

OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

101st Annual Convention January 15-18, 2026 2025 Fall News & Summer Recap



Family, Friends, Fairs & Fun

The 101st Annual OFMA Convention planning is in the final planning and within this issue is a lot of information and schedules of workshops that are being finalized. .

New Educational Focus with *Certificates of Participation* and a Drawing of participants is being developed for two groups. First: <u>Best Practices Fair OFFICER</u>, second Best Practices Fair Office, Secretary, Treasurer Staff. The list of topics is on page 4-5 of this newsletter with additional information.

The 'You Make THE Difference' program will be Thursday only as there became a scheduling conflict. Presented by Ian Hill and the Changing Point Team.

Thursday Evening in the Regency Ballroom the 2026 **Ohio Fairs' Queen Program** will kick off at 6pm with the introductions and the final 15 and then the final 5 will be reinterviewed for the selection of the 2026 Ohio Fairs' Queen and Court announcement on Saturday Morning General session.

Friday Morning will be the Ohio Department of Agriculture Breakfast and Outstanding Fair Support Awards Meeting, we recommend fairs invite their legislatures to attend and sit with their fairs.

Friday Evening will see the return of the Annual Showcase of Acts in the Regency Ballroom.

Saturday Morning the General session returns to Battelle Hall with seating for 3200 for the Keynote address and announcement for the 2026 Ohio Fairs' Queen and Court.

Saturday Evening the Annual Extravaganza Joint Evening with dancing, 50/50 and the GOSA and OFMA reverse raffle drawings. Auction items are being accepted for the live and silent auction.

Sunday Morning the annual Communication Awards & Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Breakfast will honor the excellence in advertising and honor those Fair Board officials and Service members for their contributions.

Hilton and Sonesta have unlimited rooms, The Hyatt has lodging available Wednesday and Thursday Evenings and the Drury is sold out. There are suites available at the Hilton which has several very nice suites in the newer tower. Contact Charles @ Charles.Halterman@hilton.com

The Guest activities group has expanded their "fun things" Thursday with 2 stops *Watershed Distillery Tour* with sampling and the *Ohio State Stadium 90 minute Deluxe Tour on Baron's Tour Coach Line*. Tickets are on the Registrant platform to select. Also 2 bourbon sessions will be held on Friday and each person will receive 1 commemorative rock glass with their Sampling, and the Famous Trail Bologna Bingo game on Saturday.

Convention Registration is open for Fairs, and Service members as well as individuals who wish to purchase the guest activities, raffle tickets, and more. Your account you created for 2025 is reset in the system and using your same unique e-mail address and your password you can enter your account and tune up the information, delete registrations, add registrations and purchase. If you do not have an existing account you can create one for purchases. The link is: https://ohiofairs.org/register/

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QUEEN AMBERLY SUMMER TRAVEL PICTURES





Reflections on an Unforgettable Summer of Fairs Amberly Szczerbiak 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen

This summer has been filled with so many memorable experiences as I've toured Ohio's fairs in my role as the 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen. As fair season wraps up, I am so blessed to be on my way to visiting all of Ohio's county and independent fairs, traveling across the state and experiencing their traditions and community spirit. Each stop has been a privilege, offering a chance to see the character that makes our fairs so special.

Every fair has showcased the dedication and hard work of youth exhibitors, volunteers, and fair board members. Along the way I've been able to experience opening ceremonies, parades, livestock shows, and royalty competitions; help with judging; and learn a variety of new skills. Meeting royalty courts and exhibitors while leading pledges, presentations and awards has been an unforgettable honor.

Traveling such a wide circuit has opened my eyes to the individuality of each fair—some with antique barns and sensoryfriendly spaces, others with iconic features like Budweiser Clydes-

dales and historic buildings. Beyond the public events, these miles have led to connections with families, children excited to show their animals, and longtime fair supporters who keep these traditions alive.

I'm thankful to *Fairs.com* for helping me with my summer travel expenses and to the entire Ohio Fair Managers Association for everything they do to support our fairs. I'm grateful for the chance to continue serving and to experience the energy, pride, and heritage that make Ohio's fair family so extraordinary.

See you in Columbus in January

Amberly





2026 Program Committee Planning

Deb Hukill Chairwoman

Hope everyone had a great fair! Fair season is almost over. It's time to plan for your 2026 fair.

The OFMA board has been working on the sessions for convention since early spring. We try to offer topics for everyone. Small Fairs, Large Fairs, Office Staff, Animal Committees, Ethics, New Members, and everything in between. The Board has created 12 topics for Fair Board officers, Managers, Treasures and Secretaries. These topics all are expanded education classes with Certificates of Attendance and Door prizes to be awarded as well as the top 3 fairs will receive gift cards for the most attendance at the Spring Meetings. We have learned that all fairs are different but with a lot in common. It's important that we take the feed back we receive from all our Counties and have topics that will interest the majority.



Our board does not have all the answers but the Ohio Fairs are made up of directors who do! We rely on you to answer the call to lead sessions that relate to topics in your expertise. You should all be proud of the programs presented and encourage your members to attend and report back to your fairs the knowledge they have gained from others. The sharing that goes on at Convention is well worth the trip.

Look forward to seeing all of you in January.

debhukill@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Ohio Fairs Queen Applications November 30, 2025

Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Applications October 20, 2025

Ohio Fairs Communication Awards Applications October 20, 2025

OFMA 100th Convention Registration November 30, 2024 Early Bird \$75

REGISTRATION PORTAL LINK: July 11, 2025 https://ohiofairs.org/register/

Late Registration Entered or Post Marked November 30, \$100

Junior Fair Registration December 1, 2025

ALL OFMA FORMS – (ohiofairs.org/forms/)

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DUE DATES

Outstanding Fair Supporter November 1, 2025

2024 Fair Date Request Form November 1, 2025

Fair Fund Request Form November 1, 2025

Fairs - 2025 Election Poll Books 10 days after the Election

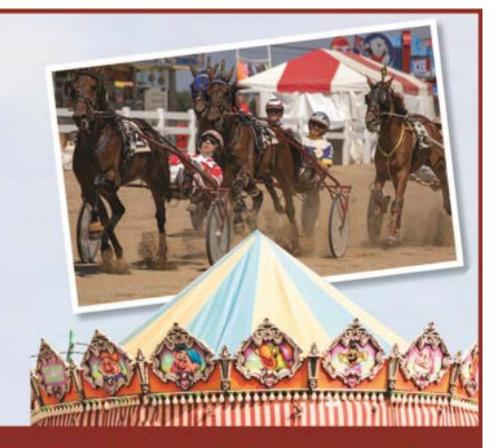
2025 Annual Financial Annual Report January 16, 2026

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is proud to support

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Best Practices Sessions should be a big help to Secretaries, Treasurers & Others

Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer

Convention sessions focused on core competencies for secretaries, treasurers and others having fiscal and administrative responsibilities, should help all that participate to sharpen their professional skills. Several of Ohio's best secretaries and treasurers will share their expertise and the techniques which have made them successful in their trade.

Sessions, including ones on Administrative Operations, QuickBooks, Charts of Accounts and required reporting, will be presented by some of Ohio's most successful practitioners using a panel format. Sessions will start on Thursday and repeat throughout the convention program.

Your session attendance will also earn you a chance to win a \$100 gift card and a grand prize to be awarded at a spring meeting.

You will want to carefully comb through the convention program and include this training as part of your professional continuing education.



Fair Board Officers & Staffs 12 Focused Topic Training Workshops

2 0011	Turi Bourd Circors & Source 12 Foodsed Topic Training (Cornshops					
Thursday	10:30- Fairfield 12:00	#1 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Training Secretary 101 The Basics of an Agricultural Society Secretary Certificate Class Sponsored by:	Panel: Tara Sheldon Holmes County, Amy Franklin County, Amanda Shenberger Medina County Fair			
Thursday	10:30- UNION 12:00 ABC	#2 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: Training Worksite Safety Focusing OSHA Top 10's, and Written Programs	Gary A, David Vandergrift Safety Consultant Region 5, Office of Safety Services Columbus			
Thursday	1-2:45 <u>UNION</u> <u>ABC</u>	#3 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic:. Training Treasures Certificate Class Quick Books, Char of accounts. Lets talk about using the chart of accounts all the way thru the Financil year instead of having to figure out what matches our bookkeeping categories into the annual report chart of accounts.	t Christy Lucas Brown			
Thursday	3:30- 4:30 Fairfield Room	#4 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Auditor of State what issues are we seeing and audit issues, what's coming, the future of audits and why	Stacie Scholl, CPA, Chief Auditor, Auditor of State Keith Faber			

Continued on page 4

Fair Board Officers & Staffs 12 Focused Topic Training Workshops continued

1 411 12	ouru	Officers	es statis 12 i ocusea topic itaming work	shops continued
Thursday	3:00- 4:30	Union ABC	#5 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: IAFE Speaker: Security Public Safety: A Fair Approach This interactive workshop shares principles of how to take a 'Fair' approach to public safety at high-profile/high-occupancy events like fairs and expositions. Based on four decades of experience and training in homeland security, emergency services, and planned event emergency management, this program takes a comprehensive look at fair-grounds fear factors, organizational attitudes towards safety, and the value and importance of emergency planning, and offers a proven framework for change management and large-scale event and emergency management.	Tiger shares more than 25 years of experience as a specialist in the field of volunteer recruitment and reten-
Friday	1:00- 2:00	Cham- paign Room	#6 Best Practices Fair/Society Officer Topic: HB 96 Cyber Security Requirements Ohio House Bill 96, Operating Budget established Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64, which sets new standards for how political subdivisions handle cybersecurity and ransomware incidents. Each political subdivision will be required to adopt a cybersecurity program that safeguards the entity's data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity.	Torri Sholl from the Ohio Auditor of State's Office, Lexie Meade from CyberOhio
Friday	1:00- 2:00	Fairfield	#7 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Chart of accounts Auditor of State what's coming, the future of audits and Why	Richard Cunnigham, Quality Assurance Ohio from State of Ohio Auditor, Bev Fisher CFE
<u>Friday</u>	2:15-3:1	5 Fairfield	#8 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Annual Reports, biggest stumbling blocks and what can we do to comply with the Ohio Law Consider brining in Richard from State Auditor office to explain chart of ac- counts	Bev Fisher CFE David Miran ODA
<u>Friday</u>	<u>3:30-4:3</u>	<u>0 Fairfield</u>		David Miran, ODA
Friday	3:30- 4:30	Hayes	#10 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: The Sunshine Laws Manual – also known as the "Yellow Book" – is a guidebook to Ohio's Public Records and Open Meetings laws. Focus on your Agricultural Society's responsibility under the law and the items you can stumble over and be in violation	State Official Amanda Sines to check with state Agency
Saturday	11:30- 12:30	Marion Room	New Secretaries 3 years or less Round Table	Bev Fisher CFE, OF- MA Educational Co- ordinator
Saturday	2:00- 3:00	Fairfield	#12 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Annual Reports, getting it together, meeting deadlines and importance of getting it done	David Miran, ODA

2026 Junior Fair Conference

Roger Smith Chairman

Are you making plans to bring your junior fair board members to Columbus on January 17, 2026? This is an exciting day for the junior fair board members around the state. Gathering with other teens from different fairs in Ohio. Participating in groups that allow them to learn more about the inside of a fair and gaining skills to make their interactions with their peers and other fairgoers more productive. These are all the goals of the OFMA Junior Fair Conference.

This gathering is the largest in the nation and the team working on the program is putting together a day that will be helpful to the teens coming in for the conference. The opening session on Saturday morning includes a keynote speaker and the crowning of the 2026 Ohio Fairs' Queen. The lucky young lady is selected from

County Fair Queens from around the state.

Following the opening session, there will be roughly 30 sessions spread out through the

middle of the day for the JFB members to attend. And if they are lucky enough to have a little down time, there is a trade show for them to browse through and possibly pick up ideas for their local fairs.

If your Junior Fair Board is planning to attend and is coming in on Friday evening, there will be a get acquainted mixer for any group or individuals who would like to attend. Food and activities will be on tap, coordinated by several extension personnel from around the state. Those who have attended in the past have enjoyed themselves and there is always enough food to go around. I would encourage you to work with your junior fair boards and put this on their radar. See you in January. Roger



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The Family congratulates the Ohio Fair Managers Association on their 100th year Anniversary!



Ohio Department of Agriculture Brian Baldridge Director

As we finish yet another successful Ohio fair season, I am proud of all the great things you are doing at your fairs in support of agriculture, your local communities, and our next generation of responsible food producers.

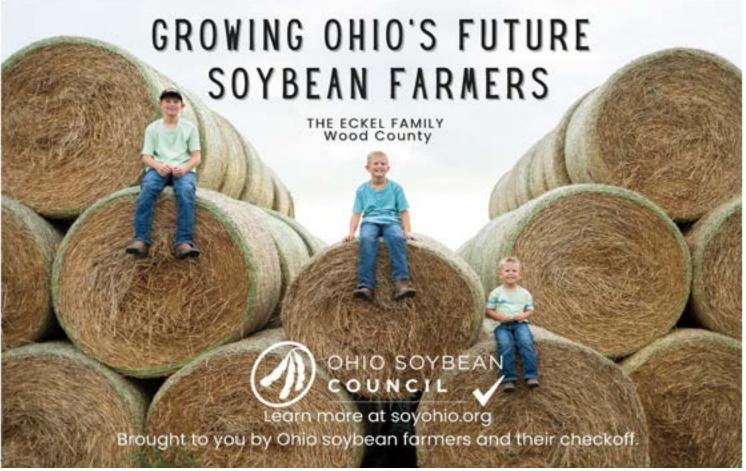
I look forward to participating with you at the 101st OFMA convention in January. This is an important time of year for our fairs and ODA to talk about the upcoming year, to answer questions, and address any concerns that may be at hand.

In the meantime, please know that I pledge our full support to our fair managers and the incredible workload that you handle. We have a strong team here at ODA, who want to help you have the best fair possible. I am proud of the relationship we have built, and I am committed to strengthening our partnership, offering our assistance, and working together toward our common goals of safe and successful fairs.



Thank you for all that you do to make Ohio fairs some of the best in the nation. Your knowledge, leadership, and dedication reflect proudly on Ohio agriculture and our great state.

Brian Baldridge, Director Ohio Department of Agriculture



OFMA 2026 CONVENTION MENU

FAIR, ASSOCIATE & GUEST PRICING

Fair Membership \$200.

Associate Membership \$115.

Comes with one Business Catagorgy listing extra are \$20

Attendee Registration \$75.

Attendee Registration \$100.

Registration after December 1

Trade Show \$375 - \$430.
Booths

ODA Breakfast Friday \$27.

Awards Breakfast \$27.
Sunday

Queens Lunch Thursday \$38.

Corn Hole Thursday \$15.

Bourbon Bottle \$100.

Reverse Raffle Ticket \$100.

Friday Presidents Receptions

& Showcase of Bands

President Reception Reserved Tables \$200.

Extravaganza Saturday
Table \$200.

Bingo, Wine & Bolonga

Saturday - at 1:00pm \$40.

Bourbon Tasting

Friday - session 1 at 1pm \$50.

Bourbon Tasting

Friday - session 2 at 2:30pm \$50.

Bourbon Distillery Tour #1

Thursday 1pm Includes
Transportation to 2 distillers,
sampling and tour. \$50

Bourbon Distillery Tour #2

Thursday 2:30pm Includes
Transportation to 2 distillers,
sampling and tour. \$50

OFMA THURSDAY BUS TOUR, WATERSHED DISTILLERY & THE OSU SHOE IN 1ST CLASS COACH \$40 PP

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The second stop of the tour will be the Ohio State Stadium behind the scenes tour which is about a 90-minute VIP Tour to get special access to the Band Center and the Home Locker Room! Every tour participant will receive a commemorative Ohio Stadium Tour challenge







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The official 2026 101st Selection of Yellowstone Kentucky Straight Bourbon single Barrel can be ordered in advanced, each bottle will receive 2 commemorative rocks glasses. Bottles will be in the OFMA office and available till sold out.

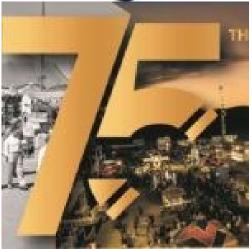


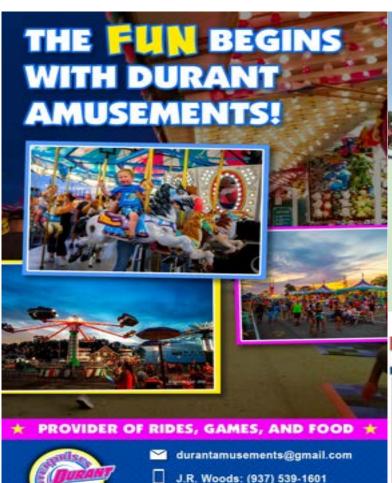




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EXTRAVAGANZA COMMITTEE REPORT

Saturday January 17, 2026 Evening GOSA and OFMA Fundraiser

Wade Flory Co-Chair

The committee has made the following plans with GOSA

- 1. Items for the Auction accepted in the OFMA Office 1st floor off of the Hyatt Lobby
- 2. Doors open for preview and Networking
- 3. 300 reverse raffle tickets @\$100 each available NOW https://ohiofairs.org/register/
- 4. Auction both Live and silent will be held
- 5. DJ John will spin the tunes with the photo booth for those Memories.
- 6. 65 tables seating 10 will be available to reserve \$200 each and will be 50/50 split to the lucky pull. You can order on your fair account, Service Member account
- 7. Side boards sold out of the OFMA Office Thursday January 15 till sold 300 total @ \$20

- 8. Food can be brought in, no alcohol can be brought in. Cash Bars available with snacks
- 9. GOSA will run the 50/50 portion of the proceeds to the OFMA/GOSA PAC fund.

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Note: Hilton and Sonesta have unlimited rooms, The Hyatt has lodging available Wednesday and Thursday Evenings and the Drury is sold out. There are suites available at the Hilton contact Charles Halterman

< Charles. Halterman@Hilton.com m: +1 614 214 8268 for suites and group



100th Annual

Ohio Fair Managers Convention Sponsors

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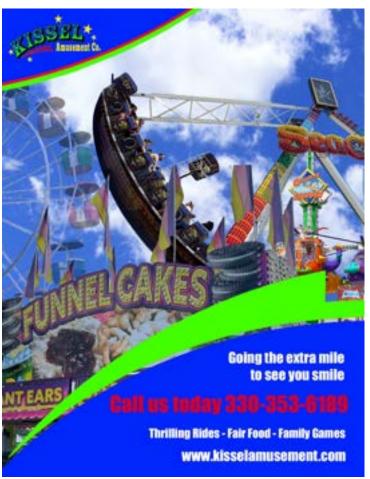
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