



NYSAAF

NEWSLETTER

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.



From The President

Well, we made it! Another fair season is in the books. No time to take a break, our next season is upon us, fall festivals, dog shows, marathons, bike races, weddings, winter storage etc. Throughout the summer I received many updates from fairs around the state that they were having record years. (We need a couple good positive years to get caught up from covid.) Unfortunately for a few of you, your fairs were cut short or hampered by the heavy rain we received. In our business, Agricultural fairs are in many ways like farming. The weather can make or break your year. Farmers, Fair People, and Show People are all resilient, we take what is dealt to us and we keep moving forward. While I was out making the rounds, I saw more Fair people from different fairs visiting other fairs which was awesome. The comradery and support was great to see.

As no surprise to most of you we are still challenged by the rigors of multiple key personnel changes at the state level and the slow process of the state grant program. Please stay resilient in completing documentation and following it up. Attend the weekly workshop to receive pointers for completing your forms. For those of you with open 2018 grants applications please get them updated to keep them active. I have included the latest update on what grants have been issued to all fairs. Commissioner Ball will be attending our Fall BOD meeting. We will be conducting a round table discussion on how to promote our fairs and how to address future needs. Anyone interested in volunteering to participate on a committee please let me know.

In 2023 we began a new chapter for our association. Our 2024 New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs convention will be held January 12th, 13th and 14th at the downtown Marriott in Syracuse. If you have not already done so, please get registered and make your reservations.

Please go to our website for online registration and Fill-able PDF forms if you want to mail your registration.

<https://www.nyfairs.org/convention.htm>

Rooms are still available at the Marriott Hotel Downtown Syracuse NY and the link is <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1678719618557&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Julia Reynolds has assembled a program to provide us with a new format that will include excellent educational opportunities and outstanding keynote speakers.

As you all know you cannot put on a good fair without the help of good board members and volunteers. The same goes for the Board of Directors for our organization. Mark St Jacques brings a wealth of knowledge, Julia Reynolds has a can-do attitude, you give her a challenge and she will make it happen, Lauren has her valuable and extensive background in the hospitality business, Lisa is totally awesome at getting sponsors lined up for door prizes and raffles, and Jane brings us her professional financial leadership to assist in decision making. In addition to the board many thanks to Jessica, Andy, Gary, Ed, (Joe, and Jeff (showpeople) for their support throughout the year. Remember the closing statement from January's convention:

The 2024 Convention will have the WOW! factor!

Get Ready to be educated, meet new business partners at the trade show, see old friends, support our scholarship auction, enjoy the accommodations, and be entertained each evening!

Thank you.

John

See you at the convention!

NYSAAF Agricultural Awareness Program Update

Renée St. Jacques- Committee Chair

As fairs celebrate another fun fair season, a reminder for all the fairs that had ag awareness projects to submit your receipts, a short project description to be read during the presentation at convention and photos of the project taken during your fair. Once you submit these, NYSAAF can send a reimbursement check. Here is the list of fairs with 2023 ag awareness projects: Chautauqua County Fair, Columbia County Fair, Fonda Fair, Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair, Livingston County Agricultural Society and Fair at Caledonia, Long Island Fair, Niagara County Fair, Ontario County Fair, Orange County Agriculture & Family Festival, Oswego County Fair, Steuben County Fair, Warren County Youth Fair, Wayne County Fair, and Long Island Fair. Here is the list of fairs that will be eligible for the Ag Awareness program in 2024: Afton Fair, Hemlock Fair, Seneca County Fair, Broome County Fair, Greene County Youth Fair, Otsego County Fair, Franklin County Fair, Wyoming County Fair, Altamont Fair, Essex County Fair, Trumansburg Fair, Schaghticoke Fair, and Grahamsville Little World's Fair. These fairs will receive a letter soon with instructions on how to submit project ideas.

The Country Fair, formerly the Orange County Agriculture & Family Fun Festival, used their Agricultural Awareness funds to create an "Ag Awareness" tent.



Hall of Fame, Nominations due December 1, 2023!

Just a reminder that Hall of Fame nominations are due December 1st. With so many dedicated members in our Association that should be recognized for their efforts, please consider nominating a person that has worked to improve our Fairs. Nomination information is available on our website at www.nyfairs.org.

Scholarship Committee Report

There is a crispness to the air and back to school is upon us! The Scholarship Committee had a very difficult task in evaluating some outstanding applications. It is nice to know there are amazing advocates of agriculture among the young people in our communities.

For any students that did not receive a scholarship, they are strongly encouraged to to apply again next year. This was a very competitive group of applicants with only a few points separating everyone. To date, all acceptance letters have been received. At the convention we will have a wonderful presentation with photos and a short bio of each winner.

Thanks to the Scholarship committee for all of your hard work this year. Thank you to the District Directors and Fairs for submitting and encouraging the applications. We are working to make some changes to the application for 2024 and are looking forward to unveiling those changes in January.

Hope to see you all at the convention.

Take care,
Lauren Delaney
Scholarship Coordinator

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2023

HOLLY NIEFERGOLD

- Erie County Fair (District 8)

HAILEY KEHR

- Erie County Fair (District 8)

EMMA REID

- Lewis County Fair (District 4)

ELISE DONLICK

- Cortland Jr Fair (District 5)

ASHLEY WRIGHT

- Lewis County Fair (District 4)

CAITLYN VANDEUSEN

- Saratoga County Fair (District 2)

FAITH SCHULTZ

- Dutchess County Fair (District 1)

KATELYN STORER

- Cattaraugus County Fair (District 8)

BRANDON SCORALICK

- Dutchess County Fair (District 1)

MILLA BERG

- Dutchess County Fair (District 1)

NYS FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION WINNER

SIERRA TWEDIE

- Delaware County Fair (District 5)



NYSAAF

Our Lobbying efforts pay off!

Governor Hochul signed legislation (A.2935/S.5526) to support smaller and newer fairs and promote youth involvement in agriculture and domestic arts by lowering the threshold for reimbursements. Providing funding to county fairs helps promote agriculture and domestic arts among youth by encouraging youth involvement in competitions involving arts and crafts, livestock, and showmanship. Currently, fairs must pay at least \$5,000 in premiums as awards to youth in order to become eligible for state reimbursement. Due to this, smaller fairs across the state do not reach the \$5,000 threshold for premiums paid and do not currently qualify for state reimbursement. To support all the entities that promote agriculture and domestic arts in the state, no matter what their size, the State will now offer a \$2,500 reimbursement threshold to county fairs through this legislation, all of which organize these important competitions for New York State youth.



For the full article visit <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-fair-governor-hochul-signs-executive-order-increasing-state-sourcing-local-food>

NYSAAF Supports the IAFE Zone 1 Convention, May 2023

The first weekend in May was full of learning, networking, and collaborating as the IAFE Zone 1 Convention brought members together from near and far. The Convention was held at the beautiful Crown Plaza, Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY with a fun field trip to the Altamont Fairgrounds that Friday evening and a lively auction to close out the Convention on Saturday.

As promised and in theme with the IAFE Fairs RISE, attendees were encouraged to Reunite, Inspire, Support, and Educate one another. Every learning session was filled with useful information to stay ahead in this ever changing and growing industry. Amongst the sessions were an IAFE Institute of Fair Management course on Competitive Exhibits with Jessie McLaughlin CFE, IFMG from the Spokane Interstate Fair in Washington, "Working with Volunteers of Different Generations" with Jennifer Giesike CFE, IAFE Chair, from the Washington Town and Country Fair in Missouri, and "Animal Rights Extremists: Your Fair is a Target" with Marla Calico CFE, IAFE President and CEO as well as sessions led by NYSAAF members like David Moore from Schaghticoke Fair and Rebecca Breese from the Washington County Fair. The quality of the educational opportunities presented was invaluable.

The Convention was a huge success, largely because of NYSAAF members that came together to create this event, with New York having the most representatives! A very special thanks to Amy Anderson CFE and her dedicated team from the Altamont Fair, as well as the group of volunteers from the NYSAAF, without whom this event would not have been possible.

The 2024 IAFE Zone 1 Convention will be held May 16-18 in Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted by The Big E! Don't miss out on what's sure to be an exciting Convention. For more information or to become a member of the IAFE, visit www.fairsandexpos.com.

Pictured to the right: Gary Newkirk CFE & Amy Anderson CFE

Pictured bottom right: Commissioner Ball enjoying the outing at the Altamont Fairgrounds

Pictured to the right: Marla Calico CFE, IAFE President & CEO

Pictured below: Rebecca Breese & co. presenting to attendees



2023 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: Ideal, warm, low humidity.

Carnival: Powers & Thomas Midway

Entertainment/Fee/

Attendance: Demo Derby 4000 in attendance; Concert, 4000 in attendance; Concert, 5000 in attendance; Monster Trucks Rally, 4000 in attendance; Monster Trucks night show, 3800 in attendance; Monster Trucks & Big Rig Pull, 4000 in attendance for each.

2024 Fair Dates: July 28–Aug 3

Reported by: Nell Fellows, Secretary

Fair: Chautauqua County Fair

Attendance: 54,258

Gate Admission: Adult \$15, Children \$15, Senior \$9

Parking: \$5

Weather: Nice all week

Carnival: Powers & Thomas

Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Horse Race, free, 20; Demo Derby, paid, 2500; Bull Riding, free, 1500; NYES Truck & Tractor Pull, free, 2000; Black Cat Hell Drivers, free, 3000; Monster Trucks, paid, 3000; Demo Derby, paid, 3500.

2024 Fair Dates: July 16-21

Reported by: Deb Kuzma

Fair: Chenango County Fair

Attendance: 35,000

Gate Admission: Adult \$8.00, Children 12-16 \$5.00, Under 5 Free, Senior \$8.00

Parking: Free

Weather: Thursday rain in the evening, warm for the rest of the week.

Carnival: Coleman Brothers Shows

Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: NYTPA Tractor Pull, paid, 2100; Rodeo, paid, 2100; Demo Derby, paid, 4200; NYS Hot Farm Pull, paid, 1800.

2024 Fair Dates: Aug 7-11

Reported by: Mary Weidman, President



Fair: Columbia County Fair

Attendance: 60,000

Gate Admission: Adult \$13.00, Children 12 & under Free, Seniors \$13.00

Parking: Free

Weather: Sunny all 6 days!

Carnival: Amusements of America

Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Antique Tractor Pull, \$5, 500; Demo Derby, free, 3000; Monster Tractor Pull, free, 3000; Two Cover Bands, free, 1500; Painted Pony Rodeo, free, 3000.

2024 Fair Dates: Aug 28-Sept. 2

Reported by: Mike Mickle, Manager

Fair: Dutchess County Fair

Attendance: 280,443

Gate Admission: Adult \$15 online, Gate admission \$18.00, Children 12 & under Free, Seniors \$12

Parking: Free

Weather: Sunny and nice 4 days, 2 days of rain

Carnival: Powers Great American Midway

Entertainment/Fee/Attendance:

Cooper Alan, Free 1800; Brantley Gilbert, Paid, 3750; Steve Augeri, Free 1500; Chris Cagle, cancelled, Refugee-Tom Petty Tribute Band, free, 1750.

2024 Fair Dates: August 20-25

Reported by: Andy Imperati 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: Free

Weather: Good-Fair

2024 Fair Dates: July 5,6 and 7

Reported by: Linda Myers, Secretary

Fair: Gouverneur & St. Lawrence

County Fair

Attendance: N/A

Gate Admission: Free

Parking: \$5.00

Weather: Real good, rain Thursday

Carnival: Coleman Brothers

Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Talent Show, free, @300; Parade, free, 2500; Local Band, free, 600; Tractor Pull, \$15.00, 900; Concert, \$70/\$50, 425/1500; Derby, \$15, 2200.

2024 Fair Dates: N/A

Reported by: Don Peck, Fair Manager

Fair: The Country Fair in Otisville

Attendance: 10,500
Gate Admission: Free
Parking: \$5.00
Weather: Extremely hot and rainy for three days, last day was cooler and sunny!
Carnival: Shamrock
Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Bands, free, 100-150; Fireworks, free, 5000; Princess meet & greet, 200; Magic Show & Pie eating contest, 200.
2024 Fair Dates: July 25-28
Reported by: Jill Van Aken, Fair Manager

Fair: Otsego County Fair

Attendance: 36,235
Gate Admission: Adult \$6.00, Senior \$3.00, children under 12 free
Parking: Free
Weather: Sunny and 70's except for 1 day of rain on Friday
Carnival: Gillette's Carnival
Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: East Pro Wrestling, 5, 45; Fireman's Parade, free, 2000; East Pro Wrestling, \$5, 80; Demo Derby, \$7, 2000; Out of Field Antique & Tractor Pull/NYTPA, Canceled due to weather; Kids toy giveaway, free, 2000; Otsego County Fair Truck Pulls, \$7, 2000; Demo Derby 1pm, free, 1600; 6pm, \$7, 2000.
2024 Fair Dates: July 30-Aug 4
Reported by: Lisa Jackson, Fair Manager

Fair: Ulster County Fair

Attendance: 56,246
Gate Admission: Adults \$20.00, Children under 36" free, Seniors free Wed/Thurs until 4pm
Parking: Free
Weather: Good-one bad day
Carnival: Dreamland Amusements
Entertainment/Fee/Attendance: Thunder Ridge; free; Lee Greenwood, free; Alex Shiloh, free; Kentucky Headhunters, free, Thompson Square, free, JD Leonard-This is Garth, free.
Fair Dates 2024: July 30-Aug. 4.
Reported by: Gary Newkirk, CFE, Fair Manager

Fair: Yates County Fair

Attendance: 6,668
Gate Admission: Everyone 3 and up \$15.00
Parking: free
Weather: Hot, humid and rain on the second day.
Carnival: SOFO
Entertainment/fee/Attendance: Music X3 days, \$5300 total, 5401; Demo Derby, \$9650, 2281; Truck/Tractor Pulls, \$14,925, 4744; Wrestling, \$4000, 648.
2024 Fair dates: *Tentatively* July 9-13
Reported by: Bernyce Maltman,

Dates to Remember

- November 26-29 132nd Annual IAFE Convention & Trade Show
Salt Lake City, UT
- January 12-14New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention
Marriott Syracuse, Downtown Hotel, Syracuse, NY
- April 12 & 13.....IAFE Institute of Fair Management Summit
Hyatt Regency Bellevue, Bellevue, Washington
- April 29-May 1.....54th Annual IAFE Management Conference
Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Sarasota, FL
- May 16-18.....IAFE Zone 1 Annual Meeting
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place, Springfield, MA

Serving the Association on the Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee. A candidate should submit; 1. A letter of interest no later than November 1st and 2. A letter of support from the Fair's Board of Directors that you represent.

Information should be sent to Mark St. Jacques, Executive Secretary, NYSAAF, 58 Bain Rd, Argyle, NY 12809
Deadline: November 1st, 2023



2023 Board of Directors & Executive Committee



Building Bridges in our Communities



Erie County Fair concessionaires pool funds to purchase animals in the Youth Livestock Auction, finished product goes to local food bank.

A group of concessionaires purchased 1 steer, 1 lamb, and 1 hog in the 2023 Youth Livestock Auction. The Erie County Agricultural Society paid for processing and all finished products were donated to the local food bank. The partnership between the Erie County Agricultural Society, the Erie County Fair concessionaires, and the youth participating in the auction is proof that Fairs have a positive impact on the community.



Dutchess County Agricultural Society promotes area businesses, the Dutchess County Fair, and local agriculture with a new social media campaign.

Nicky the fair calf has become the face of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. Using the terms "#agfluencer" and "#agvocate," this little calf has traveled around the Hudson Valley, promoting local agriculture & businesses with the "Where's Nicky?" scavenger hunt. He also visited eight Fairs in NY and sent an "#agbassador" to the Great New York State Fair. Follow @Nicky_the_Fair_Calf on Instagram to see where his trail takes him.



Peggy, Nicky's #agbassador, enjoying the Great NYS Fair

Ulster County Agricultural Society creates Sensory Safe Space.

The Ulster County Fair Sensory Safe Space opened on August 1, 2023 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Having been utilized every day of the Fair, the space proved a success. This idea came from Ulster County Agricultural Society members and employees who had learned of other Fair's creating similar spaces at both the IAFE and the NYSAAF Conventions. The transformation from a storage space to a beautifully serene environment is all thanks to Fair Manager, Gary Newkirk, CFE, and the dedicated board members, 4-H youth, local school districts, and volunteers that worked tirelessly to finish in time for the 2023 Fair.



Is your Agricultural Society or Fair working towards creating a bridge in your community that you would like to share in the next newsletter? Email photos and a brief description to nysaaf@gmail.com

In Memoriam



Jacob-Jake-Sammons, CFE, Fonda Fair
August 18, 1935 - May 21, 2023

Jake grew up on his family homestead in Sammonsville, NY which was a land grant from the Queen of England. He was a 1954 Graduate of Gloversville High School. From a young age he was an entertainer - he peddled milk through the community, juggled all over the Northeast, and participated in square dancing competitions! Jake was certain that showbiz would be his life career until he met his wife Shirley at the State Square Dance Championship.

Jake and Shirley were married in 1956 and soon returned to work on Shirley's parents farm in Tribes Hill. He was active in the Montgomery County 4-H showing cattle, chickens, crops, and horses. This passion led him to be the General Manager of the Fonda Fairgrounds. Jake's creativity was instrumental in many of the buildings we now enjoy at the fairgrounds. The success of the Fonda Fair was his passion while he dedicated much

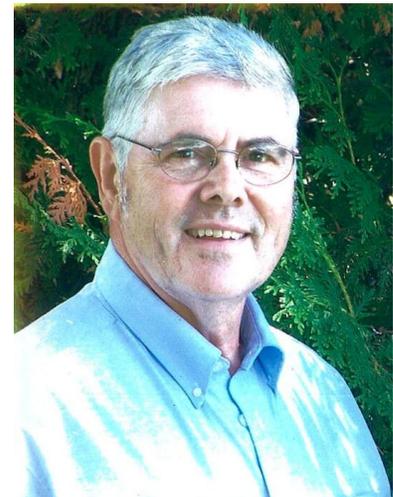
of his time over the years. Jake was a loving husband, father, father-in-law, brother, grandfather and great grandfather. His family was his pride and joy and made a point to let others know all about their happenings. Jake was proud of the legacy he created through many generations. Many have been a witness to his entertainment while stopping at the Samdil Farm Stand. He was famous for meeting people at the stand and soon they ended up on a tour!

He was an agriculture advocate on and off his family farm. In addition to running his family farm he was involved in the Fonda Fair, Milk Coop., Farm Bureau, Extension Service Committee, and the Local Zoning Board. His highlights were; President of the New York State Fair Managers and the President of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs.

Jesse Emery Schantz

September 1, 1934 ~ June 13, 2023 (age 88)

Mr. Schantz was member of Deer River Congregational Church and the former Castorland Baptist Church, where he served as Deacon. Jesse was a member of American Legion Post #162. He served on the Denmark Town Board and as Councilman and Justice of the Peace from January 1, 1970 to July 10, 1978. Jesse was involved with the Lewis County Agricultural Society beginning in 1971, and served as Secretary of the Lewis County Fair Board from 1972 until 1996. He became an emeritus board member in 1997, but was still actively involved with the fair board. In 1993, the Lewis County Fair Premium Book was dedicated to him. Jesse was also active with the NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs, serving as President of the fair managers in 1989. He was a member of the State National Grange and Lewis County Pomona Grange, a member of Lewis County 4-H, Director of Lewis County Maple Producers Association and a member of the Northern NY Maple Producers Co-Op, a member of the Lewis County Holstein Club and the Lewis County Farm Bureau. In his later years, Jesse was very involved with the Copenhagen Senior Club and Senior Activities, and in 2019 he received the Randy Streeter Senior Citizen of the Year from Lewis County Office for the Aging.



Geraldine "Gerry" H. Elthorp

August 19, 2023

In 2009, Gerry became President of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs and has remained an active member of the Association. Gerry received a Special Appreciation Plaque and several citations and proclamations from the N.Y.S. Assembly and N.Y.S. Senate, on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the opening ceremonies, at the Herkimer County Fair, for her 50 years of service and dedication to the fair. The awards stated that she served as a Volunteer Director of the Herkimer County Fair Association, for the past 50 years and Treasurer for the past 30 years, over which time she has made significant contributions to the Fair Community. She frequently attended rallies and legislative meetings in Albany for fair related issues. Her steadfast dedication to the Herkimer County Fair Association has positively impacted the broader community, providing family fun traditions with events and activities at the Herkimer County Fair that focus on Agricultural and food production education.



Season snapshots!



Altamont Fair



Afton Fair



Gabriella Nelson enjoying her Agriventure at the Dutchess County Fair



Ulster County Fair



Washington County Fair



Washington County Fair



Ulster County Fair

2023 Members supporting members, Fair visits!



Columbia County Fair



Saratoga County Fair



Cortland County Junior Fair



Ulster County Fair



Eric County Fair



Education Center & 4-H Park
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Orange County

THE COUNTRY FAIR
JULY 27-30

LOW US ON f & IG



Ulster County Fair



Eric County Fair



Lewis County Fair



Washington County Fair



Lewis County Fair



CLINTON COUNTY FAIR



Broome County Fair



Franklin County Fair



Washington County Fair



JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR



Grahamsville Little World's Fair



Saratoga County Fair

NYSAAF members visit The Great New York State Fair

Sean Hennessey, Manager of the Great NYS Fair and his staff treated members of the NYSAAF to a tour of the fairgrounds on Saturday, September 2. Attendees took a tram ride around the grounds, saw the display put together by the Master Gardeners regarding farming, and toured the Exposition Center where there was time to sit and chat in the viewing area along with a catered lunch. Don't worry, no association members were harmed by a dinosaur during the visit!



More NY State Fair Fun!



Support from NYS Ag & Markets, Commissioner Ball, Senator Hinchey, and Governor Hochul

The Country Fair in Otisville



Governor Hochul at The Erie County Fair



The Columbia County Fair

