

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Utilizes CRF to Alleviate Enterprise Impacts at the NC State Fairgrounds and Western NC Agricultural Center

According to Session Law 2020-97 Section 1.2 (78) (a), \$1,000,000 was transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a grant to the North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs to alleviate enterprise impacts due to COVID-19 at the North Carolina State Fair and the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center.

The \$1,000,000 of grant funds received by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services was distributed to the North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs (NCAAF) on 11/9/2020. The North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs (NCAAF) issued the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services a check for \$1,000,000 which was deposited on 11/16/2020. The funds were allocated \$850,000 to the North Carolina State Fair and \$150,000 to the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center.

Of the \$850,000 which was allocated to the North Carolina State Fair, \$442,400 was used to install bi-polar ionization in eight heavily used buildings at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in an effort to reduce pathogens in recirculated air and improve employee and public safety in the buildings as it related to COVID-19. \$350,000 was awarded as a grant to the North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs (NCAAF) to provide assistance to agricultural fairs that have experienced impacts due to COVID-19. \$29,414 was used on a cleaning contract and \$5,954.33 was used on a law enforcement contract for a food event at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds to ensure public spaces at the event were thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and social distancing was being managed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. \$21,708 was used on a floor scrubber to allow for more frequent sanitation of public spaces at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds and to improve employee and public safety in the buildings as it related to COVID-19. \$591.99 was used for six portable foggers which will allow high trafficked areas to be disinfected quickly and reduce the spread of COVID-19. \$850,068.32 was spent on these endeavors.

Of the \$150,000 which was allocated to the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, \$88,190 was used to install bi-polar ionization in three heavily used buildings at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in an effort to reduce pathogens in recirculated air and improve employee and public safety in the buildings as it related to COVID-19. \$30,239.60 was used to purchase and install touchless bathroom fixtures at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, and \$31,759 was used on a floor scrubber to allow for more frequent sanitation of public spaces at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center and to improve employee and public safety in the buildings as it related to COVID-19. \$150,188.60 was spent on these endeavors.

Improve the Quality of Infection Control Measures at the North Carolina State Fair and Western North Carolina Agricultural Center

Goal: Improve employee and public safety related to infection control at the North Carolina State Fair and Western North Carolina Agricultural Center.

Metric: Eleven heavily used buildings at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds and Western North Carolina Agricultural Center now have installed bi-polar ionization which has been proven to significantly reduce viruses and other contaminants in recirculated air. One building at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center installed touchless bathroom fixtures to improve employee and public safety in the building. Two floor scrubbers were purchased to allow for more frequent sanitation of public spaces at the North Carolina State Fair and Western North Carolina Agricultural Center. Six portable foggers were purchased to allow for high trafficked areas to be disinfected quickly. One event



at the North Carolina State Fair had a law enforcement presence and was professionally cleaned to ensure public spaces at the event were thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and social distancing was being managed.

Timely Access to Economic Support

Goal: Ensure North Carolinians adversely impacted by COVID-19 have access to grants and subsidies to aid in recovery from the Pandemic

Metric: \$350,000 of funds received from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the North Carolina State Fair were distributed by the North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs (NCAAF) to its member organizations to offset losses incurred by government-mandated closures related to COVID-19. The individual agricultural fairs which make up NCAAF rely on their annual fair as their primary source of revenue. None of the nonprofit agricultural fairs were able to operate in the 2020 calendar year due to government-mandated closures related to COVID-19. The funds from this grant program were used to continue supporting staff salaries, land and equipment leases, facility maintenance, inspection, and safety improvement of facilities, and meeting other financial obligations.

