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-For Immediate Release-

Ottawa County Fair Adds to the Schedule

OAK HARBOR, OHIO, June 17, 2020 – The Ottawa County Agricultural Society hosted another special meeting on Tuesday to work on fair plans. Updates to the Safe RestartOhio guidelines and state funding sparked conversations on what events were now possible. The OCAS board of directors voted to allow limited camping and added the demolition derby and square dance to the schedule. Minor Jr. Fair updates were also approved. The board waived all late fees associated with the BlueRibbon registration deadlines as well as confirmed a June 22nd cutoff date for any changes. An option for week long animal stays was also approved. Fact sheets displaying all pertinent details will be made available over the coming days.

“With regulations constantly changing, it is important that we flex with them and do everything we can to reach the potential of this year’s fair,” said OCAS Board President, Zak Avers.

Grandstand and ground entertainment were now potentially viable options given the reduction in regulations and some new financial opportunities. With the demolition derby being one of the most popular events of the normal fair schedule, it was determined that a break even scenario was likely for the show, even as a nearly stand alone event. Grandstand capacity will be addressed along with other social distancing and health practices. The derby was added back to its 7:30pm slot on Friday July 24th. Admission was also changed. All entries will be \$10 and considered General Admission/Pit Pass. There will be no reserved seating for this event. Saturday’s square dance was also approved by the board. Plans are still being discussed to assure the event complies with current health and safety measures. Other postponed entertainment was considered to be too financially risky for the board to approve at this time.

Added entertainment and reduced restrictions also gave the board the ability to reconsider camping. The board did approve a limited camping plan. Sunday, July 19th move in through Sunday, July 26th check out was approved for Exhibitors, Superintendents, Jr. Fair Advisors, and Sr. Fair Board Members who already had a 2020 camping contract on file. Those individuals will have until July 6th to confirm a new contract and \$200 prepaid fee. After that deadline, any remaining spots will be at a first come, first served basis. In a previous meeting, all 2020 camping contracts and payments were rolled over to 2021.

The board also addressed some Jr Fair concerns during the meeting. With flexibility in mind and the understanding that deadlines and requirements have continuously changed this year, the board waived all late fees associated with the BlueRibbon online registrations for Jr. Fair. With the online system having closed Jun 15th, all completions, additions, or changes must be delivered to the Sr. Fairboard office in hard copy. It was also stated that no completions, additions, or changes to those Jr. Fair registrations will be accepted after June 22nd at noon. With the addition of camping and the elimination of a 72 hour time restraint on animal stays, weeklong boarding for exhibition animals required consideration. Deciding to leave the Jr. Fair schedule unchanged, approval was given to extend to exhibitors the option of bringing those animals in on Sunday prior to the start of the fair. Those choosing to act on that opportunity must file the appropriate form with the Sr. Fairboard and indicate whether the animal will be leaving directly following the show or staying until the following Sunday.

“There is still a lot that we had planned that hasn’t been, and likely won’t be, brought back this year, but I feel that we made good progress towards addressing the concerns of our exhibitors and their families as well as opening up opportunities to other fair patrons, states Avers, all while keeping ever mindful the health and safety of our community.” The updated schedule now includes the demolition derby, a square dance, the previously announced horse races, limited camping, various food vendors, and the Jr. Fair livestock and equestrian shows.

The OCAS is dedicated to providing Ottawa County with the best, most complete fair that it can. With the continued support of our gracious sponsors and the respect and understanding from our community, the 2020 fair season is looking up. For more information, visit ottawacountyfair.org and the Ottawa County Fair Facebook page.