

## DATES TO REMEMBER

— 2021—

### March 25 (week of)

- 1st Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

### April 15

- PSACF Board Meeting

### April 21

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - TBA

### April 22

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

### April 23

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - TBA

### April 24

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - TBA

### 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 14

- PSACF Board Meeting

### October 20

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - TBA

### October 21

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - TBA

### October 22

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - TBA

### October 23

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair

### 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



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December 2020

NO. 4

## From our President



It seems impossible that my two years as PSACF President are coming to an end. I can't believe how fast the time has flown by! It has truly been a pleasure to serve as your President. I loved touring the state visiting fairs and meeting so many wonderful people. I was very disappointed to miss the Fairs I would have visited this past Fair season.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for the hospitality I received during all of my fair visits, zone meetings and numerous other events. I would also like to thank Harry and Karen and the other members of the PSACF Board for their tireless dedication and assistance. What an amazing group!

I would again like to thank Grace for serving as our 2020 State Queen. She has gone over and above to be innovative with limited live activities. If you have not seen the videos that she helped prepare for the virtual 2021 Farm Show, please take the time to view them...they are awesome! Thank you to Karen, Kevin and Grace and those who participated in organizing and completing this project.

Karen has worked hard to plan for a State Queen Competition for 2021 but the new COVID restrictions are putting this in jeopardy. Hershey is willing to work with us with no penalty if we cancel. A decision will be made January 15<sup>th</sup> on the Fair Queen Competition, Board Meeting and Annual Meeting. In preparation for the Annual Meeting please review proposed By-law changes. Hopefully we will be live in Hershey in January!

Please thank your legislators for their continued support of fairs and agriculture. The budget is final and we will receive funding based on what was received in 2019. Thank you to Milliron & Goodman, LLC for their efforts in helping to make this possible.

As fairs begin preparations for 2021, I remain hopeful that they will be able to operate. Good luck to all of you! May you all have a Wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

Please stay safe.

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*The Big E, Eastern States Exposition*

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## From the PA State Fair Queen



Hi Everyone!  
We've almost made it through 2020- a year to remember! While we weren't able to gather as extended family over Thanksgiving, there is still much to be thankful for!  
While I will soon be done with my first semester at Penn State (online through the end of finals), the next event will be the 2021 Virtual Pennsylvania Farm

Show. I must admit that while I am disappointed at missing the Farm Show in person, I am encouraged with the creativity of individuals who have been stepping up to offer all Pennsylvanians a variety of virtual experiences. I had a wonderful day at Oley Valley Community Fair recently meeting some incredibly talented fair members and creating three videos with them that highlight the process of making apple pies, apple butter, and judging photography! These videos, produced by the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) for the 2021 Virtual Pennsylvania Farm Show, will be featured on the Farm Show's social media platforms in addition to adding them in the Farm Show's website Resource Library. The Farm Show Communications Director is also working with PCN so that Pennsylvanians can watch the videos through their Cable Network! Stay tuned for updates and announcements through social media! I also look forward to seeing the many ways that others represent their commodities during the virtual Pennsylvania Farm Show week in January.

Soon after the Farm Show ends, I'll be turning my

attention toward the PA State Fair Queen competition. Unfortunately, the state convention has been canceled and the only event held at the Hershey Convention Lodge will be the Fair Queen competition in a much lighter capacity. While there will only be fewer fair queens competing, it does not make the contest any less important! I want to encourage those of you who are preparing to attend the competition to prepare just as much because you represent your fair in both good and difficult times. While it has been the norm in the past for PA State Fair Queens to be visible at state fairs and events, this year – and moving into next year – a spirit of flexibility and creativity has been necessary. If you are one of the Fair Queens getting ready for the competition in Hershey this January, please keep in mind the quote by Paul Lutus: "The most successful people are those who accept and adapt to constant change. This adaptability requires a degree of flexibility and humility most people can't manage." This next year will require adaptability, and whether you become the next State Fair Queen or continue to represent your Fair at the county level, I encourage you to lead with flexibility and humility. I'm excited to meet with those of you who come to Hershey in January! We get to experience something memorable and definitely a year for the books! I want to thank all of the ones who creatively found ways for me to engage with your fairs and events this year. And looking ahead, I also want to thank those who are making adjustments so that the State Fair Queen competition can still take place in January.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Grace VanSciver

2020 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen

## *Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program*

### **2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

John Berne, Chairman  
Judy Kmetz, Vice Chairman  
Karen Dobson, Secretary  
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  
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*\*Okay, 2020 was our 10 Year Anniversary of being in business, but we're calling a "Do-Over" because it was, after all, 2020...*

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**HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:**

As expected, the Pennsylvania General Assembly added a handful of session days in November to complete the remaining seven-months of the 2020-21 budget. You'll recall in May, the legislature passed a mostly level-funded, five-month budget to hold the state over until November, giving the economy some time to recover from the pandemic.

Late in the evening, on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the legislature fulfilled its obligation and passed the remaining portion of the budget, surprisingly without increasing taxes or making any major funding cuts. Those tax hikes and potential funding cuts were avoided, in part, by filling the budget gaps with \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus funds. The grand total of the 2020-21 budget plan was \$35.5 billion, just a 2% decrease from last year.

On Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Governor signed the budget into law, which will complete the budget through the end of the fiscal year, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The 2019-2020 legislative session officially ended on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, so any bills that weren't signed into law are now done and will have to be reintroduced next session.

As far as the state elections go, Republicans held onto both the House (112-91) and the Senate (29-21). New legislators will take their oath of office on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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

**Republicans:**

*Representative Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)* will likely continue as Speaker of the House. His nomination will be voted on in January.

*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)* will become 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 will be 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 is retiring).

○ *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...

**LEGISLATION:**

Senator Michelle Brooks' SB 1182 amends the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act of 1986 by creating the COVID-19 Emergency Agricultural Fair Grant Program. The program will essentially provide for continued state funding for fairs who were forced to cancel their annual events as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency. The total grant dollars for eligible fairs will be equal to the amount received last year. And the authority of the Department of Agriculture to distribute funds will terminate when there are no remaining dollars left under the program.

We were able to get the bill out of the Senate with a unanimous vote. It was then amended in the House, both in the Agriculture Committee and on the floor. However, there were too few session days remaining to get: a House floor vote, a Senate concurrence vote, and to the Governor's desk, all before November 30<sup>th</sup>. Instead, the language was included in the fiscal code (HB 2536) as part of the budget package. The fiscal code passed out of the Senate (33-16), the House (108-92) and was signed into law by the Governor as Act 114 on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. It took effect immediately.

We are all hopeful that this funding will sustain the fairs until next season.

We look forward to continuing to work with you next session. Have a very happy and healthy holiday season!

**PSACF PRODUCES EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS FOR VIRTUAL FARM SHOW**

BY: Kevin D. Bieber

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs will play an important part in the 2021 PA Virtual Farm Show. Our organization produced and filmed three educational videos that will be found in the Resource Library on the PA Farm Show web site. However, we should also keep an eye out as these videos might also be found on PCN the week of the Virtual Farm Show.

The videos included how to make an apple pie, how to make apple butter and can it, as well and the art of photography judging. The videos were filmed on location at the Oley Valley Community Fair Fairgrounds and also included our very own PSACF Fair Queen Grace VanSciver. Grace played an important role in the videos by asking educational questions that were answered as the baking and judging took place.

The PSACF would like to thank our key "movie stars" as they did a fantastic job with their part of the video. Marie Haas used her baking knowledge as she made the apple pie, Shirley Moyer made the apple butter as well as showing how to can that product and Harold Hoch used some award winning photos to show what makes one photo so much different than another. These volunteers are all volunteers with the Oley Valley Community Fair.

We also need to thank our very own Karen Dobson for doing all the filming. The videos were sent to the Farm Show in preparation of the virtual event and received great reviews from the Farm Show Executive Staff. These videos will provide great exposure for the PSACF and our Fair Queen.

## Congratulations 2020 Junior Fair Persons

Due to COVID recipients received their awards by mail.



Zone 1 Landis Crawford from the Crawford County Fair



Zone 2 Cameron Koppenhaver from the Gratz Fair



Zone 3 Colt McDonald from the Bedford County Fair



Zone 4 Brandon Sauder from the Ephrata Farmers ay Fair



The PSACF Junior Fair Person Committee will select the State Junior Fair Person recipient.

The PSACF Junior Fair Person will receive an invitation to attend the PSACF Convention award presentation (pending COVID mandates). PSACF will pay for (2) banquet tickets and one (1) paid hotel room (room/tax only). The three runner-ups will receive an invitation to attend the award ceremony at their own expense.



## PSACF Association Update

### **2021 Fair Information Request**

Request for changes to be placed in the 2021 Directory were sent out, with a requested return date by December 1st. There are a few fairs that have not returned the request and need to shortly to be included in the Directory.

### **Mailing**

The office has mailed out the proposed By-Laws changes as presented by the Committee on December 9th. With the mailing was the Credentials for the Annual meeting.

### **2021 Fair Season**

A rumor has been heard in Zone 3 that the Governor has cancel all Fairs in 2021. Checking with various sources they are telling me that this is not true.

### **Annual Meeting**

At this writing the Governor has mandated Indoor gatherings and events of more than 10 persons are prohibited. All in-person indoor dining at businesses in the retail food services and private catered events is prohibited. This is in effect until 8 am January 4th. We are reviewing the Statutes of Pennsylvania in regards to an in person Annual Meeting.

### **Pandemic**

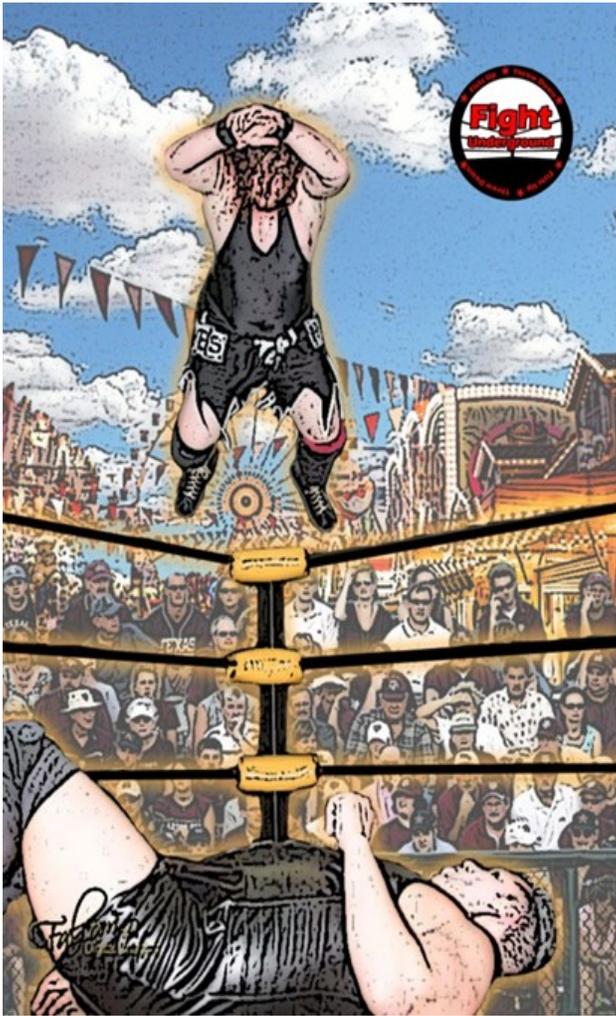
The Pandemic has had a immeasurable affect on our Fairs, our Associates, our personal lives and the world. We can only pray that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and 2021 will return us to some type of stability.

Stay save and healthy.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

*Harry*





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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](http://farmshow.pa.gov) for details.

You can always call or email the Fair Office:

[tbarone@pa.gov](mailto:tbarone@pa.gov), office: 717-772-3094; cell: 717-510-8037  
[hzarefoss@pa.gov](mailto: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



# VARIETY ATTRACTIONS

SINCE 1961

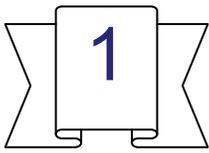
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# Update from The Zones



## **Zone One** –Sam Zaffuto

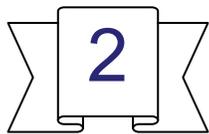
What a year it has been! But we have made it to the festive time of the year.

I will miss seeing everyone at the convention in January but our Association is strong and we will all pull through this together.

Plans for most of our fairs were shattered this summer and now having to let go of many of our long-standing holiday traditions is a trying change for most of us.

This holiday season is unlike any other. Throughout this season and as we look forward to a new (and hopefully better) year, I hope you will find moments of peace, connections with family and friends even though they may not be in person, and the warmth of memories from previous holidays.

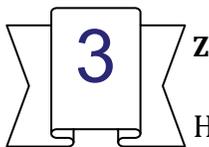
Please be safe and have a happy holiday season as we look forward to a better year in 2021!



## **Zone Two**— Roger Dirlam

It was great news that Governor signed the bill to pay Fairs the same amount of funding they received in 2019.

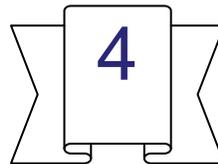
I would like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season – Hope to see you soon.



## **Zone Three** — Debbie Stephenson

Happy Holidays to all of you!! I hope this finds you all in good health as this has been a heck of a year for all involved with fairs as you all know. Just a few notes on some things as most of you know the 2021 Hershey Convention will NOT happen this year. The PSACF board and Hershey Convention Center tried really hard to make it happen but with the new restrictions it is not possible. With this being said please be of good cheer and good health wishing you all Merry Christmas!!

The Queen Board is trying to still hold a live contest of the few fairs that held a contest in lei of keeping the one from the previous year and that is still awaiting new developments from the governor. We hope that everyone is moving forward with their fair schedules and all that you do in preparing for next year's fair. One can only hope this whole year can be put behind us and move forward. Please remember to check your mail as Department of Agricultural will be sending paperwork to your fair that is important for all fairs in the next few weeks and will need to be returned to Tracy Barone.



## **Zone Four** - Kevin Bieber

This is normally the time of the year that we are all preparing for the Holiday Season and getting ready to ring in the New Year. It is also about that time that we are thinking about gathering in Hershey to be with all our fair friends and enjoy a few days of educational seminars, trade show, entertainment and just plain having some fun. However, we all know that 2020 has been anything but normal. As we prepare to roll into 2021, it is my prayers and hopes for all of us that COVID 19 quickly becomes a “thing” of the past and we can all get back to doing what we enjoy. Of course that is preparing and having a 2021 Fair !!!!

We recently received some good news in regards to HB2536 (formally SB1182) that fairs that did not have their fair in 2020 will be eligible and receive funding equal to their 2019 reimbursement. We want to make sure that we take a moment and thank our legislators for taking us into consideration when it came to this relief money being utilized for our fairs. Please be sure to take a moment, call them or send a note of thanks, and of course invite them to your 2021 fair. On behalf of Zone 4, I want to thank Dr. Sally Nolt for a fine job the last two years as she served us as the PSACF President. It certainly was not an easy task given the situation we all dealt with this past year. Thank you again Sally, we all certainly know your heart is in Fairs !!!!

I certainly want to take this moment and wish every fair in Zone 4 and across Pennsylvania and very happy and safe Holiday Season. Best wishes to all and please STAY SAFE !!!!



## Message from Our Associates

— Galla Higinbotham

Merry Christmas  
from Dan & Galla!

Greetings to every-  
one!

In these unprecedented times, there is hope and there is fear. And there is uncertainty. But some things are certain. When a huge snowstorm comes along, we all shovel and plow our way open again; farms still must get their livestock fed, watered and cared for; business goes on as much as is possible; and our essential workers somehow keep going and going, dealing with daily, monthly unimaginable circumstances.

Looking forward, it's hard to predict what will happen and how quickly we will be able

to be involved, and to work together again, at fairs across the state. But the dedication is still there, the hard workers are still willing to do what needs to be done. We have all adapted in individual ways and innovations that we have created in the last 10 months will be apparent going forward. There are many things we will never take for granted again.

So much to be grateful for during this season. I am grateful for all the colorful, wonderful associates and fair people we have met through the PSACF, forming life-long friendships as well as strong business ties.

On behalf of all associates of the PSACF, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday! See you in the New Year!

All the best,

Galla  
dangalla@uplink.net

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