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If there are images in this attachment, they will not be displayed.

Left message for Gary Schmit
Advised him that the grant
request would be considered
at next Foundation meeting
JS

GRANT APPLICATION. Due Dates **May 1st** and November 1st.

Date: April 30, 2012

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501-c-3 designation): **Iowa County Fair
Society, Inc.**

Address: **900 Fair Street, PO Box 92**

City, State, Zip: **Mineral Point, WI 53565**

Phone: **608-574-5024**

Person Responsible for the Grant: Gary Schmit

Position in the Organization: Board President

Organization's Purpose: The mission of the Iowa County Fair is to provide an outlet for families and community members to enjoy wholesome entertainment and open their awareness to new experiences. The Fair provides a safe outlet for youth to experience first hand the gratification of leadership, competition, and business sense, learning new skills through 4-H and FFA presentations at the Iowa County Fair that will last a lifetime.

This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status.

Grant Request \$1,500

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

The Fair Board has identified two critical projects needing immediate attention. The first of these is new display racks and shelves for displaying blankets. The displays are well beyond their useful life. They are in very bad condition and are, in fact, becoming dangerous. Six new displays, on wheels, are needed to replace the old ones.

-Application continued next page-

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

1. Supporting information.

1. Specific use of the grant

We are asking the Elmer G. Biddick Foundation to assist with the purchase of sorely needed displays. The Fair does not have funds for any special projects, so we are hoping that we can count on local organizations to help us. The Fair Board saves as much as it can by using volunteers for things we can handle, such as assembly and maintenance.

The Fair is separate from county government. It is run a private non-profit organization. As costs rise every year, the Fair's revenues have not kept pace and the county's contribution has dropped from \$33,250 in 2010 to \$26,932 in 2012.

The Fair continues to operate today because of good, caring people who do almost all the work themselves – everything from maintenance to mowing the grass. The Fair has no paid employees. Even small grants can have a large effect, and are truly needed. We want the Iowa County fair to remain an event that kids and families will cherish and look forward to.

1. Time schedule

We are hoping to have new displays ready for the 2012 Fair, to be held August 30 – September 3, 2012.

1. Other sources of funding

Currently, the Fair Board has no funds for displays but the 4-H chicken group has raised half the \$6,000 needed for the pens.

A local grants person has agreed to assist the Fair Board free of charge and has developed a funding plan that involves grant proposal submittals and a new Fair sponsorship plan. We are confident we can raise the balance of the funds needed for the displays and the remaining \$3,000 needed for the new chicken pens.

1. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.

Using the old displays is worrisome to the point that we fear using them will present a safety issue. We are unsure if we can cobble them together for another year. There are other projects that will soon require immediate attention as well, so we are hoping to be able to address critical projects now and not kick the can down the road for another year. Our sustainability is contingent on being able to accomplish a few small projects every year and not let them backlog.

1. Describe who, when, how and where the effects of this grant will be felt.

Thousands of people will visit the 2012 Iowa County fair and view the exhibits. In addition to the safety issues, good displays and shelves are necessary to properly show the beautiful work of scores of contestants. So both contestants and visitors feel the effects of the grant. Moreover, new displays will last for years, so the positive effects will last a long time.

B. Your organization's history, activities, services and composition.
(Videos are of limited use.)

The Iowa County Fair is an institution, significant on a state and national level. The Fair was first held in 1851, ten years before the election of Abraham Lincoln as the 16th President of the United States.

The Fair annually gathers visitors and residents together for a long weekend of wholesome activities. For over 160 years since its founding the Fair has been successful because of its unique blend of family values, educational opportunities for youth and family friendly entertainment. The true impact of the fair can be measured in what it does for our youth and

families.

Through the open division, hundreds of local people have the opportunity to show off their livestock, handcrafts, and agricultural farm products. But perhaps the greatest impact of the fair can be measured in our children. Over 4,100 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 benefitted last year from a hands-on learning environment, a remarkable number that indicates what the Fair means to Iowa county's kids. For those kids the Fair is the apex of months of work on the projects they've developed through FFA and 4-H. In addition to the obvious skills the youth develop, the fair offers them the opportunity to be recognized and rewarded for their hard work, and experience the gratification of leadership, competition, and the business sense they acquire.

A variety of events are typically held during the Fair and include concerts, harness racing, a great midway, the always-loved demolition derby and all manner of performances.

This successful event draws almost 12,000 people annually, not just from the county but also as far away as Indiana and California. While the primary focus of the fair is to bring together residents and visitors by adding a social element to the community, it is important to recognize that the fair also has an important economic impact on the area. The Fiscal and Economic Research Center at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater analyzed 2011 data from surveys of fairgoers and estimated that the benefit of the weekend festivities to the area was almost \$900,000.

It is a common misperception that the County runs the fair – it does not. The Fair is operated by a non-profit organization and is staffed by volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to maintain the grounds, conduct events, and prepare for the annual fair. The county contributes financially, but even that commitment shrinks every year and has been cut 20% since 2010.

In an age of video games, Internet and hours in front of the television, the Iowa County Fair remains a cornerstone of family involvement, wholesome entertainment and hands-on learning opportunities for our youth.

The Fair is governed by a 13-member volunteer board comprised of local residents.