

Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs PSACF

I. Description and a sampling of the 115 fairs in Pennsylvania

A. County Fairs

1. Seven or more days
 - a. Grange in Centre is an encampment
 - b. Bedford, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Fulton, Cambria are typical of the county fairs

B. Community Fairs

1. Blair County has seven
 - a. Sinking Valley
 - b. Claysburg
 - c. Bellwood
 - d. Morrison Cove Community Fair
 - e. Morrison Cove Dairy Show
 - f. Williamsburg
 - g. Hollidaysburg

C. Ownership

1. Many of your fairs are partners with a fire company, American Legion, Community Park Association, school district, Lions Club, or main street USA.
2. Some are incorporated and owned by the fair association.

II. Qualifications to become a fair

A. Class 'A' Fair

1. 40 or more acres
2. 5 or more days of operation
3. \$10,000 or more in premiums paid plus ribbons, trophies, and other awards

B. Class 'B' Fair

1. 30 or more acres
2. 5 or more days of operation
3. \$7,500 or more in premiums paid plus ribbons, trophies, other awards

C. Class 'C' Fair

1. 20 or more acres
2. 5 or more days of operation
3. \$5,000 or more in premiums paid plus ribbons, trophies, other awards

D. Class 'D' Fair

1. 10 or more acres
2. 3 or more days of operation
3. \$2,500 or more in premiums paid plus ribbons, trophies, other awards

E. Class 'E' Fair

1. Less than 10 acres

2. 3 or more days of operation
- F. If you are applying to become a fair
 1. You are on a three years probation
 2. You must have a minimum of twelve departments with at least 5 exhibitors per department.
 3. Must maintain an efficient set of records subject to state audit

III What is our relationship with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

A. Eric Cowden, Chief of Division of Fairs

1. Fairs, depending on their classification, are reimbursed for certain expenses and ½ of their premiums paid to a certain limit. Example: Class A is a max of \$15,000 for \$30,000 spent with certain limitations.

2. Capital Improvements are paid in matching funds to a maximum of \$25,000. Example: If a fair spends \$60,000, the maximum reimbursement will be \$25,000.

3. Eric works very closely with fairs on rules, paper work, and regulations

4. Personnel from PDA identify with health rules, ethics in the show ring, improving the quality of the market animal carcass, and milk free from any contamination.

B. Future Farmers of America

1. Projects culminate at our county fairs and many of our community fairs.

2. Demonstrations build a connection between the farm and urban dwellers

3. Our food chain is on review in many departments.

IV. What is our relationship with the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

A. Extension Staff

1. Share in the responsibilities of staging a fair

a. Leadership

b. Manual labor

c. Administrative

B. Ag Science Researchers lecture and demonstrate

1. General Public wants to know about and how it effects them

a. Cloning

b. Growing 'Green' Energy

c. Infectious Diseases

d. Parasite and pest control

e. Clean air

f. Clean water

g. Credits for eliminating excessive carbons, nitrogen, and phosphorus in

our atmosphere.

C. 4-H

1. Culminating their activities at the fair

a. Contribute to a family fair

b. Learning experience

c. Leadership

d. Involvement in meaningful activities

D. Garden Club

1. Demonstration plots
2. Lectures
3. Question & answer period

IV. Are We Effective in Promoting Agriculture

A. The fairs are where America meets

1. The business community
 - a. TV, Radio, and Newspaper are expensive advertising so they are vendors to have hands-on relationships with the people
2. Food Vendors
 - a. Oley Fair in Berks County
 1. Manages their own food with 22 churches participating
 - a. In three days they take in \$350,000 in food sales
3. Fairs are a homecoming
 - a. Our web site and e-mails take hits a year in advance enabling people to arrange their vacations for the county fairs.
4. Opportunity for non-profit organizations to fund their charities for the coming year

- a. Fire companies
- b. Lions
- c. Art Councils
- d. Churches
- e. Garden Clubs
- f. School groups

V. State Fair Convention

A. PSACF pays out \$14,000 to bring in speakers from across United States to 'feed' the 1,850 delegates to do a better job and assist them in solving some of their concerns.

VI. Vision

- A. Fairs are the means to preserve Agriculture
 1. We must give our people knowledge
 2. By doing that we change attitude
 3. If attitude changes we ultimately change behavior
- B. We need the \$4,400,000 to continue the mission