



Wyoming State Fair

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Dear Advisor/Agent,

For many years we have strived to keep user and attendance fees low at the annual Wyoming State Fair. Within the past two years, these fees have become more difficult to sustain while continuing to provide the services, programs, and support during the Wyoming State Fair.

The State of Wyoming has seen declining revenues during an economic downturn across the state. As a result, state agencies across the board have endured substantial budget reductions. The Wyoming State Fair is no different. We saw significant budget reductions in 2016, and again during the 2017 Legislative Session. As a result of this reduced funding, along with very strong suggestions from Legislators to increase revenue during the budget bill debates, we are obliged to raise fees for the coming State Fair.

This measure was not taken lightly, and was not an easy decision for us to make. While we realize this comes at a time when funding for counties, school districts, and colleges is also being reduced, we need to make decisions that will help move the fair forward into the future. We gave careful consideration to this topic and conducted an in depth review of all fees before seeking approval of the increases by the Wyoming Board of Agriculture. For the 2017 Wyoming State Fair, several fees associated with participating and/or attending have been raised in some fashion. In doing this, we worked hard to identify areas where increases had not occurred in many years, or in areas not absolutely essential for participants and attendees. Enclosed in this letter is a spreadsheet with a full breakdown of fee histories and approved increases that will go in effect for the 2017 fair.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the increases well in advance so that you can plan your yearly activities. We fully realize this may place hardships on some individuals and families who regularly participate in Youth Programs that culminate during the State Fair. We sincerely hope these increases will not deter you and your youth programs from completing the year by participating in the Wyoming State Fair.

A short five years ago, we celebrated the 100th Wyoming State Fair here in Douglas. During the first 100 years, there were periods of optimism and prosperity as well as periods of doubt and decline. The one constant thread throughout the history of the fair was the citizens and young people of our state who kept looking ahead in order to achieve 100+ years of success. We plan to continue those same traditions, and ask that you continue to join us for the memorable times still to come.

Additional changes for the 2017 Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo, August 12-19, with additional festivities on Aug 20 and 21 during the Total Solar Eclipse

Animal Health requirements will be the same as in past years, but without an Animal Health Check-In site for livestock, horses and pets prior to entering the fairgrounds. State Animal Health Officials will be on grounds for the duration of the fair checking individual animals and examining required Certificates of Veterinary Inspection.

Youth and Open class livestock schedules will remain virtually the same as they have in past years. Open Home Arts schedules for arrival of entries have been moved to Sunday 8/13 and Monday 8/14, with judging taking place on Tuesday 8/15. Gardening entries will be received on Sunday 8/13 and judged on Monday 8/14. The Grandstand Entertainment schedule has undergone changes from previous years, with USA Arm Wrestling competition held on Saturday 8/12; Stock Dog competitions moved to Tue 8/15; Kids' Family Fun spectacular will be Thu 8/17; and the State Finals Ranch Rodeo has moved to Sun 8/20...PRCA Rodeo remains on Sun 8/13 and Mon 8/14; Pig N Mud Wrestling remains on Wed 8/16; Country Concert remains on Fri 8/18; and Demolition Derby will be held on Sat 8/19.

Vendors will be in place and open for business on Mon 8/14. Many will be staying Sun 8/20 and Mon 8/21 for the activities during the Total Solar Eclipse along with attractions on those days for visitors to Wyoming during the Solar Eclipse.

Release of Livestock and Home Arts exhibits will remain early Sun 8/20 similar to previous years.

Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo is in the process of launching a new Web Site containing complete schedule and services information for the 2017 State Fair, and special activities and services available during the Solar Eclipse festivities on Aug 20 and 21.

Very sincerely,



James Goodrich
Director, Wyoming State Fair

WYOMING STATE FAIR STAFF

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