

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.~~



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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.

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

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

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