

OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

EXTENSION DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
W. D. BENTLEY, DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION AND STATE AGENT

SUGGESTIONS
FOR HOLDING TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY FAIRS

No one factor does more to stimulate effort in the improvement of farm conditions than the agricultural fair. It is there that the farmer has an opportunity to see and observe the progress being made in the improvement of farm crops and animals and to compare his own efforts with the work of others. His successes in competing with his neighbors stimulate him to greater efforts, and his failures teach him wherein his work has been at fault.

The greatly increased number of county and neighborhood fairs being held the last year or two is encouraging evidence that the extension work of the A. and M. College, the United States Department of Agriculture and other agencies doing similar work is producing good results. We consider it an important function of the Extension Division of the A. and M. College and the United States Department of Agriculture to encourage and assist in every way possible the holding of neighborhood fairs where exhibits are shown in Boys' and Girls' Club contests and between adults. These neighborhood fairs lead to county fairs, and counties should be encouraged in friendly competition at the State Fair.

A properly conducted fair should and does result in increased production. As increased production increases taxable values, the agricultural fair may very properly be supported in part at least by taxation. Recognizing this fact, the Fifth Legislature enacted a law providing for the holding of free township and county fairs.

This law is as follows:

House Bill No. 380.

By Nesbitt

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HOLDING FREE TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY FAIRS, AND PRESCRIBING THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY SHALL BE HELD; PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATIONS AND FOR LEVYING TAXES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

Section 1. The term "Free Fair" as used in this Act shall be construed to mean township and county fairs where admission to the grounds and all exhibit buildings are free and where no charge is made for entering exhibits on which premiums are offered.

Section 2. The object of free fairs shall be to promote agriculture, horticulture, fruit culture, livestock and poultry raising, manufacturing, arts, trades and every industry of the county in which the fair is held.

Section 3. The County farm demonstrator of any county may call a massmeeting of the citizens of any municipal township in the county for the purpose of electing two members of the county fair association. The call for such massmeeting shall be by posting notices in three public places in the township, or by publication in a newspaper published in the township, or which has a general circulation in the township, or by both posting notices and publication. Such notices or publications shall state the purpose of the massmeeting, the time and place of holding the same, and such notice or publications must be made at least one week before date of meeting and said notice shall state that when a majority of the townships shall have elected delegates, the County Commissioners may make a levy to provide for said free fair when a majority of the municipal townships of any county in which not less than twenty (20) taxpaying voters of such township shall have attended said meeting and shall have elected members of the county fair association as herein provided, and the names of those elected members have been certified to the Board of County Commissioners by the Chairman and Secretary of the various township meetings which certificate shall state that notice has been given as herein provided and that twenty (20) or more taxpaying voters, residents of each of said townships shall have attended said meetings as herein provided, then the Board of County Commissioners may at their discretion, declare this act in full force and effect, and shall proceed to appoint two members of the county fair association in any township that has failed to elect such members of the county fair association. The regular time for holding elections in townships for members of the county fair association shall be the second Saturday in November, 1915, and every two years thereafter; provided, however, elections may be called by the county farm demonstrator after the passage and approval of this Act, at any time designated by the said county farm demonstrator for the purpose of holding fairs under the provisions of this Act prior to the year 1916.

Section 4. If the County Commissioners shall have elected to declare this Act in full force and effect, the members-elect of the County Fair Association shall meet at the county seat on the second Monday in December, following the election, and every year thereafter during their term of office, and special meetings may be called at any time by the Secretary or upon written request of one-fourth of the members. Notices of regular and special meetings shall be given by mail at least three days prior to the meetings.

Section 5. At the first meeting of the members of the association, and at every meeting thereafter immediately following the election of such members an organization shall be perfected by the election of a president, secretary and board of directors consisting of five members and such committees and officers as shall be deemed necessary. The Secretary may be selected outside of the association, and must be a resident of the county seat, or of the town or city where the fair is held.

Section 6. The president, secretary and board of directors shall constitute the executive board of the County Fair Association and shall have full power and authority to make all rules and regulations for holding the township and county fairs in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and shall have authority to expend the funds of the County Fair Association as herein provided, but in no case shall the expenditures exceed the amount of the appropriation.

Section 7. The executive board, with such committees as may be selected from the County Fair Association, shall make an estimate of the cost of the township and county fairs, and shall certify such estimate to the county excise board in time to be acted on by said county excise board at its annual meeting for making tax levies. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall be as follows:

First: For premiums on livestock; poultry; fruits; agriculture; horticultural and dairy products; boys' and girls' club work; school exhibits; culinary products; textile products; needlework and sewing; hand-painting, decorating and drawing; cultivated plants and flowers.

Second: For necessary expenses of management of county fairs organized under the provisions of this Act; including office expenses, postage, telegraph and telephone, traveling expenses of secretary within the county in which the fair is held; printing (except premium lists) and necessary office supplies; premium ribbons and badges; clerical help, guards, superintendents and judges.

Third: For advertising the fair and for decorating and cleaning the grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds during the fair; provided, however, that no township or county shall hold more than one fair under the provisions of this Act, during any fiscal year, and that money appropriated under this Act shall not be used for premiums at any time except in connection with the annual county and township fairs.

Fourth: Not to exceed Thirty (\$30.00) Dollars shall be appropriated for each township fair, and not to exceed One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars shall be appropriated for the purpose of transporting county exhibits to the Oklahoma State Fair or other State Fairs.

Section 8. The county excise board may, in their discretion, levy not to exceed one-fourth of one mill upon the total valuation of the county in which the fair is held, for free fair purposes, on the estimate of the executive board of the County Fair Association.

Section 9. The county treasurer shall collect and apportion moneys for the county free fair as other moneys are collected and apportioned, and shall disburse the same upon vouchers issued by the executive board of the County Fair Association, signed by the president and secretary of the same.

Section 10. The township fair shall be the unit of the free fair plan, and the County Fair Association shall cooperate with the State and Federal farm demonstrators, in organizing township clubs for boys and girls, and general farm and stock raising associations under the plans of the State and Federal Agricultural Departments. Township fairs shall be held not later

than three days prior to the county fair. The executive board shall fix the time of holding all township and county fairs, and the place of holding the same. If there is no town in any one township of the county, the executive board may provide that two or more townships may hold fairs at the same time and place. Township fairs shall be under the management of the township members of the County Fair Association who will observe the rules of the executive board, and shall select exhibits for the county fair, and shall transport such exhibits to the county fair.

Section 11. The executive board of the County Fair Association shall not estimate cost of grounds and buildings for township and county fairs, and the executive board may arrange for holding the fair in any town or city in the county that will furnish grounds and buildings free.

Section 12. The County Fair Association shall have exclusive rights to all stand rights and privileges of township and county fairs, and admission may be charged to races, horse shows, or any other special amusements; provided that no money appropriated under this act is used to defray any expenses or costs of such races, horse shows or amusements; and provided further that charging admission to such amusements does not interfere with free access of the public to all exhibits.

Section 13. All moneys derived from rights and privileges of the fair grounds shall be collected by the secretary of the County Fair Association, and may be used in defraying such expenses as are not itemized in this Act. Any balance that may be on hand after such expenses shall be turned over to the county treasurer, who shall place it in the county free fair fund.

Section 14. Premium catalogs shall be printed for township and county fairs, but the cost of printing the same shall be paid for by advertising, which shall be solicited by members of the County Fair Association.

Section 15. For the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist by reason whereof this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives this 5th day of February, 1915.
A. McCROY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate this 15th day of March, 1915.
M. E. TRAPP,
President of the Senate.

Approved this the 22nd day of March, 1915.
R. L. WILLIAMS,
Governor of the State of Oklahoma.

Correctly enrolled.
E. O. McCANCE,
Chairman Committee on Enrollment.

This law recognizes the county agent as a public official and prescribes certain duties for him in its administration. County agents should study this law carefully.

A neighborhood fair might easily be held by each consolidated school center or in each township. All that is necessary is a little united effort to work up interest, the offering of a few prizes or ribbons, a room in which to make the exhibit, and a few working committees in charge.

A large investment in grounds and buildings is not necessary for a successful fair. Many fair failures are caused by this mistake. A hall, a vacant storeroom or a cheap structure of any kind will answer every purpose for the holding of successful township and county fairs.

Each county should have a fair of some kind each year at which prizes should be offered for the best collective neighborhood exhibit, as well as individual exhibits. The best products shown at the county fair should be sent as a county exhibit to the State Fair.

A long list of valuable premiums is not necessary. The honor of winning will usually inspire all the competition necessary. Ribbons, medals of honor, small premiums of cash or useful articles should be given for skill and meritorious work in the contests.

To encourage cooperative work, cash prizes should be offered at both the State and county fairs for Boys' and Girls' Club team exhibits, to be awarded on a total score of points, and to be divided equally among the individuals composing the winning team. By this plan team work is encouraged and a larger number of boys and girls win premiums. Premiums should be offered with a view to encouraging quality and products and economic production. Premiums for freak exhibits should never be offered, such as the biggest pumpkin, the heaviest watermelon, the longest ear of corn, the tallest stalk of corn, or the greatest number of different products grown on one farm, etc.

The Extension Division of the A. and M. College will help in the organization and conducting of neighborhood and county fairs as far as it possibly can. Already the demands made upon the College for judges at fairs is so great that it is a physical impossibility to fill all of them. Those desiring help of this kind should notify the College at least sixty days before the date of holding the fair, giving date and the exact nature of the help desired.

In furnishing judges no charge will be made for the services of a regular employe of the College, or of a county agent; however, necessary traveling expenses of judges will be expected. To economize time and travel expenses, itineraries will be made for each College employe sent out to do judging work.

Representatives of the Extension Division and the Agronomy Department of the A. and M. College have prepared new score cards to be used in judging corn, kafir, milo and feterita; samples of which may be had free by writing the Extension Division or the Agronomy Department.

Score cards for other products and farm animals are being prepared.

Special drill in judging work will be given agents and others who may attend the Short Courses and Agents' meetings at Stillwater. The purpose of this special instruction in judging will be to better qualify agents and others to act as judges at township and county fairs.

Suggestions

The following suggestions are offered:

Constitution and By-Laws of a Township or County Fair Association should be as short and simple as possible and should meet the requirements of the Free Fair Law.

The executive committee should have the right to reject any objectionable exhibit. Prizes should never be awarded on an unworthy exhibit.

An exhibit should not be entered for more than one premium.

No exhibitor should make more than one entry for the same premium.

Exhibitors should not be permitted to enter products not grown or produced by themselves or under their direction.

No person should act as judge in any contest in which he or a member of his family is a competitor.

No county agent or any member of his family should compete in any contest within the county in which he is working.

Freight and express charges to and from the State Fairs must be paid by the contestant or his home people.

Where exhibits are to be sold at the close of the State Fairs they should be so marked. If to be returned to owner, mark them "To be returned". Pig crates or other packages, if returned, must be at the owner's expense.

It is very important that entries for the same premium be arranged as close together as possible. For instance, all apples should be together and the exhibits of the same variety side by side.

Collective Exhibits.—The value of the collective exhibit made by an individual, depends very largely on what it consists of and the amount of time and expense required in preparing it. For instance, should one attempt to raise and exhibit ten varieties of corn the chances are most likely to be that they will be mixed, and most of them, if not all, worthless as type specimen and for seed purposes. A collective exhibit of different products or varieties of the same product, which do not cross under natural field conditions, stimulates interest in diversification in addition to the educational value of the exhibit. An individual cannot be expert in raising all agricultural products, therefore he should concentrate on the ones he is most familiar with and the ones best adapted to his immediate conditions.

Neighborhood collective exhibits at the county fairs should be encouraged, as they stimulate cooperation and add to the interest and educational value of the fair.

Boys' and Girls' Club Requirements for State Contest

Boys and girls ten to eighteen years of age may join any one or more of the various Agricultural Clubs.

Those interested should write for the latest Plans Bulletin for Club Work. Address Extension Division, A. and M. College.

County Teams

The ten club members in each club having the best records, exhibits, etc., at county contest or fair shall constitute the county team. We suggest that the exhibits of these club members should be sent to the State Fair. Prizes are offered at the State and New State Fairs to county teams in each club.

Requirements for County Teams

Corn Club.—Each member of team shall exhibit ten ears of corn.

Kafir Club.—Each member of team shall exhibit five heads of kafir, feterita or milo.

Cotton Club.—Each member of team shall exhibit ten open bolls and two pounds seed cotton.

Canning Club.—Each member of team shall exhibit twelve quarts of fruit and vegetables at State Fairs.

Each member of a team must comply with all the rules of the contest.

A member of a county team failing to comply with any rule will be penalized but not barred from the contest.

A county team of less than ten will be penalized but not barred from the contest.

