

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/19/25 S3/31/25 S4/9/25*
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 400

By: Senator Irvin
By: Representatives Milligan, Cavanaugh, Steimel, Cozart, Wooldridge, Vaught

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING AGRICULTURE; TO
AMEND THE FAIR-FUNDING PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE FAIR-FUNDING PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-36-101 is amended to read as follows:

2-36-101. ~~Fair-funding program~~ Funding for livestock shows and fairs -
Requirements - Districts - Definition.

(a) ~~There is created within the Department of Agriculture a fair-~~
~~funding program that shall be used to provide fair-funding assistance to~~
~~junior livestock shows, county fairs, district fairs, and the Arkansas State~~
~~Fair and Livestock Show.~~

(b) ~~The department shall utilize a historical average of total fair~~
~~funding provided by the State of Arkansas to previous fair-funding recipients~~
~~in determining an equitable distribution of available funding appropriated by~~
~~the General Assembly.~~

~~(c)(1)(A)(1)~~ A recipient of fair funding under the fair-funding
program financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture under
subsection (a) subsection (b) of this section shall:

(i) ~~Maintain records of expenditures; and~~
(ii) ~~Submit an annual financial report to the~~
~~department and to Arkansas Legislative Audit by the end of each calendar~~
~~year.~~



1 ~~(B) A recipient of fair funding is subject to a decrease~~
2 ~~in future funding if the recipient of fair funding does not:~~

3 ~~(i) Submit an annual financial report as required~~
4 ~~under subdivision (c)(1)(A)(ii) of this section; or~~

5 ~~(ii) Provide provide proof of yearly continuing~~
6 ~~education requirements under guidance adopted by the department.~~

7 (2) A recipient of ~~fair funding under the fair funding program~~
8 ~~established financial assistance under subsection (a) subsection (b) of this~~
9 ~~section is subject to audit by Arkansas Legislative Audit.~~

10 (b)(1) The department is authorized to provide financial assistance to
11 livestock shows and fairs.

12 (2) Financial assistance provided by the department under
13 subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be in accordance with the
14 department's annual appropriation approved by the General Assembly.

15 (3) Future fiscal year funding from the state shall not be
16 distributed to a livestock show or fair until all requirements of this
17 section are met.

18 (c)(1) A recipient of financial assistance under subsection (b) of
19 this section shall:

20 (A) Submit the following items each fiscal year to the
21 department and Arkansas Legislative Audit:

22 (i) An annual financial report for the previous
23 state fiscal year that includes without limitation an accounting of state
24 funding utilization;

25 (ii) An annual operating plan for the upcoming year;
26 and

27 (iii) A certificate of good standing from the
28 Secretary of State; and

29 (B) Be subject to an audit at any time by Arkansas
30 Legislative Audit.

31 (2) A county fair that utilizes county facilities or county
32 funds for a livestock show or fair shall submit the information in
33 subdivisions (c)(1)(A)(i)-(iii) of this section to the county quorum court
34 for review before submitting to the department and to Arkansas Legislative
35 Audit.

36 (d) A recipient of financial assistance under this section shall not

1 utilize funding provided by the state to pay association fees, dues, or other
2 association-related expenses.

3 (e) A county extension agent shall serve as an ex officio member of a
4 county fair board.

5 (f) An exhibitor may participate in one (1) district fair of his or
6 her choice.

7 (g) The following counties shall be members of the districts as
8 follows:

9 (1) Cleburne County, Fulton County, Izard County, Sharp County,
10 Stone County, and Van Buren County shall be in the North Central District;

11 (2) Mississippi County, Craighead County, Greene County, Clay
12 County, Crittenden County, St. Francis County, Cross County, Poinsett County,
13 Jackson County, Lawrence County, Randolph County, Lee County, Independence
14 County, Monroe County, Phillips County, Woodruff County, and White County
15 shall be in the Northeast District;

16 (3) Baxter County, Boone County, Carroll County, Madison County,
17 Marion County, Newton County, and Searcy County shall be in the Northwest
18 District;

19 (4) Arkansas County, Ashley County, Bradley County, Calhoun
20 County, Chicot County, Cleveland County, Dallas County, Drew County, Grant
21 County, Faulkner County, Lincoln County, Lonoke County, Ouachita County, and
22 Prairie County shall be in the South Arkansas District;

23 (5) Clark County, Columbia County, Garland County, Hempstead
24 County, Hot Spring County, Howard County, Lafayette County, Little River
25 County, Miller County, Montgomery County, Nevada County, Pike County, Saline
26 County, Sevier County, and Union County shall be in the Southwest Arkansas
27 District;

28 (6) Benton County, Conway County, Crawford County, Franklin
29 County, Johnson County, Logan County, Perry County, Polk County, Pope County,
30 Scott County, Sebastian County, Washington County, and Yell County shall be
31 in the Arkansas-Oklahoma District as provided under § 2-36-307; and

32 (7) Lee County, Monroe County, and Phillips County shall be in
33 the Tri-County Fair.

34 (h)(1) For purposes of financial assistance under this section, the
35 Four States Fair hosted in Texarkana, Arkansas, shall be treated the same as
36 a district fair under this section.

(2) Residency restrictions on exhibitors shall not apply to this subsection (h).

(i) As used in this section, "fair" means an event that includes without limitation livestock shows, consumer and family science, entertainment, and educational activities and programs.

/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 4/21/25