May 19, 2020

The Fair Necessities

In 1945 a formal Fair Association was organized in Pratt, Kansas on a permanent basis. The officers elected were President, Art Banbury, Vice President Hoy Etting (also the Farm Bureau Agent), Secretary, Creola Baker, and Treasurer, E.M. Baker. According to records, the Association received financing from both the County Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce. The 1945 Fair was strictly a 4-H Fair that year, which they hoped would grow to include more later. It is worth noting that the Kansas State Fair was cancelled that year.

We truly feel like we are returning to our roots as we make plans for the 2020 Pratt County Fair and we could not have picked a more fitting theme as we focus on The Fair Necessities. With thoughts of keeping our 4-H youth safe and still trying to give them some sort of fair experience this summer, the K-State Research and Extension Office and the Pratt County Fair Board are planning to have a “4-H Only” fair this July 22-25. This means that there will not be evening entertainment, a carnival, commercial vendors, or Open Class exhibits inside the exhibit building. The Fair will only feature our 4-H youth doing what they do best, showing off their project work that they have been working on all year.

The Fair will feature several added safety precautions based on the Center for Disease Control and local Health Department recommendations. Plans are for families to drop off exhibits at scheduled times on one day, then have those exhibits judged the next day. In lieu of face-to-face consultation judging this year, the judges have been asked to write comments for the exhibitors. Some project areas will be conducted virtually like Fashion Revue and Demonstrations. Livestock shows will be conducted in as safe of an environment as can be managed and plans are still being made for a Livestock Auction on Saturday, July 25.

The Pratt County K-State Research and Extension Office would like to remind the public that all of these plans are subject to change depending on the Governor’s plans to Reopen Kansas, directions received from K-State Research and Extension, and guidance received from the local Health Department. Please stay in touch with the Pratt County Extension social media accounts and web site for the latest information. Pratt County Extension will also be working with their 4-H families to make as many of the projects, shows, and exhibits available online for the public to view as they can as they are not encouraging the public to attend the fair in person this year. Keep in mind, however, that the privacy of the 4-H youth is their top priority.

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