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(WWW.NYFAIRS.ORG)

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.

Subject: Agricultural Fairgrounds Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program, Ag & Markets Budget

Presenter: Mark St Jacques CFE

General Manager Washington County Fair, Greenwich NY

President of the New York Association of Agricultural Fairs Inc.

November 16, 2007

Our Association is a membership organization that represents the best interest of the fairs throughout New York State. Its 54 members are professional in the field of agriculture, youth development, event management, and quality family entertainment. The Fairs of New York proudly provide the best public awareness for both the consumer and agricultural businesses that showcase New York's finest. Generations of volunteer families donate countless hours to make this great tradition of celebrating agricultural in our communities.

Today's fair is a unique blend of celebrating the agricultural traditions of the past and introducing the technology of the future. Prize winning pies and quilts are proudly displayed along with the latest inventions. Whether people like to visit the animals at the FFA petting zoo, see great local and national musicians or try the newest thrill ride, they'll find it at the fair.

**2008 CONVENTION DATES - JANUARY 18, 19, 20 & 21
RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14604**

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(WWW.NYFAIRS.ORG)

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.

The Fair provides an educational experience for urban, rural and metropolitan persons, especially youth through programs and exhibits designed to include local, regional, and statewide participation in demonstrations and competitions.

The total attendance for county Fairs including the Great New York State Fair is over 4 million people. Add the economic impact from direct sales, sales tax, tourism, permanent jobs, thousands of temporary jobs and this creates an Economic Impact of over \$783 million dollars.

The 2006- 2007 Governor's Executive Budget included 3 million dollars for the Agricultural Fairgrounds Infrastructure Improvements.

These funds were used by 52 county fairs across the state to make much needed improvements to their facilities.

Example: The grant funding with (Volunteers and corporate sponsors) allowed the Herkimer County Fair to build a new cattle building, replacing several small tents, and this doubled the number of cattle that entered the fair.

Fairs are an important part of our communities, our youth, and our future. They are changing along with our world; remembering the old and offering the new. People need to know where their milk, meat, eggs, and corn flakes come from.

We are asking for your support to continue this grant program for the next 2008-2009 Budget.

Thank you for your time

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RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14604

Public Hearings Regarding the 2008-09 Budget

Testimony, David N. Broadbent, MD, MPH

I am David N. Broadbent, a retired pediatrician, member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Medical Society of the State of New York, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Society, the American Correctional Association and other local, state and national organizations concerned with the well being of children and families.

I'm here to encourage you to support spending money to preserve the quality of life of tens of thousands of New York kids and their family members.

I am pleased to tell you that in so doing you will enhance the quality of life and productivity of future New Yorkers – and you in the budget office will be happier receiving more tax dollars to spend.

Coincidentally, you will be making the streets and homes of New York safer because there will be less juvenile and adult criminal activity: With less criminal activity there will be fewer detention facilities to fund - and you in the budget office will be happier spending less tax dollars.

The drama I just played out for you sounds like a fantasy! It is the drama of childhood lead poisoning in our world!

I'm pleased to tell you that elected and appointed government officials in Rochester and Monroe County seem to have gotten the message. Combining money from government and private sectors is working in our part of New York State.

Such is not the case elsewhere in our state – with the possible exception of New York City where tens of millions of dollars are allocated to spend on the primary prevention of childhood lead poisoning. Sad to say, our state government spends only a few million dollars on the primary prevention of childhood lead poisoning – accepting future financial and quality of life burdens that government and private citizens will face as we move into the 21st century. This is unacceptable!

Public Hearings Regarding the 2008-09 Budget

Testimony, David N. Broadbent, MD, MPH

What is my "ask?"

- Do your part to support the allocation of funds (A few hundred thousand dollars.) to create centers of excellence to better understand environmental hazards in our state and to better serve children and adults who become poisoned in their environment.
- Do your part to join with citizens and public officials of Rochester and Monroe County and put a stop to the scourge of childhood lead poisoning throughout the state! Be courageous in the Division of Budget and make it easy to support the allocation of funds (Yes, tens of millions.) to put a stop to the poisoning of our kids because they live in hazardous homes and neighborhoods. Be humane in the Division of Budget and make it easy to allocate the funds (That's right. Tens of millions.) to put a stop to the poisoning of those most likely to be poisoned; the poor, the African-Americans, the Hispanic and immigrant citizens living in the older dwellings of our state. Do this so that our citizens and government and government will saved from emotional and intellectual and social and financial costs (Yes. Billions!!) of dealing with the poisoning of tens of thousands of our citizens.
- Do it because it is "the right thing to do."

Thank you for your consideration.

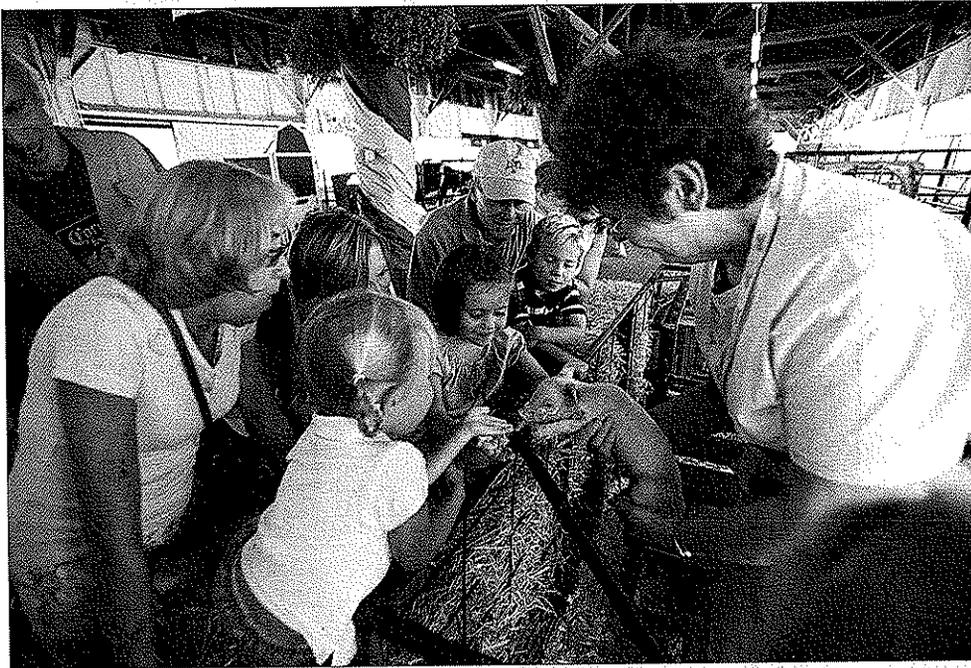
David N. Broadbent, MD, MPH, FACPM, FAAP

Member, Governor's Advisory Council on Childhood Lead Poisoning
Member, Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning in New York State
Member and Founding Chairman, Rochester Coalition to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

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N Y S A A F

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS



County Fairs - 44, 4H Youth Fairs - 10 and the Great New York State Fair

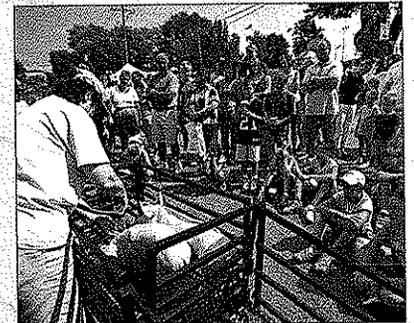
Total Attendance - 4,194,807

Who We Are...

The New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc. is a membership organization that represents the best interests of the Fairs throughout New York State. Its members are professionals in the fields of agriculture, youth development, event management and quality family entertainment. The Fairs of New York proudly provide the best public awareness for both consumer and production agriculture and is the showcase of New York's finest.

Our member Fairs statement of purpose is to:

- Provide an educational experience for urban, rural and metropolitan persons, especially youth through programs and exhibits designed to include local, regional and statewide participation in demonstrations and competitions.
- Provide a showcase by presenting agriculture and other resources of the locality, region and state.
- Provide outstanding and exemplary facilities for New Yorkers to utilize throughout the year as well as during the annual agricultural showcase.
- Focus attention on New York's rich agricultural heritage as well as providing the initiative for new technologies that will continue long into the future.



It's all about fun and education...

AGRICULTURE IS

*the food we eat, the air we breathe
and the clothes we wear!*

New York Fairs Statistics

provided by the NYS Department of Ag & Markets

- Attendance - 4,194,807
- Receipts - \$25,492,540
- Disbursements - \$25,291,315
- Premiums Paid - \$1,903,495
- Exhibitors - 41,836
- Exhibits - 170,484

Youth Development

- Future leaders of our great state and nation in Agriculture, Agri-Business, Free Enterprise and other professions.
- Scholarships are awarded annually to youth pursuing a degree in Agriculture.

Opportunities for growth...

- Agriculture Awareness
- Youth Development
- Buildings & Grounds Improvements
- Electrical Upgrades
- Structural Improvements
- Waste Management
- Land Acquisitions
- Technology Exhibits
- Health & Safety Education

Diversity, Fairs reach out to...

- New York's diverse population and communities encompassing rural upstate New York to Metropolitan New York City and everywhere in between.
- Many fairgoers come from varying cultures, experiences and economic backgrounds.
- The fairgrounds are utilized throughout the year for various national tradeshows, community events and local activities.
- The facilities offer unique accessibility for single building shows and grandstand events.

Regional Tourism & Economic Impact

- Greater awareness of the different regions in New York State
- Regional attractions
- Tourist destinations
- Increased visitor spending
- Creates permanent jobs
- Offers thousands of temporary job opportunities
- Economic impact approximately \$783 million

Who attends Fairs?

- **AGE**
 - 53% - under the age of 40
 - 33% - ages 41-59
 - 14% - 60+
- **Overall**
 - 61% - Adults
 - 20% - Teens
 - 19% - Children
- **RESIDENCE**
 - 56% from cities & suburbs
 - 20% from rural areas or farms
- **OCCUPATION**
 - 67% - Employed overall
 - 53% - White Collar Workers
 - 40% - Blue Collar Workers
 - 7% - Farming
- **INCOME**
 - 63% - \$20,000+

Did you know?

- It is our spirit of friendly competition that makes us unique. We offer the coveted BLUE RIBBON in Arts & Crafts, Photography, Fine Arts, and Culinary.
- Fairs promoted a variety of consumer related agriculture as well as production livestock.
- Our consumer education provides the urban public the opportunity to witness firsthand where their food originates.
- Agriculture is the #1 industry in New York State.
- Fairs provide quality family entertainment and unique opportunities for community involvement.



www.nyfairs.org