

May 5, 2022

ANTRIM COUNTY FAIR BOARD – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Good morning commissioners and everyone in attendance

The 2021 Antrim County Fair was smaller in participants and limited to a fewer number of items offered after a year off from Covid, but the number of people in attendance were still high. We did not have a working kitchen and the restaurant cook off did not happen due to after effects of Covid. There was a food truck that was well received by everyone in attendance. The 5 k run was a little smaller in attendance, and was rerouted to allow for distance between runners at the start, but still enjoyed by all that attended the race. The number of animals and participants were down but not by an extreme amount, it was nice to see all that did participate and attend the fair. The Covid restrictions that had been installed worldwide were honored by the fair and caused for some downsizing and limiting of events that were offered at the fair.

A new scale was purchased by the 4-H council and will be stored on the fairgrounds so it can be used for weigh-ins during the fair. There are also plans to use the scale for clinics during the year so 4-H members can better track the progress of their livestock.

This fair was the first to use the new barn that was built in 2019/2020 and was a great improvement from the past barn and was well received by all that attended, or used the barn to house their animals, also the kitchen received a new roof and the inside was renovated with new lighting and wall board. The kitchen floor and the floors in the bath house were epoxy sealed this was a much needed improvement.

All that attended the fair were still entertained by the horse show on Thursday, the animal judging events and the Livestock auction on Friday evening Saturday started with the dog show, family fun day, and then the fair concluded with the horse pull on Saturday evening.

In October the fairgrounds were used to host the first annual Family fair fundraiser festival that was a potluck meal and there were plenty of events for people to participate in under the large animal barn it was attended by many community members and was a huge success.

This year's fair will see a return of the pre-Covid fair. It will start on Wednesday evening with the restaurant cook off and then Thursday will see a return to the schedule of past years with the horse show Thursday followed by the small animal judging, Friday will be started by the veterans memorial followed by the large animal judging, children's games and the livestock auction Friday evening. Saturday will kick off the day with the 5 k run donation pancake breakfast the dog show a K-9 presentation by Antrim Counties K-9 unit, the dog show, and demonstrations from local fire departments. We have lined up vendors to sell their products, we are offering plenty of games for the children to participate in and there will be a return of things that were not available last year due to the restrictions placed for public safety.

With the budget cut that we received we are looking for other avenues to fund and promote the fair and the fairgrounds these include but are not limited to the October Fundraiser purchase of a race timer that will then be used to time other races not just the one at the fair. Also with the use of the grounds for multiple events we hope to make the community more aware of what the fairgrounds have to offer for the community to use.