



Message From Managers

The 2024 Michigan State Fair presented by Henry Ford Health & HAP was unlike any fair we have held in years past. We faced unthinkable challenges and in turn, great triumphs.

The fair had a slower than normal start due to extreme heat and forecasted storms followed by a very highly attended Saturday. Then, as many of you know, there was an incident that occurred that Saturday night outside the perimeter of the Fair involving an isolated shooting resulting from an altercation.

After review of the incident with law enforcement officials, community leaders, and the Michigan State Fair operations team and Executive Committee, the Michigan State Fair made the difficult decision to continue the fair for Sunday and Monday with increased police presence, reduced hours, online ticket sales turned off, and no unaccompanied minors throughout the duration of the fair. While we were up in pre-sold numbers, exhibitors, food vendors, and rides, we still did see a 20% decrease in actualized attendance.

Even though attendance numbers were affected, we still consider this year a success considering the extreme adversity our team faced, and the subsequent bravery and dedication everyone showed to continue and attend the fair, allowing us to persevere and maintain our core values of supporting the livestock and agriculture communities, giving back to the community, and continuing the tradition of the Michigan state fair. The 2024 Michigan State Fair presented by Henry Ford Health & HAP was still able to contribute over \$1,000,000 to Charitable and Community Organizations bringing the total giveback since its inception to 7.6 million total. We maintained our annual scholarship commitment of \$50,000 to rural and urban youth for Agricultural, Livestock, and Home Arts scholarships. There was still over 176,000 people in attendance this year.

We are so thankful for all the support and dedication that so many people showed to the State Fair. We are endlessly grateful to our amazing team, our volunteers, employees, committee members, exhibitors, vendors, and so many more who all stood with us, and then of course to the thousands of people in line on Sunday morning, showing their appreciation, and expressing many thanks for continuing the fair... We also need to extend our deepest thank you to all of the law enforcement agencies that went above and beyond to aid us in the operation of this event. We would not have been able to open up with out this support and continuing the tradition of the Michigan State Fair would not be possible with out all of you.

We will be determining what changes will be implemented for 2025 to ensure that we can continue to safely operate the Michigan State Fair presented by Henry Ford Health & HAP for all to enjoy.