



2020 Umatilla County Fair Official Event Announcement May 14, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 orders set in place by Governor Brown on May 7th, 2020, the Umatilla County Fair will hold a modified event this year in August. The Governor stated that, "Large gatherings including live sporting events with audiences, concerts, festivals and conventions will not be able to return until we have a reliable treatment or prevention, like a vaccine" and further, "Large events through September should be cancelled or significantly modified."

At this time our regular concerts, contests, carnival, parade and other fair activities have been postponed until 2021.

First and foremost, we must keep the public safe and follow the orders set forth by the Governor's office. A Fair subcommittee has been formed to work out logistics and plan the event for this August, creating a platform for the youth of Umatilla County to "exhibit" their projects and to show/sell their market animals. We will plan a modified 4-H and FFA market animal show and auction using available technology to ensure compliance with the Governor's orders.

With the announcement of the May 7th orders, the Fair Board based their decision in consideration of these additional facts:

1. Umatilla County has applied for a Phase 1 reopening which would allow for groups of up to 25 people to convene. The Oregon Health Association is in receipt of the County's plan. Approval is pending.
2. If approved, the County must remain in Phase 1 for 21 days before a reevaluation can occur to determine if the requirements have been met to issue a Phase 2 reopening which at this time, will tentatively only allow for groups of up to 100 to convene.
3. A Phase 3 reopening plan for the highest risk activities (larger events), will require the availability of a reliable treatment or vaccine.
4. At any time during Phase 1 or Phase 2, if the "Covid climate" worsens in our County, our reopening plan is at risk of revocation and reimplementing of tighter restrictions.

The Fair Board is working with 4-H and FFA (locally and at the state level), the County Commissioners, the Umatilla County Fair Sale Committee, parents, volunteers, the Farm City Pro Rodeo, the City of Hermiston and EOTEC, and is listening to any and all input from other groups postponing, cancelling or modifying their summer events. The Oregon Fairs Association has hosted weekly conference calls which have proven invaluable in keeping the flow of communication open and accurate across the state.

Our communities have never been short on offering support for local youth events. The Umatilla County Fair Board feels that its responsibilities lay first and foremost with our kids and to support Ag in our region. To do that, we ask that our sponsors continue to donate and to support our endeavors even though their 2020 sponsorship perks will look much different than what they have grown accustomed to as fair sponsors. The Fair needs to sustain financially. We need to be able to maintain our budget through the end of our fiscal year. Without our sponsor support, it cannot happen. A few of our larger sponsors have unfortunately had to back out due to required cutbacks. Our hope is that we succeed in convincing the decision makers that the County Fair still needs them for 2020 and to begin the 2021 season given these new hurdles.

As we navigate through the rest of the year, we ask for your patience, confidence and your support. The August event cannot happen without the continued unification of our communities and the necessary support from our loyal sponsors. Our thoughts are with those who have been affected physically, emotionally and/or financially by this pandemic and hope that those who still can, will rally together in support of one another and in support of our local businesses and the organizations that need help.

It is vital that we remain united and climb this hill together. We appreciate your patience, flexibility and unwavering support.

Thank you,

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