



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/23/2019

Contact: Amy Lyman, (501) 219-6323, amy.lyman@agriculture.arkansas.gov

More than \$1.5 Million Provided to Arkansas Fairs in 2019 to Support Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) provided \$1,520,798 in funding to Arkansas fairs in 2019. This funding includes \$669,000 in premium funds and \$792,000 in construction funds to county and district fairs, the Four States Fair, and the Arkansas State Fair.

“We are proud to support fairs and youth programs in Arkansas that provide opportunities to showcase Arkansas’s largest industry that contributes \$21 billion annually to the state’s economy,” said Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “These funds help encourage our youth, the future of the agriculture industry, to be more involved and continue the success of the industry.”

In 2019, more than 57,000 exhibitors, including youth participating as junior exhibitors, participated in Arkansas fairs. The funding provided to the State 4-H Association, Arkansas FFA Association, the Arkansas High School Rodeo Association, and to Miss Arkansas Rodeo helps to reimburse the expenses incurred by student members representing the state at national conferences and events outside of Arkansas.

The statewide fair premium funds are paid annually to help cover costs of fair operations and general maintenance. Construction funding is paid to counties every other year to cover routine maintenance and/or improvements to fair facilities. Construction funds are paid biennially and are divided equally among each county and district fair.

A new grant program for fairs will be offered later this year with approximately \$254,000 in available funding. Once the rules for the new program have completed the promulgation process, applications can be found at agriculture.arkansas.gov.

Each year Livestock and Poultry Division inspectors provide 2,400 manhours at 77 fairs across the state to complete health inspections of exhibition animals and to ensure that the applicable animal health regulatory requirements are satisfied. Inspectors also routinely audit fair records to ensure that applications appropriately match completed premium paperwork.

“It’s an honor to partner with fairs across the state to help promote Arkansas agriculture while also helping ensure the health of exhibition animals and the livestock and poultry industries,” said Patrick Fisk, Director of the Department’s Livestock and Poultry Division.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer

