

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

North Carolina Mountain State Fair 2020 Livestock Shows

Why is this decision being made now?

Youth livestock exhibitors and their families need to make the commitment now to care for and work with animals in order to be ready for the show ring in the fall. Restrictions on gatherings as a result of COVID-19 have forced many fairs around the country to cancel events and/or entire fairs. The Mountain State Fair is not immune from those concerns. NCD&CS believes we can safely organize and operate a youth livestock show in a modified format; therefore, in order to provide some certainty to this aspect of the Mountain State Fair we have decided to move forward with a commitment to our youth livestock participants.

Why will there be no open livestock show?

With the uncertainty brought on by COVID-19, our focus is on providing youth opportunities for livestock projects this fall. The need to space out shows and people adds complexity to the Mountain State Fair. Therefore, we have decided to focus efforts on providing opportunities for youth in western North Carolina.

What shows are affected by this decision?

This announcement only involves the junior and open livestock shows. This includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat breed sheep, meat goats, swine and wool breed sheep.

Will there be changes to premiums?

At this time, premiums that may be offered are yet to be determined.

Will canceled shows be rescheduled?

No. Only junior livestock shows will be held in 2020.

Does this affect the Youth Broiler Show?

The Youth Broiler Show will be held. Entry deadline is July 1; broiler pick-up is Aug. 8; show is Sept. 19.

Have livestock shows ever been canceled at the N.C. Mountain State Fair?

Some shows have been canceled/postponed/delayed in the past due to inclement weather events or animal communicable disease outbreaks.

What if I already registered for a canceled livestock competition?

Any registration fees paid will be refunded.

How will refunds for the Open Show be handled?

Refunds will be made by check or credit card refund, depending on how they were paid.

Will I be required to re-enter for the new, modified junior livestock shows?

If you are already registered for the junior shows, you will not need to re-enter.

6/19/2020



What are the deadlines for entry to the modified junior livestock shows?

July 1 **Youth Broiler Show** (entry deadline; broiler pick-up Aug. 8)

August 28 **Livestock Shows**

- Swine
- Meat Goats
- Dairy Cattle
- Meat Breed Sheep
- Wool Breed Sheep
- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Goat
- Youth Poultry

Are there any new rules or requirements for the junior livestock shows?

To be determined.

Will the shows be held on the traditional days and times?

At this time show dates and times are under consideration as to how we can best manage resources, however we do anticipate that there will be some changes to the traditional schedule of events. Those will be communicated as soon as possible.

How can I support the junior livestock shows?

We would welcome new sponsors at any level. Some of our previous sponsors may not be in a position to support youth livestock programs this year, so sponsorship levels may be down. If your farm or business would like to be a sponsor of the junior livestock shows, please contact Neil Bowman at 919-270-7094 or email at neil.bowman@ncagr.gov.

What steps will the fair be taking to ensure the health and safety of livestock exhibitors?

Planning is ongoing for these modified events. CDC and public health recommendations will be followed to ensure a safe event.

Will I still be able to watch the livestock competitions?

This is an evolving situation and we will provide updates as they are available. The number of spectators will be based on guidance for gatherings from the CDC and public health in North Carolina.

Does this affect the Very Special Livestock Show?

There will not be a Very Special Livestock Show in 2020. Some participants in the show are in the high-risk category for contracting COVID-19, and we believe it is prudent to cancel this show for the health and safety of those participants. We look forward to bringing the Very Special Livestock Show back in 2021.

6/19/2020



Mountain State Fair - General

Is the 2020 N.C. Mountain State Fair still happening?

No decision to cancel the Mountain State Fair has been made at this time. Restrictions on gatherings in North Carolina are being monitored closely. Planning and coordination of the Mountain State Fair is very complex, and we are constantly assessing our ability to hold the Fair in 2020. Information will be updated when a decision is made.

Are other fair events being canceled?

Many fairs across the country and some in North Carolina have made the decision not to hold their events.

What about the clogging competition?

All other competitions will be dependent on whether the fair is held.

- o **What about the pageant?** See answer above.
- o **What about the Mountain Music Festival?** See answer above.

What about the Carnival?

All other events including the carnival will be dependent on whether the fair is held.

What about Heritage Walk?

All other exhibits will be dependent on whether the fair is held.

Does this decision have anything to do with the Legionella outbreak at the 2019 fair?

No. COVID-19 and legionella are not related.

What steps is the fair taking to ensure the health and safety of fairgoers?

The safety of all attendees at the Mountain State Fair is paramount. Planning is ongoing for the fair. CDC and public health recommendations will be followed to ensure a safe event.

