



**Agriculture & NYS
Horse Breeding
Development Fund**

March 15, 2021

Dear County Fair Representative:

Enclosed please find information on the 2021 New York Sire Stakes County Fair Harness Racing Program, including the Schedule Booklet and Repair Reimbursement Program. While there is a lot of uncertainty right now and we are all trying to anticipate what the summer will hold, we are moving forward with racing.

The deadline to return all information is April 15, 2021, but given current conditions, if you need a little additional time, please let our office know so we can plan and support you.

2021 County Fair Racing Schedule Booklet

To assist you in updating your County Fair information for the 2021 schedule that will be published and distributed, we have enclosed your County Fair information from the 2019 schedule. Please review the information listed and update it for 2021, including dates, times, staff contact information, etc., as you would like it to be printed in the Booklet. Please let us know of any key staffing changes like Racing Secretary, or fair management to ensure that information is received from us by the appropriate person. Also include their contact information so we can contact them directly when needed.

As usual, all entries for NYSS races will be handled by a single central hotline, but if you host “overnight” races sponsored by the fair, those entries will still be taken by your race secretary. NYSS events will continue to have a four-day box (rather than three-day box), for taking entries.

2021 County Fair Repair Reimbursement Program Forms

The Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund continues to abide by the rule first adopted in 2010 that states: “Be it resolved that only fairs conducting harness racing under rules prescribed by the Fund be allowed to participate in the repair funding program.”

If you plan on conducting Standardbred races during your fair this year, and if you plan on completing repairs to buildings and grounds that will enhance the harness racing experience for your patrons, please use the enclosed forms to prepare your application for possible reimbursement of your expenses.

Forms included in this mailing are:

- NY County Fair Racing Program Application (Form #101), *during this time of social distancing, we will suspend the need to notarize*
- Repair Project Justification (Form #102)
- Repair Project Information (Form #103)
- Cost Estimates for Repairs (Forms #104-A and #104-B), *must be signed*

(OVER)

County Fairs are eligible for up to \$6,000 of repair costs, of which 25% must be related to the improvement of harness racing facilities. The Fairs are also eligible for up to \$2,000 in administrative costs related to race day. Administrative costs may include expenses for an ambulance for the racing program, insurance for the racing or U.S. Trotting Association license fees. The Fund will reduce the total reimbursement amount by the horsemen's fees paid directly to the Fair on race day. Please remember that all repairs should be completed prior to your Fair's opening day.

The safety of horsemen and horses is critical so you must also provide assurance that an ambulance and emergency care will be available while your races are conducted. In addition, a quality racing surface must be established well before the race day(s) as well as providing adequate means of watering and grooming the track. This is to protect the safety of the human and equine athletes. Furthermore, the County Fair is expected to abide by the rules of racing as established by the Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund and the U.S. Trotting Association, as provided for in the County Fair racing conditions. Please ensure that you are hiring a currently licensed Presiding Judge.

The actual reimbursement forms will be emailed to you later in the season and will be due by November 2, 2021. Please be sure to maintain proper evidence to support your expenditures. Before and after photos are suggested. Further details will be sent to you upon project approval. Only claims prepared according to the instructions will be accepted.

You may return your updated information by:

- Email: Scan your information and email it to dawn.bennett@gaming.ny.gov
- Fax: 518-388-2791
- Mail: Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund, 1 Broadway Center, Schenectady, NY 12305, Attn: Dawn Bennett

We have also included information and an application for the USTA's Matching Funds Grant Program if you are interested in enhancing promotion of harness racing at your fair. If you have any questions, please call Dawn Bennett at (518) 388-3697.

At this time we are hopeful the public will be able to attend the races as usual. However, in the case that health restrictions prevent this, we will plan to race at county fair venues using the health guidelines for county fair harness racing that were in place in 2020. Should local health circumstances impact your racing program this summer or require special protocols of participants, please contact our office so we can assist and communicate to the horsemen. Thank you in advance for your commitment to this program.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. Bennett
Office Manager