

# 2020 Three County Fair Hits Reset and Postpones Planned Fair Until 2021

## *Exhibitor Only Agricultural Fair to Take Place Under Current Phase 3 Restrictions*

- Monday, July 20, 2020 -

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**Northampton, MA** – The Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden Agricultural Society, the non-profit organization that manages the oldest continuously operated agricultural fair in the country, has announced the postponement of the originally scheduled 2020 Three County Fair until September 3-6, 2021 due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

In the meantime, fair officials have begun the process of outlining an alternative Three County Fair for exhibitors only and limited agricultural competitions taking place following approval from local officials and within existing guidelines, protocols and restrictions for Indoor & Outdoor Events under the Massachusetts Reopening Plan.

“At this time, large venues and sizeable crowds are still prohibited until vaccines or treatments are developed, which is in place out of precaution and best interest of the general public, including our fairgoers” stated James Przypek, General Manager of the Three County Fair. “We did our due diligence and prepared to operate with new measures in place for fairgoer safety and held out as long as we could, but the large venue restrictions make the originally scheduled fair improbable.”

Three County Fair “2.0” would take place on the same days over Labor Day weekend this year but will be closed to the public. Competitions will be limited to only two different livestock shows per day to stay below the current capacity limitations. Exhibitors who enter the Exhibit Hall competitions, including arts & crafts, baking, needlework, photography, and more, will be required to drop off their entries in advance with judging taking place on Friday.

The anticipated schedule for the Three County Fair “2.0” is:

Friday, September 4 – Exhibit Hall Judging

Saturday, September 5 – Boer Goat & Youth Oxen Shows

Sunday, September 6 – Adult & Youth Dairy Shows

Monday, September 7 – Youth Rabbit & Sheep Shows

“You don’t get to be the longest running agricultural fair in the country without being able to adapt, adjust and evolve” continued Przypek. “Hitting the reset button on this year’s fair and being able to conduct a handful of competitions helps us fulfill our mission to promote agriculture in the three Western Mass counties that we represent. We have a duty to all of our supporters to continue with this purpose to keep the next generation engaged in the agricultural education and science that helps sustain our everyday lives here in the Pioneer Valley.”

More information on Three County Fair “2.0” and how to enter one of this year’s competitions can be found on the company’s website, [3countyfair.com](http://3countyfair.com)

**About the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society:**

Located in Northampton, Massachusetts and incorporated in 1818, the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society promotes agriculture, agricultural education, agricultural science and sustainability for the region through exhibitions, displays, competitions and demonstrations and operates The Three County Fair, “America’s Oldest Fair” annually over Labor Day weekend.

**For more information:**

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