

Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grants Program

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets has been administering the Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grants program for over ten years. Funding is appropriated yearly to assist our fairs throughout the state with capital improvements, and each grant recipient has 24 months to complete their project. The 2014 Vermont Legislature codified the program and created guidelines for the establishment of an Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee to administer and coordinate grants.

Vermont fairs and field days drew almost 370,000 visitors in 2017 and many of the fairgrounds are utilized for other events, drawing visitors throughout the year. The fairs and events offer opportunities for the agricultural community to highlight their practices, products, skills, and livelihood that are part of the success of maintaining Vermont's working landscape. In the summer of 2017, the Agency completed five interagency site visits and plans to complete additional visits in 2018.

In FY 2018, the Agency of Agriculture received a request of \$244,938 from 10 fairs and field days. All 10 of the 10 requests will be granted and funded out of the \$197,410 FY2018 appropriation, with each fair receiving \$19,741.

For the FY 2018 grant year, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets made three significant administrative change to the Capital Grant application process.

1. The Agency combined the applications for the Capital Grants and Fair Stipends. Combining the applications improved the application process for both the fairs as well as Agency staff as it removed duplicative questions, alleviated the time needed to submit two separate applications, and decreased the amount of time necessary to administer both grants.
2. As requested by the review committee, each fair was required to provide 15% cash match rather than cash or in-kind.
3. As requested by the review committee, each fair was required to show all quotes as proof of project costs.



Below are examples of the investments by the capital grants from FY 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018:

Fair Name	Year	Project	Project Cost	Matching Funds	Funds Awarded
<i>Addison County Fair and Field Days</i>	2015	Safety Improvements to Tractor Pad Area	\$38,738	\$15,677	\$25,138
<i>Caledonia County Fair Association Inc</i>	2017	Multipurpose Horse Barn	\$62,932	\$37,932	\$21,975
<i>Champlain Valley Fair</i>	2017	State Building Roof Replacement	\$41,600	\$16,000	\$21,975
<i>Connecticut Valley Fair / Bradford Fair</i>	2018	Fencing, New Building, and Communication Updates	\$28,749	\$3,750	\$19,741
<i>Franklin County Field Days</i>	2015	Agricultural Education Building Upgrades	\$74,609	\$51,548	\$25,138
<i>Guilford Fair, Inc</i>	2018	Fitch Hall Maintenance	\$27,269	\$3,669	\$19,741
<i>Lamoille County Field Days</i>	2015	Phase II Bathroom Facility	\$31,696	\$9,000	\$25,138
<i>Orleans County Fair Association</i>	2016	Historical Grandstand Restoration Phase II	\$26,094	\$9,665	\$23,246
<i>Rutland County Agricultural Society / VT State Fair</i>	2017	Machinery Barn / Tractor Museum & First Aid Building Repairs	\$36,000	\$11,000	\$21,975
<i>Tunbridge World's Fair</i>	2016	Barn Removal and Reconstruction	\$42,500	\$17,500	\$23,246



	Fair Name	Project Description	FY2018 Capital Request	Cash Match	Cash Match %	Other Matching Funds	Total Match	Project Cost	Approved Funding
1	Addison County Fair and Field Days	Electrical Rebuild for Grounds	\$ 24,999.00	\$ 25,345.00	101.4%	\$ -	\$ 25,345.00	\$ 50,344.00	\$ 19,741.00
2	Bradford Fair / Connecticut Valley Fair	Fencing, New Building, and Communication Updates	\$ 24,999.00	\$ 3,750.00	15.0%	\$ -	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 28,749.00	\$ 19,741.00
3	Caledonia County Fair Association, Inc.	Waterline Improvements	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 9,249.95	37.0%	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 14,249.95	\$ 39,249.95	\$ 19,741.00
4	Champlain Valley Fair	Lighting, Grandstand and Vermont Building Repairs	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	44.0%	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 19,741.00
5	Franklin County Field Days	Electrical Upgrades	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 4,291.00	17.2%	\$ -	\$ 4,291.00	\$ 29,291.00	\$ 19,741.00
6	Guilford Fair, Inc.	Fitch Hall Maintenance	\$ 23,600.00	\$ 3,669.00	15.5%	\$ -	\$ 3,669.00	\$ 27,269.00	\$ 19,741.00
7	Lamoille County Field Days	Roof and Pulling Track Repairs	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	16.0%	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 19,741.00
8	Orleans County Fair Association	Waterline replacement and restoration	\$ 23,340.00	\$ 3,501.00	15.0%	\$ 8,935.00	\$ 12,436.00	\$ 35,776.00	\$ 19,741.00
9	Rutland County Agricultural Society - Vermont State Fair	4H & First Aid Building Restoration	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	15.0%	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 19,741.00
10	Tunbridge World's Fair / Union Agricultural Society	4 Showers and Manure Pit Retaining Wall	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	15.0%	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 31,700.00	\$ 19,741.00
Total			\$ 244,938.00	\$ 72,005.95		\$ 26,435.00		\$ 343,378.95	\$ 197,410.00
FY 2018 Appropriation			\$ 197,410.00						
Amount over Request			\$ 47,528.00						