



September 22, 2020

Show your support for U.S. House Bill 7883, the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act. Your actions can help bring about legislation to provide federal funding for agricultural fairs and continue the important community tradition of local fairs like the Solano County Fair.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20) and Congressman Billy Long (R-MO-07) have introduced H.R.7883 to help preserve agricultural fairs across the country and offset the devastating net financial losses they have experienced due to COVID-19. The Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act will provide grant funding for agricultural fairs through state departments of agriculture to keep them functioning and preserve them for the future.

The legislation provides \$500 million in Agricultural Fair Rescue Grants to agricultural fairs, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The AMS will provide the grant funding to states or state departments of agriculture based on the loss of attendance to those fairs proven to have lost significant income in 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts.

If you believe this federal legislation is important to the Solano County Fair Association as well as other fairs in the country, and you could support it with your voice, here's how you can help.

Reach out immediately to your representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H.R.7883.

- Representative John Garamendi (3rd District) <https://garamendi.house.gov/contact>
- Representative Mike Thompson (5th District) <https://mikethompsonforms.house.gov/contact>

This bill is gaining some steam with up to 36 co-sponsors and bi-partisan support, but now is the time to continue pushing it forward in order to get this bill farther in the process.

“The Solano County Fair Association (SCFA) is committed to doing everything in its power to hold an annual Solano County Fair and livestock auction in 2021,” stated SCFA Board President, Manuel Angel. “We cannot predict the future though and there may be circumstances outside of our control that would impact our goals. As of right now, our objective continues to be planning for a fair and auction for next year. Judging by our past resiliency and success, we are confident that together with our community we can make that happen.”

Livestock exhibitors interested in participating in the 2021 Solano County Fair are encouraged to point their efforts towards the summer-time event but also to prepare for the possibility of an online livestock auction as happened in 2020. Potential exhibitors are reminded that it's never too early to cultivate sponsors and buyers to help make the fruits of their efforts successful upon the sale of their animals.

Questions may be directed to Mike Ioakimedes, CEO & Executive Director, at mioak@scfair.org or at 707-551-2004.