

The 2020 Iowa State Fair has been postponed until 2021. Please click for more information.



August 12-22, 2021

417 DAYS **00** HOURS **30** MINUTES

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FAIR UPDATES



FAQ

Why is the Fair postponed? We think the word canceled is so final and we know that we will be back next year, so we choose to say the 2020 Iowa State Fair is postponed. We are heartbroken we can't be together this August. We tirelessly analyzed all the unique traditions at the Iowa State Fair and believe it will be safer given the current COVID-19 situation. That will give us enough time to properly get ready for the Iowa State Fair you know and love, August 12-22, 2021.

Why not wait to make this decision? Preparing for the largest event in Iowa takes a lot of planning. We have narrowed down a minimum of 60-70 days for ordering materials and getting the Fairgrounds ready. We took all the time we could to come to our decision to be sure that we had looked at every aspect and reviewed the most recent COVID-19 information.

Is this the first time the Fair has not been held? Only 5 Fairs have been canceled. There wasn't a Fair in 1898 due to the World's Fair in Omaha and the Spanish-American War. The Fair was also a wartime casualty from 1942-1945.

What is the economic impact of the Fair? We estimate it's over \$100 million worth of economic impact in the eleven days the Fair is held. The Fair has an estimated budget of about \$30 million plus capital improvement projects.

Do you have other plans for 2020? We will miss our Fair family too much, so we hope to be able to sprinkle a few Fair-like opportunities down the road. Stay tuned for what those might look like. Be sure to visit our website www.iowastatefair.org/about/fair-updates, sign up for our e-newsletter, text FAIR to 75782 or follow us on social media to get up to date information.

What if I already purchased admission tickets? We apologize for the inconvenience, but please know our decision was based on keeping you safe and healthy so we can be together next year. If you purchased admission tickets, you can keep them for 2021, or you will receive an email with instructions for a refund or to gift the price to the Fair within the next 30 days. If you purchased your tickets in person and would like a refund, the tickets will need to be mailed to Attn: Ticket Office, PO Box 57130, Des Moines, Iowa 50317 by July 15, 2020.

What about canceled Grandstand shows? If you purchased your tickets through Etix the official Iowa State Fair ticket source, you will receive information on how to request a refund. If the concert is rescheduled for 2021, you can hold onto your ticket for the new dates in 2021. Unfortunately, we weren't able to reschedule KIDZ Bop, Bethel Music, or Hairball on the Grandstand. If you purchased tickets through Etix, you will receive information about refunds through email. If you won tickets through an email, text or radio station promotion, your tickets have a \$0 refund value, but can be used for the rescheduled dates. Check out <https://www.iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand/> for specifics.

How can I support the Iowa State Fair? We are as heartbroken as you about the decision to postpone this year, but we know it is the right thing to do. If you already purchased tickets or paid for entries, you can choose to gift it back to the Fair instead of requesting a refund.

If you would like to support the Iowa State Fair, you can make a donation to the Blue Ribbon Foundation www.blueribbonfoundation.org. The Blue Ribbon Foundation has been keeping your Fairgrounds in tip-top shape for over 25 years. Your donation is always precious to us, but without revenue generated during the 2020 Fair, your donation is even more helpful. No matter what size donation it will be put to good use getting ready for the 2021 Fair, August 12-22.

Why did you make this decision now and not closer to the Fair? We took as much time as we possibly could. It is such a big decision and we just couldn't wait any longer. It takes more than a year to plan for the biggest celebration in Iowa, so even though we don't know what August might look like, we had to make a decision with the information that we have today.

Did you consider modifying the Fair by limiting attendance, instituting social distance guidelines and requiring face masks and temperature checks? We took our time looking at all of the different ways to make the 2020 Iowa State Fair work under the current COVID-19 limitations. That included attendance, social distancing, face masks, temperature checks and other CDC and public health guidelines. There were a million different scenarios that we had to

consider, which included social distancing on buses or trams, waiting for restroom sanitizations regularly, standing in line for food or merchandise, wearing face masks in hot weather, limiting crowd sizes at free stages, buildings or the Grandstand and making hand sanitizer with the proper alcohol content available everywhere you turn, decreasing sponsorships and low entries for some competitions. Unfortunately, many of our costs are fixed for the 11 day Fair and our survey results (we did 2 just to be sure) only reported that 35% of Iowans felt comfortable attending the Fair this year. The challenges just kept coming and it was making the Iowa State Fair not what we love.

Could the Fair be extended in days in order to space out the crowds? Spacing out the Fair is really difficult from a scheduling standpoint working around volunteers, school start dates, vendors, carnival rides, and entertainment.

Why couldn't the Fair be postponed for later in the fall? The Iowa State Fair is in August as the summer fades into fall. Because of other events in the surrounding area, other festivals and obligations for families, it just isn't feasible to move such a large event to another date.

Who made the decision? The Iowa State Fair Board voted based on information compiled by staff and reviewed by a task force.

What plans do you have for this year and/or next year? We know Iowans will miss the Fair and we will too, so we are working on ideas on ways we can sprinkle a little Fair around this summer. Follow us on social media or visit our website for information.

Will there be a 2021 Iowa State Fair? All systems are a go for the 2021 Iowa State Fair. We can't wait to see you August 12-22, 2021.

When will you start announcing information about the 2021 Iowa State Fair? We will be announcing plans as soon as possible. Keep up to date by following us on social media, signing up for our e-newsletter at www.iowastatefair.org/about/fair-updates or by texting FAIR to 75782 for text message alerts.

COMPETITION

What about livestock shows? We know that livestock is a pillar of the Iowa State Fair; in fact, it is in our mission statement and is how we started. Information about the 2020 Fair Special Edition: 4-H and FFA Livestock Show can be found on the [How to Enter](#) page.

If I've already submitted my entry information and fees for competition(s) this year, what will happen to my entry fees and any tickets purchased? All entry forms are unprocessed at this time and will be properly destroyed along with entry fees and ticket payments in the coming weeks.

I've been working on projects (Iowa Family Living, Photography, etc.) for the Iowa State Fair. Can I submit these projects for the 2021 Iowa State Fair? Yes! We would love to have your projects entered in 2021.

If I've already completed my YQCA certification requirement for the 2020 Iowa State Fair, what should I do? The YQCA program is not run by the Iowa State Fair so we are unable to offer refunds. YQCA certifications do have an expiration date. 4-H and FFA youth livestock exhibitors will need to have a valid YQCA certificate to compete at the 2021 Iowa State Fair.

What happens to the FFA nomination tag fees that had to be submitted by June 1? Unfortunately, we are unable to reuse the 840 livestock tags that have been placed in nominated animals. We aren't able to refund the nomination fees because they just cover the cost of the tag and mailing fees.

This is my last year of eligibility for junior livestock shows. Am I able to compete in the Junior Shows at the 2021 Iowa State Fair? We will review Iowa State Fair Junior Show rules in the upcoming months in cooperation with 4-H and FFA. Also, we are looking at other possibilities to provide an opportunity for 4-H and FFA exhibitors to showcase their livestock projects.

What should I do if I already paid to sponsor a contest? Communication will be sent in the next few weeks to those sponsors who have sent payment. 2020 sponsors can request a full refund, elect to move funds forward to a 2021 Fair sponsorship, or gift the fees to the Fair.

I submitted a digital entry in the Fine Art competition. What happens next? Because the Fine Art entries are submitted and juried digitally, that contest may continue. Entries have been judged and prize winners will be selected from the digital entries. There will not be a physical display of artwork this year but we are looking into virtual opportunities to showcase the beautiful submissions we have received.

I signed up my child(ren) to participate in this year's Vet Camp or Advanced Vet Camp. What happens to those spots? We know these programs fill up fast! Participants will need to sign up again on May 1, 2021 when the 2021 dates are available.

What about the coloring contest? I have already submitted my entry, now what?

Please keep sending in your entries to the Coloring Contest. We will still judge the submissions and host a virtual display of entries. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place rosettes will be mailed to the winner of each division. Entry deadline is July 30, 2020.

What happens to my exhibitor camping spot and fees? Your spot is secure for 2021 because the Fair is postponed. If you have sent in your camping payment you will have the opportunity to transfer those fees to your 2021 reservation, request a refund or gift your fees to the Fair by July 15, 2020. Watch your email for more information and instruction.

TICKETS

What do I do with my pre-purchased Fair admission tickets? We apologize for the inconvenience, but please know our decision was based on keeping you safe and healthy so we can be together next year. If you purchased admission tickets, you can keep them for 2021, or you will receive an email with instructions for a refund or to gift the price to the Fair within the next 30 days. If you purchased your tickets in person and would like refund, the tickets will need to be mailed to Attn: Ticket Office, PO Box 57130, Des Moines, Iowa 50317 by July 15, 2020.

Can I use my admission ticket(s) in 2021? Your 2020 pre-Fair admission tickets will be good for any day at the 2021 Fair, August 12-22.

Can I gift my ticket(s) fees back to the Fair? Yes! We appreciate your support and the gift will help us get ready for the best 2021 Fair. If you purchased your tickets through the official Iowa State Fair ticket vendor, Etix, you will receive an email with instructions. If you purchased your tickets in person at our Administration Building, please mail them with instructions to gift the fees to Attn: Ticket Office, PO 57130, Des Moines, Iowa 50317 by July 15th or call 515-262-3111.

I purchased tickets to see performances in the Iowa State Fair Grandstand. What do I do with my ticket(s)? If the concert has been rescheduled, your seats are safe for 2021. Information to request a refund within 30 days will be emailed to you through Etix, the official Iowa State Fair ticket source. If you purchased your tickets through a third party vendor, you will need to contact them directly. If the concert is rescheduled for 2021, you can hold onto your ticket for the new dates in 2021. Unfortunately, we weren't able to reschedule KIDZ Bop, Bethel Music, or Hairball on the Grandstand. If you purchased tickets through Etix, you will receive information about refunds through email.

What if I purchased my tickets through a source other than Etix (not accessed through iowastatefair.org or etix.com)? If you purchased your tickets through a third party vendor other than Etix on the Iowa State Fair website, you will need to contact them directly for instructions and information.

I won Grandstand tickets through a contest or promotion or radio station? What can I do with them? Lucky duck! Hang onto those tickets and they will still be good for rescheduled concerts in 2021. If the show is not rescheduled, there is a \$0 refund value.

EVENTS

If I applied for the 2020 Parade, can I get a refund? We apologize for the inconvenience. You can apply your application to the 2021 Parade, you can request a refund or you can gift your fees to the Iowa State Fair. If you have already applied, you will be contacted on how to handle your entry. Please mark your calendar for the 2021 Iowa State Fair Parade on August 11, 2021.

Will there still be a 2020 Iowa State Fair Queen contest? The Iowa State Fair Queen contest brings together county fair queens showcasing the very best in personality, leadership, citizenship, charm, poise and contributions to our local communities. We are sad we can't host this prestigious competition this year, but we have confidence that our reigning Queen, Hannah Koellner, from Mahaska County, will represent us well until the 2021 competition is held on August 14, 2021.

Will any special events or contests be offered virtually? Bubble gum blowing on the Riley Stage, hog calling in Pioneer Hall, competing with the very best in checkers or running down Grand Ave in the outhouse races with your teammates are just a few things that make the Iowa State Fair unique. We hope to sprinkle in a few of our Fair favorites throughout the summer. Follow us on social media or visit our website at <https://www.iowastatefair.org/participate/fairtime-contests/> for more information.

What about concrete statues? Good news! If you have already applied, you will now have a year to complete your design. The statues will be ready soon for pick up. We will also be opening this back up for additional entries in the winter. All 2020 and 2021 entries will be judged and on display at the 2021 Iowa State Fair, August 12-22.

How are other events on the Iowa State Fairgrounds affected? Following government guidelines and recommendations for mass gathering including capacity, social distancing and sanitizing, we are able to host events on the Fairgrounds. We are working hard with show promoters to reschedule events when possible and most events scheduled for the fall remain on our schedule. Visit www.iowastatefairgrounds.org for an up-to-date calendar of events.

What about free entertainment? Free entertainment is always a highlight of the Fair. Applications for daytime free entertainment for the 2021 Iowa State Fair will be posted on our website on January 4, 2021.

What about the Bill Riley Talent Search? On May 15, the Bill Riley Talent Search was postponed for the 2020 Season. It will be back up and running for the 2021 Iowa State Fair and we can't wait to see all our most talented young people compete at the Iowa State Fair!

What about the Century and Heritage Farm Awards? The Century and Heritage Farm program is a highlight for many at the Iowa State Fair. Although we cannot gather at the 2020 Iowa State Fair to honor the rich history of Iowa's family farms, current plans are being developed to congratulate the families who have retained ownership of their land for at least 100 years. Families who have applied for this year's ceremony will be notified with options as soon as they are available. Any specific questions can be directed to Kelley Reece, Century and Heritage Farm Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, by emailing kelley.reece@iowaagriculture.gov or by calling 515-281-3645.

VENDORS

I've been accepted to be a vendor at this year's Iowa State Fair. Now what? We are so sorry! The Concessions Department will be reaching out to you with more information about the 2021 Fair. If you have questions, you can email concessions@iowastatefair.org.

I canceled my booth due to COVID-related reasons. Will I need to reapply for 2021? If you were accepted and then canceled your booth because of the current situation, we will honor your booth space for 2021. If you have questions, please reach out to concessions@iowastatefair.org.

I applied to be a new vendor for the 2020 Iowa State Fair, but my application was not accepted. Will I need to re-apply for consideration for the 2021 Iowa State Fair? Yes, you will need to reapply for consideration each year. We don't carry over applications from year to year.

How can I support Fair Food vendors? We love food at the Iowa State Fair! Some of our food vendors have opened businesses where you can get a taste of their Fair food. Visit our website: www.iowastatefair.org/food/whats-new for a listing. Stay tuned for activities this summer as we try to sprinkle a little Fair food around.

CAMPING

Will I lose my camping spot if I haven't paid yet? Don't worry! Your reserved camping spot is secure for 2021 because the Fair is postponed.

What if I've already paid for my reserved camping spot for the 2020 Iowa State Fair and purchased admission, wristbands or Fair Value Packs? We apologize for the inconvenience and we will miss you in the campgrounds this year. Please use the  [form](#) to request a refund or gift your fees to the Fair by July 15, 2020. Your camping AND your other products (admission, wristbands, and Fair Value Packs) will be handled together and cannot be refunded or gifted separately. For questions, contact sjorgensen@iowastatefair.org or call 515-401-1513.

Are the campgrounds still open for camping? Our campgrounds are currently open for off-season camping. In the off-season, open camping is on a first-come, first served basis. There are no marked camping spots. You can reserve a general camping spot here:
<https://www.iowastatefairgrounds.org/camping/off-season-camping/>.

BLUE RIBBON FOUNDATION

1854 Society: Members can designate their 2020 renewal donation for their 2021 membership. If you would like to support the Blue Ribbon Foundation in 2020, you can designate your gift to the “[Rebuilding the Dream](#)” general fund or toward one of the Foundation’s [giving programs](#). Donations can also be refunded. Please contact the Blue Ribbon Foundation for questions (Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org). If you are an 1854 member, the Foundation will be communicating with you directly.

Jake’s Club: Members can designate their 2020 renewal donation for their 2021 membership. If you would like to support the Blue Ribbon Foundation in 2020, you can designate your gift to the “[Rebuilding the Dream](#)” general fund or toward one of the Foundation’s [giving programs](#). Donations can also be refunded. Please contact the Blue Ribbon Foundation for questions (Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org). If you are an 1854 member, the Foundation will be communicating with you directly.

Giving Programs: If you donated to one of the Foundation’s giving programs (engraved brick, paver, plaque, etc.) by March 31, 2020, your paver/plaque will be installed this summer. The Foundation will notify these donors directly when the item is placed on the Fairgrounds. If you would like to support the Foundation’s efforts to renovate and improve the Iowa State Fairgrounds, all of our [giving programs](#) are open for the 2021 Iowa State Fair.

Corndog Kickoff: The Corndog Kickoff is canceled for 2020. Please save Saturday, July 10, 2021 for the fundraising event that kicks off our Fair season! Supporters that already gave a donation to the 2020 event will be contacted by the Blue Ribbon Foundation. In lieu of the Kickoff, the Foundation is exploring other options to bring our Fair friends together, either in person or in spirit, in support of Fairgrounds renovations. Stay tuned for more information via social media and our website.

State Fair Store: The Blue Ribbon Foundation’s online State Fair store is currently open to purchase Iowa State Fair [merchandise](#). For avid Fair collectors, there will be a 2020 Pottery Piece, lapel pins, charms, etc. Merchandise intended for the 2020 Fair will be available on the website beginning in late July.

Donate: Have you appreciated the improvements made to the Iowa State Fairgrounds over the past 25 years? Would you like to see more? If so, please consider giving a donation to the Blue Ribbon Foundation's "[Rebuilding the Dream](#)" fund or one of our [giving programs](#). Help us make the Fairgrounds even better for you, your children and grand-children.

SPONSORSHIP

What should I do if our organization has already paid for our 2020 Fair sponsorship package? 2020 sponsors can request a full refund, elect to roll fees forward to a 2021 Fair sponsorship, or gift the fees to the Fair. The Sponsorship Department will be in touch soon with details.

As a sponsor I receive an exhibit space in my package. Will my space be held for the 2021 Fair? Yes. All 2020 exhibit spaces will remain available up to the 2021 Right of First Refusal deadline. Refer to your sponsorship agreement for this date.

Will sponsorship recognition remain as-is on the sponsorship page of the Fair website? Yes, recognition will remain as-is and will continue to include all confirmed sponsors from the 2019 Iowa State Fair.

Our 2020 sponsorship package was still in negotiations, how do I proceed for the 2021 Fair? The Sponsorship Department will be in touch to discuss the process for 2021 Fair sponsorship packages.

If your question isn't answered above or you need something more specific, please email info@iowastatefair.org or call 515-262-3111 ext 204 to reach the marketing department.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Information regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the [Iowa State Fair's Safety Page](#).

JOIN THE CLUB!

Stay up-to-date with news from the Iowa State Fair via the Official Iowa State Fair App, text alerts and e-newsletter.

OFFICIAL IOWA STATE FAIR APP

Don't want to miss any of the Iowa State Fair action? Download the Official Iowa State Fair App to keep up with all the fun! Access the daily schedule, Grandstand shows, purchase Admission Tickets and participate in the Photo Hunt all from your mobile device.

Download the Iowa State Fair App! Click on the appropriate link below for your device.

[Apple](#)

[Android](#)

FAIR TEXT ALERTS

Stay up to date on the latest Iowa State Fair news and events with Iowa State Fair text alerts!

Text **FAIR** to **75782** for special offers, updates on concerts and daily activities, weather alerts and more.

Text **BABY** to **75782** to receive updates when new babies are born at the Animal Learning Center.

Message frequency varies. No purchase necessary. By texting in, you agree to receive autodialed marketing messages at the number provided. Message & data rates may apply.

FAIR E-NEWSLETTER

Join our email club to get the inside scoop on Fair events and activities delivered right to your inbox! We send out monthly emails and usually a few extra updates closer to the Fair. As always, we will never share your email address with other companies and you can opt-out at any time—but we hope you don't!

Also, you may select any combination of our concert info groups to receive updates on your favorite types of music at the Fair!

SIGN UP NOW

FAIR UPDATES

Receive the latest Iowa State Fair news and information with our text alerts and e-newsletter!

[SIGN UP](#)

BLUE RIBBON FOUNDATION

A non-profit organization raising funds to help preserve and improve the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

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