

2020 Guernsey County Fair Status

The only constant in life is change, and while 2020 has not dealt a fair hand for county fairs and mass gatherings, we must continue to stay nimble and adapt to the rules set in place. As such, the Guernsey County Fair Board continues to do what we can to provide what was promised earlier this year, which is to provide “at least a Junior Fair in 2020”. Certainly, each week we face a changing environment and more challenges. The recent orders by the Governor have once again altered our schedule and plans for the 2020 Fair. We continue to stick to the goal and move forward the best we can through on-going communication and cooperation with the Guernsey County Health Department while continuing to develop a workable plan that stays within the established guidelines from Columbus. In coming days we will release the 6th version of our schedule - one that we hope will get us through the fair. Along with this new schedule are a lot of changes that will affect anyone that has or would attend the fair.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

As directed, we have cancelled all grandstand events, except for Harness Racing, which will be ran with a closed Grandstand. Previous changes to the schedule had already closed the midway and rides.

- The 2020 Fair will NOT BE OPEN to the public - admission will only be granted to those who have obtained a wrist band from a Junior Fair Exhibitor. Each Exhibitor will be limited to 6 wristbands per family in addition to their own.
- All traffic will enter through what was in the past referred to as Gate 3, which is the road that comes up the hill into the northern parking lot. NO OTHER GATES will be open. Plans are to have security in place at the gate, and we must adhere to this plan. This method has been used at other shows recently and has been effective as the latest orders direct us to greatly limit the number of people on the Fair Grounds, and to limit those on the grounds to family members of exhibitors.
- On Junior Fair Sale Day, which is Friday September 18th, admission will be granted via wristband or a Buyer’s Pass only.

CAMPER GUIDELINES:

Campers are still welcomed to the fair for EXHIBITOR FAMILIES ONLY. There will be no camping discount for the limited fair. For those that are unable or decide not to bring their camper, we will offer 2 options: • Refund of the camper registration or, • apply the registration fee to next year's fair. A form for this will be posted on the website, Facebook, and will be available for pickup prior to the fair at the Senior Fair Board Office porch in coming days. Completed forms can be deposited in the Senior Fair Board Office door slot, or mailed to: P.O. Box 208 Old Washington, OH 43768. Payments will be processed during fair week and will be by check only.

Also for those camping or electing to not camp, you would have purchased a "season pass". If you would like to get a refund for this purchase, you will also need to fill out the form to get a refund or apply to next year's fair.

The deadline to refund or apply to next year will end September 14, 2020 at noon. If you do not camp, and do not fill out the refund/apply form we will gladly take your payment as a donation. There will be no assumption to apply your payment to next year.

Membership Ticket Fees paid cannot be refunded. No exceptions.

LIVESTOCK SHOWS:

The livestock show schedule remains close to what we have done in the past. There are some changes to arrival and departure times that are important. For the 2020 Fair, we are being very flexible with arrivals and departures. Some stalling locations will change, some show venues will change - all in the attempt to provide plenty of space for exhibitors and their families. It is expected that families should be ringside to watch their child show and then leave after that class so other families can watch their child. We must limit spectators during shows, be cooperative and be fair to other families. We must enforce a 10PM curfew each night of the fair for the barn areas - security will be in place. Those camping may remain at their camper, those not camping will need to exit the grounds. As we all know this environment is ever-changing, and what is in place today can change tomorrow and certainly by mid-September. We will adapt and adhere to the parameters in place at that time as needed to not only meet but exceed what we are expected to do. These changes are what we need to do to have our Junior Fair. At this time masks will be required, and social distancing will be followed. Those that enter the grounds will do so knowing the guidelines to follow.

Barn decorations and mulch:

- No barn decorations will be permitted this year. Clubs are permitted to put up club name and exhibitor name signs. Exhibitors are permitted to put up buyer thank you signs.
- Mulch will be provided for all cattle for 2020. No one is permitted to bring in their own mulch/wood chips.

Livestock Sale Changes:

In order to provide a safer sale experience this year for buyers, exhibitors, and their family members, Livestock Sale Committee is planning a live auction to take place at the fairgrounds which will also be streamed online. Buyers who are unable to attend the live auction will be able to bid online. Exhibitors who are not currently selling and their family members will be able to watch online, if they desire. Only the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion from each species and Champion Bred & Owned and Reserve Champion Bred & Owned, where applicable, will bring their animal into the sale ring. All other youth will go through the sale ring without their animals. To reduce contact with buyers, pictures will only be taken of the champions bringing animals to the sale ring. Youth will not take a thank you with their picture to the buyer or any other thank you gift during the sale. Youth are encouraged to deliver a thank you gift at a later time, if they so choose. Buyers will be mailed a thank you sign following the fair. Reminder for 2020 only – Market hogs will be a partial terminal sale which means animals purchased through the sale can be turned to the sale barn, kept and sent to harvest, or taken home by the buyer. Sale Committee will be sending buyer letters out later in August to share the new format information for the 2020 Junior Fair Livestock Sale with returning buyers from 2019. If you have new buyers for 2020, please contact Janet Roberts, Secretary for Livestock Sale Committee, at 740-638-4321 or hrfarmsjj@windstream.net. Janet will be able to send them a new buyer's packet.

Youth are encouraged to send buyer's letters out inviting potential buyers to come and support the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. Be sure to mention the new sale format so buyers know they can participate in-person or virtually.

Please note that additional changes may be announced as Senior Fair Board and junior fair committees continue to plan.

Please pay close attention to our Facebook page for additional announcements as they become available.