



NYSAAF

NEWSLETTER

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.



From The President

Hi Fair Folks

I'm writing this message with mixed emotions. I'm saddened due to the loss of our Executive Secretary and friend, Russell Marquart. I am happy that he left us wonderful documentation to follow so that we could continue the work of this great organization.

I want to personally thank my wife, Gretchen, and others who assisted during the transition. The Committee Chairs and their teams worked together for which I'm grateful. A special thanks to Renee St Jacques for leading the Ag Awareness Committee and for the members coordination to visit the participating fairs. I want to acknowledge Andy and Vicki Imperati and the Dutchess County Fair for producing this newsletter. Erie County Fair, thank you for hosting Russ' memorial service and the assistance in collecting, sorting and storing

the association's records. The Executive Committee had quality applicants to select from to find Russ' replacement. Mark St Jacques was selected. I look forward to working together. I'm always available to hear suggestions to improve the association.

I hope you had a great fair. I've truly enjoyed representing the NYSAAF. It was my goal when I started going through the chairs, to visit every fair in the state. I have had the opportunity to tour several of them but this year I challenged myself to visit each one as President. I'm thankful for a great team in Delaware County and the goal has been achieved after travelling more than 6,000 miles. Some fairs were not operating when I was there, but I was warmly welcomed. Our association is so blessed with great partners as including our Carnival Operators, Concessionaires and Entertainers. Thank you for sharing your challenges and concerns. I'm pleased that on September 8th Assemblyman Joseph Angelino joined our efforts and sent a letter to Ag & Markets, which was also signed by 15 other Assemblymen and Senators. We hope this will raise awareness and improve the process.

Enjoy a great Fall and we look forward to seeing you in January at the convention. Let's come together ready to learn, share and renew our valuable fair family relationships.

Ed Rossley, President

NYSAAF Agricultural Awareness Program Update

Renée St. Jacques- Committee Chair

The NYSAAF Agricultural Awareness Program provides funding for fair projects that showcase New York agriculture. Out of 14 eligible fairs, 10 fairs submitted projects for 2022 and there were 4 fairs' projects carried over from the 2021 program. Altogether, there were 14 agricultural awareness projects for this past fair season at Madison County Fair, Saratoga County Fair, Lewis County Fair, Boonville Oneida Fair, Cayuga County Fair, Cattaraugus County Fair, Chemung County Fair, Ulster County Fair, Erie County Fair, Chenango County Fair, Oswego County Fair, Dutchess County Fair, Washington County Fair, and Trumansburg Fair. These projects provided important agricultural educational experiences for fairgoers, such as building new pens/stalls and a new show ring to better showcase animals, creating a mock apple farm exhibit, displaying agricultural facts on signs outside animal barns, adding an observation beehive exhibit, and installing a raised companion garden. Thank you to the Agricultural Awareness Program Committee members for visiting these fairs and evaluating these projects. There are still some fairs that need to submit their receipts and photos of their projects in order to be reimbursed for project expenses (\$1,700 per project is available for reimbursement). Photos of the projects will be shared during the NYSAAF Convention. For 2023, 14 fairs will be eligible to submit project applications for this program: Orange County Agriculture & Family Festival, Yates County Fair, Genesee County Fair, Ontario County Fair, Chautauqua County Fair, Warren County Youth Fair, Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair, Niagara County Fair, Livingston County Fair, Wayne County Fair, Steuben County Fair, Fonda Fair, Columbia County Fair, and Long Island Fair.

Scholarship Committee Report

I hope you all had good fairs this year. We definitely had some very significantly high heat days!!

We had some truly awesome applicants this year. To have the opportunity to read about each of the student's accomplishments and community involvement is very rewarding.

Congratulations to the 2022 Scholarship Award recipients:

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsor Fair</i>	<i>District</i>	
1	Mark Jonathan Freier	Seneca	6	
2	Lilly Underberg	Erie	8	
3	Joseph Delconte	Oswego	3	
4	Annette Prezzano	Dutchess	1	
5	Samuel Donahoe	Herkimer	3	
6	Haley Kehr	Erie	8	
7	Carrissa Whitehead	Dutchess	1	
8	Riley Palmer	Chautauqua	8	
9	Lindsey Wright	Delaware	5	
10	Sydney Dean	Boonville	4	
11	Amber McNeil	Schaghticoke	2	Fair Managers Award Winner



Schaghticoke Fair

For the students that did not receive a scholarship please encourage them to apply again next year. This was a very competitive group of applicants only a few points separating everyone.

For the Fairs with students that received a scholarship please remind them that we are requesting them to submit a picture and a short bio so we can recognize them at our convention.

Thanks to the Scholarship committee for your help this year. Thank you to the District Directors and Fairs for your help in submitting the applications.

Hope to see you all at the convention. Take care,

John Craft

Scholarship Coordinator



Ulster County Fair's Agriculture Awareness Barn

In 2004, the Ulster County Fair used the NYSAAF Ag Awareness funds to start the Ag Awareness Tent at the Fair to have a fun and interactive display to educate kids and even adults about Agriculture. From milking a fake cow, to gathering eggs, to picking apples and many more activities, the tent quickly became one of the best attractions during the Fair. Every year everything had to be moved, set up, torn down and put back in storage.

When the Fairs were awarded Grant money through Ag and Markets, the decision was made to use one of the grants to construct a permanent building for this attraction. With this new building, existing displays could be set up permanently, more activities could be incorporated, and will offer more room for expansion. Although Covid put a little delay on the project, construction was started this spring on the new building. It was completed just in time for the Fair and we had the official ribbon cutting ceremony as part of our opening day ceremonies. We were lucky enough to have Jacqueline Czub, Deputy Commissioner from Ag and Markets available to cut the ribbon along with Amy Newkirk-Vigna, who has developed this from day one and continues to make it bigger and better every year.

2022 Fair Reports

Fair: Cattaraugus County Fair

Attendance: 105,000
 Gate Admission: Adult \$15.00, Senior, \$15.00, Children age 2+ \$15.00.
 Parking: Free
 Weather: Warm, very little rain.
 Carnival: Powers & Thomas Midway
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Demo Derby, Paid 2850; Walker Hayes Concert, Paid, 4200; Travis Tritt Concert, Paid, 3300; Monster Trucks Rally, Paid, 2500; Monster Trucks & Big Rig Pull, Paid, 2200/2600
 2023 Fair Dates: July 30–August 5, 2023
 Reported by: Nell Fellows, Secretary

Fair: Chautauqua County Fair

Attendance: 45,740
 Gate Admission: Adult \$15.00, Children \$15.00, Senior \$9.00
 Parking: \$5.00
 Weather: Hot with little rain
 Carnival: Power & Thomas Midway
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Horse Race, free 20; Rumba Caliente Concert, free 400; Empire State Truck & Tractor Pull, free 1000; Demo Derby, paid 2500/3500; NYS Horse Pull, free 500. 2023 Fair Dates: July 17-23, 2023
 Reported by: Deb Kuzma, Office Manager

Fair: Dutchess County Fair

Attendance: 290,846
 Gate Admission: Adult Advanced, Online \$13.50 At gate \$18.00 day of, Children 12 & under Free, Seniors \$12.00
 Weather: HOT & Humid with passing showers
 Carnival: Powers Great American Midway
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Frank Ray, Free, 1000; Tusk, Free, 2000; Niko Moon, Free, 2300; Chris Janson, Paid, 2500.
 2023 Fair Dates: August 22-27, 2023
 Reported by: Andy Imperati, CEO/Fair Manager

Fair: Erie County Fair

Attendance: 1,148,076, record year.
 Gate Admission: Adult \$13.50 online, Gate admission \$15.00, Children 12 & under Free.
 Parking: Free
 Weather: 11 perfect days, 1 day of rain
 Carnival: Strates Shows
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: The Fab Four, Free 3,500; Riley Green, Paid, 2500; Grand Funk Railroad, Free 3,500; Halestorm, Paid 2100; Trace Adkins, Terri Clark & Lonestar, Paid, 4700; Zack Williams, free, 3000; Happy Together Tour, paid, 3000; ATV Big Air Tour, free, 3500; Nelly, paid, 4000; Gabriel Iglesias, paid, 3600; Ultimate Night of Destruction, paid, 4400; Demo Derby Day, paid, 2000; Demo Derby Night, paid, 4850.
 2023 Fair Dates: August 9-20, 2023 Reported by: Jessica Underberg, CFE CEO/Fair Manager

Fair: Goshen Historic Track - NYS County Fair Races only.

Gate Admission: Adult \$5.00, Child 12 & under Free, Senior \$5.00
 Parking: N/A
 Weather: Fair - 77 degrees
 Reported by: Linda Myers, Secretary

Fair: Herkimer County Fair

Attendance: 71,235
 Gate Admission: Adult \$10.00, Children \$3.00, Seniors 1/2 price on Wednesday.
 Parking: Free
 Weather: Great weather
 Carnival: Gillette Shows
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Butterfly Encounter, free; All Star Bantyard Review, free; Agri-Puppet, free; Shania Twin/Les Smith, free; Rylee Lum. free
 2023 Fair Dates: August 15-20, 2023
 Reported by: Gerry Elthorp, Treasurer

Fair: Orleans County 4-H Fair

Attendance: 26,787
 Gate Admission: Adult and Seniors \$3.00, Children \$1.00.
 Parking: Included in Admission
 Weather: 75-85, Rained twice for one hour on Thursday.
 Carnival: Main Event Amusements
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Arestor Acrobatic Extravaganza, free; Hog Diggity Dog, free; Party Animals, free; Shushed Charlatan Psychic, free; Fri/Sat Local Bands, free.
 Fair Dates 2023: July 24-29, 2023
 Reported by: Robert Bolt, Executive Director

Fair: Otsego County Fair

Attendance: 26,588
 Gate Admission: Adult \$6.00, Senior \$3.00, children under 12 free
 Parking: Free
 Weather: Hot
 Carnival: Gillette's Carnival
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Fireman's Parade, free; Rayne Johnson, paid 200; Demo Derby, free; NYTPA Tractor Pull, free; Otsego County Fair Truck Pull, free; ECPW Pro Wrestling, free; NY Sire Stakes Harness Racing, free.
 2023 Fair Dates: To be Determined Reported by: Kathy MacPherson, Treasurer Fair

Fair: Schaghticoke Fair

Gate Admission: Adults \$13.00, Children 13 & under free,
 Parking: Free
 Weather: Great until Monday's rain.
 Carnival: Dreamland Amusements
 Entertainment: NYTPA Pulls, Paid, well attended; Stoney Roberts Demo Derby, Paid, sold out both shows. Other well attended entertainment, free, Lucky E Rodeo, VT Tractor Pullers, Truck and Tractor Pulls, Hanneford Circus, Swifty Swine Pig Races, Bufflao Barfield and Cowboy Andy Rotz.
 Reported by: Carly Reyna

Fair: Tioga County Fair

Attendance: 11,685
 Gate Admission: Tuesday \$10.00, Wednesday-Saturday \$15.00.
 Parking: Free
 Weather: Warm and mostly sunny
 Carnival: Gillette Shows
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Painted Pony Rodeo, free 1,441; East Coast Pro Wrestling, free 1,200; Demo Derby, free, 6,513; Outlaw Pulling Series & Tractor Pull, free 2,507; Lumberjack Competition, free 150.
 2023 Fair Dates: August 8-12, 2023
 Reported by: Charles Truman, Vice President

Fair: Ulster County Fair

Attendance: 44,841
Gate Admission: Adults \$20.00, Children under 36" free, Seniors free Wed/Thurs until 4pm
Parking: Free
Weather: Very hot
Carnival: Dreamland Amusements
Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Sass and Brass, free; Sawyer Brown, free; Murphy, free; Allie Colleen, free 2022, Jerrod Neimann, free.
Fair Dates 2023: August 1-6, 2023
Reported by: Gary Newkirk, CFE, Fair Manager



Ulster County Fair

Fair: Yates County Fair

Attendance: 6,889
Gate Admission: Everyone \$12.00
Parking: free
Weather: Hot, sunny and brief rain first two days. Carnival: Playland Amusements
Entertainment/fee/Attendance: Racing Pigs, free; Magican, free.
2023 Fair dates: July 11-15, 2023
Reported by: Bernyce Maltman, Treasurer

Dates to Remember

- November 27-30 131st Annual IAFE Convention & Trade Show
Indianapolis, IN
- January 13-16New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention
Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY
- February 24-26.....IAFE Institute of Fair Management Summit
The Madison Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- April 19-21.....53rd Annual IAFE Management Conference
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis, MO
- May 4-6.....IAFE Zone 1 Annual Meeting
Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY

In Memoriam



Russell Marquart July 1956 - April 2022

Taken from Russ' obituary April 20, 2022:

Russ' passion in life was his love of Agricultural Fairs and who he fondly called "Fair people." Russ was a mentor to hundreds of people who shared his enthusiasm for Fairs, whether they were exhibitors, starting up a new 4H club, working in a small county fair, a state fair or were performing musicians, celebrities or visiting national politicians. Russ helped them all with kindness, compassion, and a strict regime of hard work, performance and success.

Russ worked at various times in his life for the New York State Fair, the Anderson County Fair in South Carolina, and the NYSAAF, but his real commitment was to the Erie County Fair sponsored by the Erie County Agricultural Society.

\$' \$\$Fair Shots



Chenango County Fair



Schaghticoke Fair



Erie County Fair



Dutchess County Fair



\$' \$\$ Pictures from our wandering President

