

Since 1862
Wayne County Fair

SPONSORED BY
THE WAYNE COUNTY COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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**2020 WAYNE COUNTY FAIR CANCELS
DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS AND REGULATIONS**

June 3, 2020

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(Honesdale, PA) At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wayne County Cooperative Agricultural Society (Wayne County Fair) on the evening of June 2, 2020, it was decided that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to cancel the 2020 Wayne County Fair (PA). Joining many similar county fairs across Pennsylvania, the Board's difficult decision was made keeping in mind government regulations related to the Pandemic and with the primary concern being for the safety & welfare of the Fair's staff, concessionaires, 4-H and FFA participants, and, of course, our loyal patrons.

As of today, Wayne County remains in Governor Wolf's yellow restrictive phase related to the COVID-19 virus. We hope and anticipate soon going to the Governor's green phase, which allows some relaxing of social distancing rules. Unfortunately, the green phase still prohibits events/gatherings with more than 250 individuals; this simple fact creates insurmountable challenges in operating the Wayne County Fair, which has attendance above 90,000 paid patrons annually. Additional government restrictions such as allowing only one-way foot traffic in our exhibit halls and midways, as well as maintaining social distancing on the midways and exhibit areas would be impossible to enforce and would certainly have detrimental effects on our patrons' experience at the fair.

The Wayne County Fair has only been cancelled on two occasions in its 158-year history. The 1888 fair was cancelled because of financial problems. The 1942 fair was forgone because of a devastating flood in the pre-Jadwin Dam era. Interestingly our records show that the 1941 fair was held, but no children were allowed because of a Polio outbreak in those pre-vaccine days.

All of the Fair's volunteer Directors and Associate Directors take their responsibilities for maintaining the community gem that is the fair with the utmost earnestness and came to this cancellation decision with much sadness and heavy hearts. **The 2021 Fair dates are August 6 through 14, 2021. See you next year!**