
Hello. My name is Daris Bouthillier. I am a Coos County Fair & Rodeo board member, and the parent of a nine year old boy and an 11 year old girl. I am respectfully asking you to reconsider the reduction in funding that is currently being given to county fairs. The annual county fair is the most attended cultural event in Coos County. Young people work all year to prepare the 4-H, FFA and open class projects for our annual fair. They learn invaluable lessons about Coos County history, agriculture and how to be a good citizen of the State of Oregon.

That annual money that our fair receives each year, represents roughly 10% of our budget. The other 90% comes from the fair and a small number of facility rentals each year. The Coos County Fair is and always has been self funded. We receive no funding from the county. Our 2020 fair and most of our rentals were cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The unfortunate reality of this year is that our county fair, which has existed since 1912, will likely run out of money before the end of the fiscal year. If we lose the anticipated \$53,000 funding, we will most certainly be unable to pay our bills this year. The county is in no position to divert funding to the fair.

The Coos County Fair provides facilities athletic events for local schools and non-profit livestock organizations. In many cases the groups will be unable to find another location for their events. Like many youth in our county, my 11 year-old daughter is active in the 4-H equestrian program. She works hard all year preparing for our annual fair in July, with aspirations of competing at the State Fair and possibly at national competitions. This is possible in Coos County mostly due to the annual funding that our county fair has received.

Please reconsider reducing or eliminating funding to county fairs! Our fair, in concert with 4-H and FFA, give our county's youth many reasons to continue their education and stay out of trouble. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,
Daris Bouthillier
Coos County Fair & Rodeo Board Member
Coos Bay, Oregon
541-266-8592



July 21, 2020

RE: Oregon County Fairs Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Wagner and Marsh and Members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) strongly opposes the recommended budget cuts for up to \$1 million dollars for Oregon county fairs. OCA is the state's largest association focused on improving and protecting Oregon's cattle industry. Beef production is Oregon's second largest agricultural commodity. OCA represents rural Oregonians in every county of the state and opposes budget cuts to county fairs for three primary reasons:

1. **County fairs and events are the cultural center for rural communities.** Every year, many communities depend on the revenue during the fair from agri-business, agri-tourism, rodeos, and livestock auctions. Not only is the local fair a source of income, but it is also a source of tradition and education for youth, many of whom spend the entire year preparing and handling their livestock to show and sell. Fair funding supports and nourishes the community year-round, not just during "fair week." In smaller communities, the fairgrounds may be the only large and accessible facility for youth and educational programs. For example, 4-H club meetings, dance practice, Junior ROTC, rodeo, and all traditional sports teams receive support by using fairground facilities.
2. **Fairs and fairgrounds are often the community centers used for emergency spaces, including auxiliary healthcare if needed during a pandemic.** For instance, Union County used the fairgrounds as a drive-through COVID testing facility. The fairgrounds in Wallowa County is located near the hospital and has always been identified as the emergency headquarters for Forest Service, State of Oregon Fire, and other emergency needs, including hospital overflow for COVID-19 cases.
3. **If fair funding is cut today, not only will current programs be eliminated, but the 2021 fair season is also jeopardized, particularly for smaller and rural counties.** Small counties cannot just "stop and start" with their fair activities. The amount of funding from the state is used to keep the fairgrounds facility operational and ensure employees and volunteers can be compensated appropriately. State funding is leveraged locally with revenue-producing events, facility rentals, sponsorships, donations, and volunteer effort to provide daily activities year-round.

A lack or decrease in County fair funds will not go unnoticed in Oregon's rural counties and may be detrimental to many families and businesses who rely on the revenue from community events and fair events. On behalf of Oregon's agricultural communities, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association urges you to restore the necessary budget to give County fairs the best opportunity to be a strong and reliable resource in their community.

Hello All,

The Malheur County Fair Board is extremely concerned at the prospect of losing our State funding. Without financial input through State funding I'm not sure the Malheur County Fair will survive to put on our 112th annual County Fair.

Some County's might not recognize or appreciate their County Fairgrounds; that is not so in Malheur County. You may have heard that the love of Agriculture is dying throughout America; not so in Malheur County. There are 900 4-H & FFA members in the County. As a County Fair we have the largest beef market show in the northwest. All of our livestock barns are filled to capacity. Our 'Fair kids' are statistically not the folks that end up in the prison system. The education that the 4-H and FFA groups provide is unparalleled in any other youth programs. The work ethic and camaraderie that these 'Fair kids' learn and experience cannot be duplicated outside of the Fair family. The Fair Board is now working with the local Boys and Girls Club and other local groups to bring the urban kids into our Fair family. Our 'Fair kids' are the next generation of community business owners, service club members, City Councilman and Senators.

In a 'normal' year we would be gearing up to kick off our 111th annual Malheur County Fair. This event brings in 17,000-20,000 people annually, in a County of 30,000. In addition to the annual Fair bringing together our community as a social event; the Fair provides a platform for the County's 4-H & FFA members to showcase their projects and sell their market animals (last year the Malheur County Fair brought in \$600,000 dollars to our youth through this sale). Our annual County Fair brings in \$90,000 (+-) to our Board's coffers which helps to pay for the facility's staff, utilities, maintenance and other expenses. Our fairground is required by our County Court to be a financially self-sufficient entity; the fairground does not receive County tax dollars. The annual Fair also allows many nonprofits to make money and/or share their group's goals, beliefs and missions with their community. In addition to **Fair** our facility brings another 30,000 community members here on the grounds to celebrate a Quinceanera, participate in a roping, a fund raising event or a community function. We host the 'Serve Day' in April, the Lion's 'Pancake Feed' in June, the 4th of July Fireworks, in September we house the annual Saint Peter's Barn dance fund raiser and Steve's Hometown Motors 'Help Them To Home' fund raiser. In October TVCC's Rodeo team host's the regional college rodeo finals. In December, the Board hosts our annual Holiday Bazaar, which has grown to fill our facility to capacity. Under the current Fair Board and management our bookings have gone from 35 to 120 annually. In all these events that happen at the fairgrounds the people that come to our grounds also spend money in Ontario as well. These folks buy groceries and supplies in our community; they eat in the local restaurants, they buy gas and patronize other retailers and our local hotels.

Because of COVID19 our annual 2020 Fair has been cancelled. 33 events to date have been cancelled or postponed at our facility. These cancellations are a big hit to the fairgrounds financially; however, the other businesses in our community will take a financial hit as well.

As of yesterday we were down \$37,000, net income from 2019. At the end of July we will be down another \$92,000 (income from Fair) bringing our deficit to \$129,000. By the end of the calendar year we may be down close to \$200,000 in deficit. Our Board has worked SO hard to put our finances in the black. We've already combined the caretaker and facility manager's positions, and cut back on every utility that is possible. Without financial input through State funding I'm not sure the Malheur County Fair will survive to put on our 112th annual County Fair.

Below are our County R/I 'Fair' portion of our budget. This is where I spend the State money. The Entertainment portion comes from grants; state money is not used for entertainment.

5-70-4303	FAIR MAINTENANCE	4,000	--	3,905.73	94.27	98
5-70-6600	FAIR SUPPLIES	3,500	200.00	4,818.89	1,318.89	138
5-70-9032	FAIR ENTERTAINMENT	17,000	--	16,039.04	1,039.06	106
5-70-9033	FAIR JUDGES/CONSULTANTS	5,000	--	3,726.10	1,273.90	75
5-70-9054	FAIR ADVERTISING	4,000	--	2,325.00	1,675.00	58
5-70-9055	FAIR CONTRACTED SERVICES	14,000	--	13,350.00	650.00	95
5-70-9066	FAIR MISC.	1,000	--	1,000.00	--	100
5-70-9067	FAIR RIBBONS	5,000	--	4,350.95	649.05	87
5-70-9068	FAIR PREMIUM/PRIZES	13,000	--	13,000.00	--	100
	OTHER MATERIAL & SERVICES	66,500	200.00	64,515.73	1,984.27	97

Please let me know how to apply for this much needing funding. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

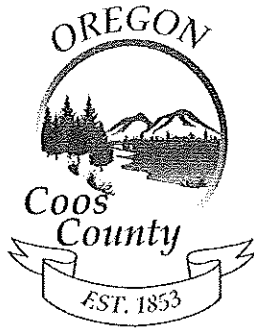
Lynelle Christiani Manager
 Desert Sage Event Center
 Home of the Malheur County Fair
 795 NW 9th St Ontario, OR 97914



541-889-3431

fair@malheurco.org

<http://www.malheurcountyfair.com/>



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
250 No. Baxter Street, Coquille, Oregon 97423

(541) 396-7535
FAX (541) 396-1010 / TDD (800) 735-2900
E-mail: bbrooks@co.coos.or.us

MELISSA CRIBBINS

ROBERT "BOB" MAIN

JOHN SWEET

July 21, 2020

Ways & Means General Government Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
jwmgg.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Wagner and Marsh, and members of the committee:

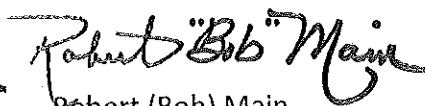
The purpose of this letter is to protest the proposed \$1 million cut in County Fair funding.


The Coos County Fair, like many others in the state, is largely self-funded except for dollars traditionally provided by the state. Since Fairs have generally been cancelled for this year, without the state support there will be no money to pay for expenses that are incurred, with or without holding a Fair. Those expenses include ongoing utility bills, security, and minimal grounds and building maintenance costs. Without money to pay for these services, future Fairs are jeopardized.

Our Fair is way more than a once-a-year social event, when and where the entire county gathers. It is key to 4-H, probably the most successful of all youth programs. It serves as a convening place for county citizens and organizations throughout the year. Our youth livestock auction contributes significantly to many of our young citizens' college educations. One of our local high schools uses a Fair building as classroom space during reconstruction of their high school. The Fairgrounds serve as soccer fields, softball and baseball fields, and a place to walk, jog and hold equestrian events.

Please do your best to spare reductions in Fair funding.


Melissa Cribbins,
Chair


Robert (Bob) Main,
Commissioner


John W. Sweet,
Commissioner

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

We are desperate to preserve our Fair for many many generations to come. If state funding is cut or eliminated, it will slowly kill all of the tradition and education that we provide a platform for. We have one of the most successful youth livestock auctions in the State and without the Fair, we will not have a platform for these kids to sell their animals which is where they all obtain the money to continue their education after high school.

We cannot quell interest in the Ag Industry. These types of industries are vital to the health of the nation and to sustain the science needed to improve how goods are grown, manufactured and exchanged. Fairs provide the spark that makes kids explore these areas and introduces interest to the general public who has no idea why it is important to know how their food and other consumables are grown and processed.

Ag isn't particularly "cool" to kids unless the fairs make it that way. That is why we have concerts and carnivals etc.. We have to compete with video games and social media. Fairs are what gets families together and out of the house to learn new things and spark new interest in things they never knew to care about.

Fairs provide a space for local service organizations to garner funding and supporters and provide services that the Fair pays them for such as garbage services from the Boy Scouts, parking services from the local Elks club and ticket takers at the gates from the Rotary Club. All of these organizations are employed by the fairs and use those funds for youth scholarships and to support other programs in their communities throughout the year.

This train derails if Fair funding is eliminated. You have to understand that it is too important and it is virtually impossible to type a "short" email to convey the desecration that these cuts will cause.

County Fairs are important to the very people who vote you into your positions. Please do not contribute to the elimination of something so important to their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Angie McNalley
Fair Manager



JOIN US AUG. 11-15, 2020!

1705 E. Airport Rd.

PO Box 94

Hermiston, OR 97838

541-567-6121(office) Ext. 104

www.umatillacountyfair.net



July 20, 2020

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs,

Most would think dropping Fair Funding from the Lottery allocation would be reasonable, since all County Fairs in Oregon were cancelled due to COVID-19 Governor mandated shutdowns. The truth of the matter is the funding is a vital income source for all Fairs in Oregon. All Fairgrounds in Oregon are community assets and host more than just a County Fair.

The Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Event Center, (CCFEC) is open 360 days per year and serves 4H and FFA Youth, Community Organizations and host a variety of Public and Private Events.

CCFEC receives no funds from Clackamas County's Budget. My staff and I are employees of the Fair Board, not the County. My charge as Executive Director is to operate this organization as if it were my own business. I am financially responsible for the success of the Fair and Event Center. To date we have lost \$157,000 in revenue due to COVID-19.

Not being able to have the Clackamas County Fair has been a great loss to the citizens of Clackamas County and even a bigger loss to the 4H and FFA Youth. The funding that is provided through the Lottery allocation also helps CCFEC support the 4H and Youth Programs in our County. Clackamas County 4H use our facility one weekend a month for their activities free of charge. Our Clackamas County FFA Chapter will host tractor driving safety classes and other activities on the grounds throughout the year free of charge.

The Clackamas County Fairgrounds is a community asset. Losing our lottery funding would jeopardize what we can do for Clackamas County and for Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Bothwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Laurie Bothwell, Executive Director
Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Event Center
Direct Line: 503-263-9208



July 21, 2020

The Honorable Rob Wagner, Co-Chair
The Honorable Pam Marsh, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Wagner and Co-Chair Marsh,

We understand that county fairgrounds are being recommended for up to \$1 million in 'cuts' from their approved 2019-21 lottery allocation. As the Benton County Fairgrounds Manager I am concerned about the detrimental impact of these cuts not only on our facility, but fairgrounds across the state, based on the following reasons.

1-The Benton County Fairgrounds is providing support through the COVID-19 pandemic through housing of homeless in the Benton Oaks RV Park, providing buildings for temporary courtrooms and blood drives, and providing staff to work in the Emergency Operations Center. Other fairgrounds are utilizing their facilities for similar support to county operations. With no income from event rentals, it is challenging to maintain staff and facilities for coronavirus response. Loss of state support would make it even more difficult for these fairgrounds to operate.

2- In many counties, fairs are one of the only entities in Oregon still providing educational opportunities for local youth. The return on investment for just \$1 million in state funding is extraordinarily high, particularly in Oregon's rural counties. For instance:

Crook County will still host 4-H, FFA and open livestock events serving 445 local youth.

Hood River County will continue to have a 4-H/FFA fair this year.

Yamhill County will continue to serve over 500 youth this year with 4-H, FFA, OSU tractor training, junior rodeo and a Portland Karting Association track operating full time.

Marion County will produce a virtual 4-H and FFA fair that will serve more than 450 youth.

Umatilla County will host a hybrid virtual/live 4-H and FFA program that will serve over 200 local youth.

Polk County will continue to hold a live 4-H/FFA auction which historically serves 350 kids.

Benton County will proceed with a virtual 4-H show and judging, along with an online youth market auction.

Lake County will move forward with a modified livestock show for local youth and a modified rodeo that combined serve 500 area youth.

Wasco County will be hosting a modified 4H and FFA Livestock show in 2020. A typical fair with 4H, FFA and Youth Open Class shows & events serves 1,000 area youth.

3- Fair funding supports local fairground programs year-round, not just during “fair week.” Fairgrounds all over Oregon support their school districts and agriculture and 4-H youth programs throughout the year through no-cost facility usage. Benton County provides meeting space for more than 350 4-H events per year free of charge.

4- If fair funding is cut today, not only will current programs be eliminated, but the 2021 fair season is also jeopardized, particularly for smaller and rural counties. It is a very real possibility that some county fairs will not be able to re-start for 2021 and beyond if the last vestiges of state funding dries up. State funding is leveraged locally with revenue-producing events, facility rentals, sponsorships, donations, and volunteer effort to provide daily activities year-round. Events, rentals and sponsorships have ended with the virus lockdown. Volunteers and donors especially may move on to other opportunities if fairgrounds activity ceases. It is very difficult for small fairs to stop and start once there is a wholesale elimination of revenue sources. The damage of cutting \$1 million from the County Fairs budget may seem small, but in reality may very well have the effect of permanently closing fairs for rural counties.

We respectfully request that the fairgrounds budget be restored to give our facilities the opportunity to support our communities and plan for a successful 2021 (and beyond).

Regards,

Lynne McKee

Lynne McKee
Benton County Fairgrounds Manager

CC Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Representative Dan Rayfield, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod
House Republican Leader Christine Drazan



Marion County
OREGON

Community Services Department

July 3, 2020

(503) 588-7975
(503) 373-4460 - FAX

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
Colm Willis
Kevin Cameron
Sam Brentano

Senator Peter Courtney
State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Lottery Funding for County Fairs and Fairgrounds

Dear Senator Courtney,

CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER
Jan Fritz

Over the last few months, all Oregon counties, some industries, many local businesses, and all individuals have been hit hard and have suffered much due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This is especially true for the fair and special event industry that has minimal options to thrive, let alone survive, this unexpected storm.

DIRECTOR
Tamra Goettsch

Children & Families

County Fair

Dog Services

Economic Development

Marion County Extension &
4-H Service District

Due to the pandemic, the Marion County Fair Board made the hard decision in May of this year to cancel its July fair - in spite of putting months of work into the fair's production and expending limited resources to secure needed materials and expertise to produce a quality 2020 fair. The fair board takes great pride in their work and recognizes the importance our fair has on local youth, their families, the gig economy workers and local businesses that work our fair, and the community in general – fairs bring unity to communities in unique and special ways.



The annual allocation of state lottery funding supports our fair by offsetting production costs and supporting our ability to have a successful event. This year, state funding is especially critical and it is needed to cover expenses already incurred – particularly since our other revenue generation is simply not possible. Even though our physical fair was canceled, the fair board has been working diligently to produce a virtual fair. The virtual Marion County Fair provides community members an opportunity to participate in local online competitions and provides more than 450 local 4-H and FFA involved youth an opportunity to virtually show their animal projects through video and ultimately have a chance to sell their project through an online auction.

Marion County doesn't own or operate its own fairgrounds; however, we do rely on the Oregon State Fairgrounds and recognize the importance of and need for state funding to support this essential infrastructure in communities across Oregon. To date, Marion County Fair Board has spent nearly \$80,000 (and counting) on ribbons, premiums, virtual software, coordination and commission fees, and marketing. The state funding helps us offset costs annually, and it is especially critical due to the negative impact of COVID-19.



Marion County
OREGON

Community Services Department

On behalf of the Marion County Fair Board and the Marion County Commissioners, I urge you to support the continuation of lottery funding to local fairs and fairground operations.

Sincerely,

Tamra Goettsch, Director
Community Services Department
Marion County Fair Board Administrator

Yamhill County Fairgrounds & Event Center



Dear Co-Chair Wagner & Co-Chair Marsh,

Without a 2020 Yamhill County Fair, most would think dropping fair funding makes sense. Since holding the Fair is not an option due to COVID-19 mandated shutdowns, then why must we still need full funding? The truth of the matter is we need funding now more than ever to ensure not only that Fair 2021 can happen, but so we can also continue serving the youth and public in our community.

From the start of this epidemic in March, our Yamhill County Fairgrounds Board and working team made a point to hope for the best and prepare for the worst. We shut down community enriching projects we have spent months and years planning for, limited staffing to preserve resources, and put our noses to the grindstone working on the small things that still made a difference in the community. We hoped Fair would be an option but made sure we spent extraordinarily little in case things escalated and Fair was cancelled, leveraging resources to the extent possible to maximize productivity under our self-imposed financial constraints. We did our due diligence to protect our budget, while preparing ourselves to go full force in the few months prior to Fair if it did happen.

The Yamhill County Fairgrounds serves over 500 youths in our community, above and beyond the Fair. Once our county was moved from phase 1 to phase 2, many of these programs are still functioning, and serving the youth that would have been here for Fair. Moving forward are a scheduled 4-H horse fair, The Portland Karting Association track is still running on premise at full capacity, the archery program, the OSU youth tractor driving training, junior rodeo, multiple equine events/practices/meetings/fundraisers, and we are planning on hosting an auction for all 4-H and FFA meat animals for our county youth. All of these activities require secured funding and pay exponential dividends in benefit to youth and community both financially and experientially. Without staging and hosting a full-blown fair, we are still functioning in a

2070 NE Lafayette Ave. McMinnville OR 97128

Phone : 503-434-7524 Fax : 503-435-1860

Email : fair@co.yamhill.or.us

Website: www.co.yamhill.or.us/fair

safe manner to provide services to our youth. This is especially important in our current climate to maintain as many opportunities for our youth to continue to have hope in their future, and educational opportunities and practical experience, and work towards a 2021 Fair. Keeping our youth's morale and work ethic going strong is what Fair is all about ultimately. Dropping programs or raising costs due to limited funding from the government must not happen and would have severe adverse impacts for both youth and community members throughout the county.

Though we were unable to employ our typical army of youth for the fair, we still are actively running our Yamhill County Fair Ambassador's scholarship program with two Seniors heading out to college. Normally, our fair would employ around 30 youth for parking, interns for pre-fair preparation, ambassadors, and multiple concessions stands hire our local youth as well. We look forward to having them all back full force next year. This year without these positions many families and youth will already face financial impact and subsequent hardships.

But we are not just about the youth. Families leave farms and cities to see the wonders and visit friends, neighbors, local civic servants, and their local politicians. Since 1854, Yamhill County Fair has provided all these opportunities for our youth *and* adults to connect to the past that is as relevant today as it was 166 years ago. Community engagement through Fair enriches lives, educates and provides a glue to hold the community together with positive focus on similarities and demonstrates the success possible through community members working together. This is crucial as a moral and social imperative during these trying times. The economic benefit to our local community from the Yamhill County Fairgrounds is over \$6.5 million. Though we are missing out on much of that economic infusion this year, we hope our continuing support with smaller events can still help support our community.

It is not surprising that we must embark on a defense for the fairgrounds in our Oregon communities during these trying times. It is our duty, as ambassadors of McMinnville Fairgrounds in Yamhill County, to fight for the oldest running fair in Oregon and ask for funding, to continue supporting our youth, our adults, and the proven beneficial culture we provide that should not be ignored.

Please preserve the \$1 million in funding to Oregon's 36 county fairs and fairgrounds.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Yamhill County Fairgrounds Staff and Board

2070 NE Lafayette Ave. McMinnville OR 97128

Phone : 503-434-7524 Fax : 503-435-1860

Email : fair@co.yamhill.or.us

Website: www.co.yamhill.or.us/fair

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Rob Wagner, Co-Chair
The Honorable Pam Marsh, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Wagner and Co-Chair Marsh,

We understand that county fairs are being recommended for up to \$1 million in 'cuts' from their approved 2019-21 lottery allocation. The members of the OFA believe that would be unwise for three primary reasons:

- 1- In many counties, fairs are one of the only entities in Oregon still providing educational opportunities for local youth.** The return on investment for just \$1 million in state funding is extraordinarily high, particularly in Oregon's rural counties. For instance:
 - Crook County** will still host 4-H, FFA and open livestock events serving 445 local youth.
 - Hood River County** will continue to have a 4-H/FFA fair this year.
 - Yamhill County** will continue to serve over 500 youth this year with 4-H, FFA, OSU tractor training, junior rodeo and a Portland Karting Association track operating full time.
 - Marion County** will produce a virtual 4-H and FFA fair that will serve more than 450 youth.
 - Umatilla County** will host a hybrid virtual/live 4-H and FFA program that will serve over 200 local youth.
 - Polk County** will continue to hold a live 4-H/FFA auction which historically serves 350 kids.
 - Benton County** will proceed with a virtual 4-H show and judging, along with an online youth market auction.
 - Lake County** will move forward with a modified livestock show for local youth and a modified rodeo that combined serve 500 area youth.
 - Wasco County** will be hosting a modified 4H and FFA Livestock show in 2020. A typical fair with 4H, FFA and Youth Open Class shows & events serves 1,000 area youth.
- 2- Fair funding supports local fairground programs year-round, not just during "fair week."** Fairgrounds all over Oregon support their school districts and agriculture and 4-H youth programs throughout the year through no-cost facility usage. Non agriculture programs such as dance, Junior ROTC, rodeo, and all traditional sports teams receive year-round fund raising support through use of facilities. Limited and modified use of



PRESIDENT

Bart Noll

VICE-PRESIDENT

Casey Daly

TREASURER

Geoff Hinds

AREA I DIRECTOR

Camy VonSeggern
Gary Wertz, Alt.

AREA II DIRECTOR

Laurie Bothwell
Kim Grewe-Powell, Alt.

AREA III DIRECTOR

Brian Schiel
Jamie Loomis, Alt.

AREA IV DIRECTOR

Ann Jones
Angie McNally, Alt.

AREA V DIRECTOR

Helen Funk
Daris Bouthillier, Alt.

AREA VI DIRECTOR

Mindy Winegar
Jordon Bennett, Alt.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Brenda Mayberry

SERVICE MEMBER DIRECTOR

Karen Quest
Pat Wood, Alt.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patrick Sieng

5434 River Rd N #371
Keizer, OR 97303
info@oregonfairs.org

our fairgrounds is happening today. For many counties, this will no longer be a possibility if state funding dries up.

- 3- **If fair funding is cut today, not only will current programs be eliminated, but the 2021 fair season is also jeopardized, particularly for smaller and rural counties.** It is a very real possibility that some county fairs will not be able to re-start for 2021 and beyond if the last vestiges of state funding dries up. State funding is leveraged locally with revenue-producing events, facility rentals, sponsorships, donations, and volunteer effort to provide daily activities year-round. Events, rentals and sponsorships have ended with the virus lockdown. Volunteers and donors especially may move on to other opportunities if fairgrounds activity ceases. It is very difficult for small fairs to stop-and-start once there is a wholesale elimination of revenue sources. The damage of cutting \$1 million from the County Fairs budget may seem small, but in reality may very well have the effect of permanently closing fairs for rural counties. OFA would respectfully request that the fairs budget be restored to give our fairs the opportunity to plan for a successful 2021 (and beyond).

Regards,



Bart Noll
President



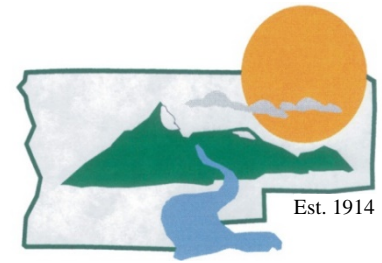
Patrick Sieng
Executive Director

CC Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Representative Dan Rayfield, Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod
House Republican Leader Christine Drazan



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

66 S.E. "D" St., Suite A • Madras, Oregon 97741 • Ph: (541) 475-2449 • FAX: (541) 475-4454



July 20, 2020

The Honorable Rob Wagner,
Co-Chair The Honorable Pam Marsh,
Co-Chair Joint Interim Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Wagner and Co-Chair Marsh,

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony to you regarding the discussion of cutting County Fair funding by \$1 Million dollars for 2021. As a youth, I was deeply impacted by my involvement in both 4H and FFA.

I write in opposition to a proposed \$1 million cut to fair funding for the 2021 County Fairs in Oregon. This is a 50% reduction in funding that many counties, including Jefferson County will not be able to absorb. Just as the State is seeing the impacts of reduced tourism and lottery revenue, so is Jefferson County!

This impact of reducing \$26,583.34 might not seem impactful, but Jefferson County is not a tourism destination that brings in millions of dollars in TRT "hotel taxes" like our neighbors in Deschutes County.

In FY 20-21 Jefferson County will contribute \$162,850 to OSU Extension Services. A portion of these funds support OSU employees in the 4H program. Should we inform OSU that we must reduce their amount by \$26,583.34 so we can have operational facilities for the OSU 4H programs?

Today, we are holding a scaled back version of our Jefferson County Fair. I am grateful for my three children and all of the other young people in Jefferson County whom have put many hours and dollars into being able to bring their animals to Market. As a County, we have nearly 300 children whom will exhibit their animals this year. To a County which is predominantly Agricultural based, we need to support this fundamental life skill and sense of responsibility.

I know that you face incredible decisions in an effort to balance the State Budget but, I beg you to look elsewhere. To rural Oregonians like myself and my constituents, the County Fair is our signature event.

While I applaud your efforts to balance the budget, I hope you remember the impact of this decision on our small communities and our already struggling Rural County Fairs.

Respectfully,
Kelly Simmelink
Chairman





State of Oregon
WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
101 S. River Street #301
Enterprise, Oregon 97828

541-426-4543 ext#1130

Fax: 541-426-0582

Email: commissioners@co.wallowa.or.us

COMMISSIONER, JOHN HILLOCK

COMMISSIONER, TODD NASH

COMMISSIONER, SUSAN ROBERTS

July 21, 2020

Wallowa County board of Commissioners
101 S River Street, Rm. 301
Enterprise, OR 97828

To: Co-Chairs Wagner and Marsh and members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee in General Government.

Re: Comment on the County Fairs and Fair Grounds in Wallowa County

County Fairs and Fair Grounds represent Oregonians' culture, recreation, community gathering places, and in times of emergency, refuges.

The Fairgrounds in Wallowa County are located close to our hospital and have always been identified as the emergency headquarters for Forest Service, State of Oregon Fire, and other emergency needs and hospital overflow if Covid-19 were to overburden our health care facilities. OSU Extension relies on this property for 4/H programs and continued education for adults. This is a partnership forged between the state and county governments and is one of the most positive relationships we have here with state and county. The small amount of money provided by the state is vital in keeping these facilities operational. Every dollar is also leveraged with countless hours of paid county staff and volunteer time. County fairs are the heart and soul of our communities and we need them to remain strong for all the reasons listed above.

Todd Nash

Wallowa County Commissioner

101 S River St, RM 301

Enterprise, OR 97828

Phone(541)426-7732

Cell (541)263-0426.

Fax (541)426-0582

Susan Roberts
Commissioner

Todd Nash
Commissioner

John Hillock
Commissioner