom
6:00-7:00PM	Dinner	Crystal Ballroom
8:00-10:00PM	Hospitality	Indoor & Outdoor Courtyard



**WYNDHAM
GARDEN**





At this time of year, I usually reminisce about fair season. I chat with folks in the office and at holiday gatherings about the most innovative exhibits I saw, or the cutest dairy cow I hugged.

Right now, I find myself talking about the ways fairs rallied to help local communities by serving as food pantry distribution points or COVID-19 testing sites. When it looked like the 4-H competitors wouldn't have an opportunity to showcase their animals, many fairs hosted youth livestock shows and auctions not only for their participants, but also on behalf of other agricultural fairs in their regions. While the spirit of competition runs deep among fairs, compassion and community service are keystones of the fair industry. It didn't surprise me to hear how Pennsylvania's fairs stepped up to help those in need and continued to promote agriculture under less than ideal conditions.

While COVID-19 forced the cancellation of fair activities this year, many fairs continued to upgrade facilities and plan future events. COVID-19 has given all fairs something else to consider in emergency plans, and highlighted the importance of recruiting the next generation of fair board members and the role they will play in solidifying the future of the fair industry.

I've heard from fairgoers from all corners of the commonwealth who, while expressing disappointment that COVID 19 caused the cancellation of "their" fairs, look forward to the next fair season where they can have a milkshake, eat fried cheese and pierogies, sit in the sun to watch tractors on parade, and take in fireworks under the stars. Like most, I'm happy to put 2020 in the rearview mirror.

While we're optimistic for fair season in 2021, now is the time for fairs to plan ahead and begin cultivating tomorrow. It's likely that things will still not be "normal" next summer. Until the general population has access to the COVID-19 vaccine, Pennsylvania will likely remain under some form of restrictions as determined by the Governor and Secretary of Health. Now is the time to plan and adapt, and work towards a safe, healthy 2021 fair season.

Fair Reimbursements

The Fair Grant language of SB 1182 (which was added to HB 2536) has been signed by Governor Wolf as part of Act 114 of 2020. The passage of this bill will allow PDA to issue reimbursement payments to fairs that cancelled their 2020 events and issue contracts for capital improvement project matching funds grants. The Fair Office will reach out regarding the reimbursement process at the end of December.

FY 2020/2021

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Applications

The Fair Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Priority 1 projects submitted in June. Fairs will be notified of final approval in mid-December. We must wait until the applications for Fair Reimbursement, 4-H, FFA, and Statewide Ag Organizations have been reviewed before we can make decisions regarding project funding.

FY 2019/2020

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants

Payments for completed projects have been made. Fifty percent of participating fairs have received extensions through May 2021 because the COVID-19 emergency created a contractor and materials shortage. Upon completion of your project, please submit your final reports so we may process payments by the end of the 2021 fiscal year.

2021 PA Farm Show

The virtual 2021 Pennsylvania Farm Show is scheduled to take place from Monday, January 11 to Friday, January 15, 2021. This year's theme is "Cultivating Tomorrow." Virtual events will be focused on education and awareness for both the general public and the agriculture industry. Events will be available through the PA Farm Show social media pages, website, and a partnership with the Pennsylvania Cable Network. Visit farmshow.pa.gov for details.

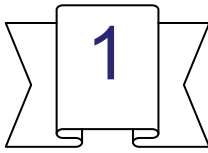
You can always call or email the Fair Office:

tbarone@pa.gov, office: 717-772-3094; cell: 717-510-8037
hzarefoss@pa.gov, office: 717-787-6298

2021 Calendar Deadlines

June 1, 2021	Friend of the Fair Awards Due
June 30, 2021	2021 Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grant Applications Due via

Update from The Zones



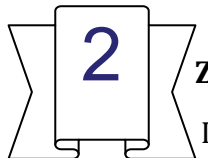
Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

It's hard to believe that we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year now. At least things are looking a little brighter now with the vaccination progress and some mitigation reductions. It is looking more promising for our fairs this summer. Most organizations are currently making plans for their fairs. We will probably need mitigation plans for our events but it is looking more promising now that we will be able to hold an event this year even though it may not be exactly the same as in previous years.

We surveyed the zone one fairs to see if they wanted to have an in-person or virtual meeting for their spring zone meeting. The majority of fairs that responded chose an in-person meeting. So, our spring zone meeting will be held on Friday April 23 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. The Jefferson Township Fair will sponsor a raffle to support the Msgr. John Mignot Memorial Scholarship program. For anyone who may be uncomfortable attending an in-person meeting, you will have an opportunity to join a virtual zone meeting. Watch for more information on the zone meeting coming soon.

Please remember that if you have high school or college aged volunteers at you fair, please suggest that they apply for the Msgr. John Mignot Memorial Scholarship. PSACF has given six \$1,000 scholarships each year. You can find the details on our website: pafairs.org. Application deadline is June 30.

Let's hope for a successful fair season this summer.



Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

It is hard to believe spring is right around the corner, after a very snowy winter here in the Northeast corner. No Convention or Zone meetings – hope in person is right around the corner, so we can all get together again. The vaccines are out and hopefully we can get back to socializing and in turn, get back to a fair season.

The Department of Ag post contest's theme for this year is "Cultivating for Tomorrow". Poster contest is coming down the road. Premium books can be published on-line and send PDF to Tracy at the Department of Agriculture.

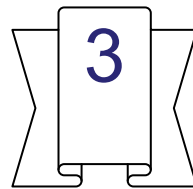
IAFE Zone 1 meeting in York, PA, from May 13 to 15, 2021. You can register on-line at the Zone 1 section of the IAFE website.

The 2021 Fair Queen is Addison Neff from the Elizabethtown Fair. Congratulations Addison.

We would like to welcome Jody Lambert from Sullivan County Fair to the PSACF Board. She will be a great asset.

We will be using Zoom to conduct spring Zone and State meetings. I cannot wait to see some normalcy back in our country so that we can carry on with our business.

Hopefully, we will see you at the fair!



Zone Three — Debbie Stephenson

Happy Spring FINALLY! It is so wonderful to finally see grass again. It is hopefully going to be a great year for all fairs across the USA and especially in PA. Most fairs by now have had a board meeting or two and are in the planning stages for their 2021 fair season around the Covid 19 virus. You should have received by now the Baked Goods email for all the fairs to sign up for the state baking contests for your fairs and downloaded the instructions and forms- if not please contact Karen Dobson or Harry. We have elected a new President for all zones Sam Zaffuto and Vice President Martha Ebersole. Congratulations to both. Don't forget to go on the state web site and download the Msgr John Mignot Scholarship and get those out and returned to the fair the student represents by June 30 and the deadline for those to the Zone Chairperson is by July 31 to Debbie Stephenson. Any questions or problems contact her. For those fairs that hold harness racing the Wolf Administration is looking to take monies from the Race Horse Development Fund in his new budget proposal. This would be devastating to Harness Racing and also to the sixteen PA fairs that have racing at their fairs. We will keep you updated. Hopefully we can get back to business as usual as it can possibly be in 2021 and we wish you all a great fair season. Our zone meeting will be hosted by the Westmoreland Fair April 22nd. Details to follow, as we aren't sure of what the Governor will do.

See "Zones" next page

From "Zones" previous page

4

Zone Four - Kevin Bieber

As we watch the snow finally melt and the weather start to get a bit warmer, you cannot help but think that fair season is right around the corner. Although just about the whole fair season was taken away from us last year, it is everyone's hope that 2021 will bring a resumption of our great fairs. Unfortunately as I write this article, Zone 4 is aware of two fairs that had to make that tough decision already since their fairs are early in the year. Sadly, Delaware Valley A Day and Schnecksville Fair have cancelled their fair this year. As we all know, COVID still seems to be hanging around, however I believe we are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a long dark tunnel !!!

I can assure you that our Zone 4 Director's cannot wait to get out to your fairs. Although we all know that we may need to think outside the box and make some modifications due to COVID, we also know one thing for sure, that is we are PSACF fair people and not much will stop us from getting back

to showcasing our number one industry in PA. Some bright notes to address is a hearty congratulations to Addison Neff of the Elizabethtown Fair, Addison was named the 2021 PA State Fair Queen in January. Addison is the first and hopefully last fair queen to be crowned virtually. Plans are in the works to present Addison with a true crowning in the near future when it is safe to do so. Congratulations Addison, we all look forward to seeing you at the fairs. Congratulations are in order for Brandon Sauder from the Ephrata Fair, being selected the State Junior Fair Person. Brandon is very active in the fair and is designing a new website for the Fair. Also, we would like to congratulate Martha Ebersole for being named the PSACF Vice President. Martha has always had a love for fairs and agriculture, so you can only imagine that she will represent us well.

Please remember to invite your legislators to your fair, also, please remember to thank them for the generous funding they provided to us even though we did not have fairs in 2020. See you at your fair !!!!!



Message from Our Associates

— Galla Higinbotham

What a year it has been. By now everyone knows someone, or several, or even many, who were sick with the COVID virus. Most recovered, but there is a very real regret and sadness for those who did not.

At the time of this printing, there is hope that things may be able to loosen up a little around the state. With more and more people able to get vaccinated, and if the positivity rate stays down, possibly life may start returning to pre-pandemic normalcy.

Having experienced something as life changing as the pandemic, "normalcy" will be a bit different. We are all different than we were a year ago. Our good friend Larry, from the Erie County Fair at Wattsburg told me about a Fall event back in October. It was family-friendly, geared to kids, offering hayrides and socially distanced outdoor activities. He was one of several food vendors and remarked that there was a long, long line stretched out to the parking lot for the whole event and no one complained. They were just happy to be out together doing something and grateful to have some of their favorite fair food.

I am hearing stories like that across the state: people grateful for, dare I say, things they may have taken for granted before? It will be a whole new adventure, as we start "emerging" from lockdown.

Let's hope that includes fairs, festivals, carnivals with folks happily attending, seeing things with new eyes, appreciating all that our industry has to offer.

We fair associate members, showmen and fair people are resilient, if nothing else, and able to reinvent ourselves and adapt to new challenges. By summer, with guidelines in place, I have my fingers crossed that we will have a good fair season. See you there! Galla dangalla@uplin.net