

Thank you to those who responded to the 2017 Johnson County Fair survey.

We will take into consideration all your points and make every effort to address them. Below are answers to a few of your survey questions.

- 1- A lot of you requested a rodeo. Fair board would love to have a rodeo! The cost of a rodeo is extremely high. To contract the company for the stock (bulls, horses, sheep etc.) It is well above \$20,000.00. Our stands are never sold out and because this is not cost effective we chose not to have a rodeo.
- 2- Bathrooms were mentioned often in the survey! Believe us when we say we totally agree with you. This year we completed new bathrooms in the Open building to bring them up to ADA code. This was very costly \$40,000.00. As much as we would like to upgrade all the bathrooms our budget does not allow for those upgrades every year.
- 3- Many of you expressed frustration about entries, checks, payout, and accuracy of premium checks. We realize there are growing pains with our entry system but we can assure you the program we use "show works" is one of the most used by fairs. As with all technology there is good and bad. We cannot go back to mail in entries because we just do not have the volunteer man power to input all that data. When it comes to payout checks for exhibits, results pass through a few channels and that leaves room for error. The superintendent must enter all results correctly. This year some superintendents didn't enter results at all! If results are not entered you don't get paid. If the ribbon placing is on the wrong line you don't get paid, if the ribbon is recorded incorrectly you get paid wrong. We are working hard for a solution to this but remember everyone is a volunteer here and doing the best they can.

4- Judges- All 4-H judges are hired by the Extension Office, Open Judges by the Open class superintendents. Concerns about 4-H judges, long lines, food at the food stand etc. should be addressed to the Extension staff as they govern 4-H exhibits. It might surprise you to learn the fair board has no control in decision making and or management of 4-H non-animal projects and limited input with livestock at the fair! Fair books which are organized, published and paid for by the fair board, cannot be completed until Extension Board approves it.

5-Requests were made to have all the 4-H members premium checks go to the community leaders or the Extension office to hand out. It is our belief we would have considerably less help for cleanup, and exhibits would remain. It is extremely frustrating to have long lines outside the office when trash is still on the fairgrounds. In the future, every attempt will be made to have lists of areas needing cleaning.

6- FYI- Just to name a few things fair board is responsible for that you don't realize are, premium money for all ribbons, it also pays for all the ribbons (that averages \$3,000 per fair), all judge's expenses and mileage, entertainment in the memorial building, events in the arena, buyer's lunch, and all up keep, maintenance and improvements are done by the fair. Utilities are well over \$30,000. You can't even imagine how much fair board pays for insurance!!Major improvements this year were the open bathroom (\$40,000.) and cattle barn (\$15,000.) At any given moment during the year, fair board volunteers can be seen fixing washed away rock, overflowing broken toilets, ceiling fans, broken windows, digging ditches, cleaning up flooded buildings, cleaning up fire extinguishers sprayed by vandals, picking up trash, learning new data systems, balancing books, taxes, building stalls, fixing fences, changing light bulbs, winterizing outbuildings..... The list goes on.

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Volunteer opportunities:

“Volunteers are not paid –not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless”

The Johnson County Fair is managed and operated by volunteers. We welcome new members. The general fair board will meet November 1st for our annual meeting, 6:30pm Open building. Fair board would like to invite you to join us for a pot luck. Fair board will provide drinks, meat, paper goods. The Livestock club has offered to provide desserts as a thank you to the board. Bring a side to share along with fellowship.