

Lincoln County Fair Association

A New Mexico Domestic Non-Profit Corporation Since March 17, 1960,

For

Promotion of Agriculture/Youth of Lincoln County.

2011

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Lincoln County Fair Association

The Lincoln County Fair Association was incorporated in 1960 with the sole purpose “To hold annually on suitable grounds a County Fair...” for the citizens and youth of Lincoln County which had started as early as 1953, but formally since 1956. Over the years many great people have contributed to making the many changes and improvements that still insure that there will be a 60th Annual Lincoln County Fair.

Currently, the Lincoln County Fair Association is assisted by Lincoln County to maintain the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and host the Lincoln County Fair at a sum of \$23,000. The LCFA Directors and volunteers accomplish this task by producing seven rodeos in four days during the Fourth of July holiday known as the historic Smokey Bear Stampede. This event, plus nominal utilization fees charged for other uses throughout the year, donations and sponsorships provides the additional funding necessary to maintain the fairgrounds for the entire year, employ one part-time employee and fund the annual Lincoln County Fair.

58 Years Of The Lincoln County Fair!

1953-2011

The following history was compiled from information provided by former Lincoln County Cooperative Extension Agent Ralph Dunlap of Lincoln, and Eleanor Jones (deceased), two of the Lincoln County Fair founders.

The Lincoln County Fair was started at a meeting of the Capitan Chamber of Commerce in early 1953. Fletcher Hall was chairman and some of the others present were Mary Werner, Archie Fuchs, and Charlie Jones.

On March 11, 1956, the founders of Achievement Day met and renamed the event The Lincoln County Fair. A Fair Board was formed, with Charles Jones elected president and Eleanor Jones elected secretary-treasurer, positions they retained until 1985.

The Fair was still a small event. Exhibits were set up on Friday and some were judged that day. Others were judged on Saturday. Fletcher Hall was in charge of the afternoon rodeo events such as the Rescue Race, which he usually won by rescuing Emma Gene, who often had bruises to show for it, but later became his wife. The rodeo events were for local cowboys and one was a timed event called The Modern Cowboy Race. The contestant entered the arena with a horse in his pickup or trailer, unloaded the horse, roped and tied a calf, loaded the horse, and drove across the finish line. One cowboy left his trailer gate open so he could get a fast start, but as he entered the arena and u-turned in the middle, the horse's rear feet fell out, forcing it to pedal like mad with its back feet. When the trailer stopped, the horse jumped back in and would not get out, much to the chagrin of the cowboy and the amusement of the crowd.

The grandstands from the rodeo grounds east of Capitan were moved to the old school grounds using Truman Spencers semi. The early Fair buildings were all put up with donated labor. The Smokey Bear Stampede was organized to raise money for the Fair. Troy Lane was the stock contractor, and The Aggie Ramblers played for the dance. Initially, a free barbecue preceded the rodeo on the afternoon of the Fourth of July. Charles Jones donated the beef and Clint Sultemeier was the cook, with other ranchers donating beef in later years. Geneva Walker and I ran the concession stand that first year

and after paying all the bills, we cleared \$3.46. The Stampede quickly grew to a three-day event with a dance on the Fourth. The rodeo usually paid the expenses and the dance was the profit.

The 1960s and 70s brought some big changes. The Fair was incorporated in 1960. The arena was lighted in 1961 and land was purchased from Frank Pino to enlarge the parking lot.

The next big change was the addition of the Junior Livestock Sale in the early 60s. Lamoyne Carpenter volunteered to get buyers if we would have a sale, and he helped for many years. The addition of the sale created more interest in the Fair and extra days were added to accommodate the increased events.

1969 was a very bad year. The Fair building burned to the ground just before the Stampede. A trailer was rented for an office and school superintendent Bud Darling let us use the gym for our dances. The animal barn burned just before the Fair and Bud let us use the school for our inside exhibits. After a number of meetings, it was decided we had to go ahead and borrow money for a new Fair building and animal barn. Without the help of Johnson Stearns, the Lincoln County Commissioners, the Capitan Village Council, and the American Legion, we never could have done it.

In 1971 we were going to try to raise money to build the meeting room, storeroom, and restrooms. A generous gift from Jackie Spencer allowed us to build them in time for the 1972 Stampede and Fair. The barn and sales rings were completed and the pens were erected, along with several sets of bleachers. Over the years, there was very little paid labor for any of this...folks from all over the County just came on, pitched in, and worked.

(Inserted Addendum: In the early 1980's, LCFA ownership of the fairgrounds was converted to Lincoln County to ease liability burden and open new funding avenues available for future growth and expansion).

In 2003 we realized the Fletcher Hall building at the fairgrounds needed renovating and upgrading. Since there wasn't any "extra" money for the fairgrounds, we had to get creative. The idea was to revive and revise the Fair book, and 4H members all over the county went out to find advertisers. The Fair Board agreed that all money raised

would pay the printing costs and the remainder would go in a special Fletcher Hall Renovation Fund.

To Date, that revitalization of the Fair Book has contributed greatly to the renovation of the Fletcher Hall Building and many other programs.

Lincoln County Fair continues as an important part of the rural and local communities of Lincoln County. 4-H, FFA and local citizens look forward to participating in the events that the fair brings year after year.

Source: <http://lincolnextension.nmsu.edu/announcements.html>

Lincoln County Fair

This year the Lincoln County Fair Association will host the 58th Annual Lincoln County Fair. The fair is a tradition among residents of Lincoln County to proudly exhibit their handiwork and fruits of their labor. Adults enjoy competition in horticulture, textiles, baking, canning, photography and art. Youth enjoy the same competition with the addition of livestock competitions. The Lincoln County Fair provides five days of family oriented fun and fellowship and is an unprecedented forum for developing and rewarding the youth of Lincoln County for constructive, labor intensive project management. The 2010 Lincoln County Fair cost \$21,739.

2010 Statistics

Youth Entries

Livestock Entries	
Horse	38
Cattle	37
Swine	101
Sheep and Goats	237
Poultry and Rabbits	51
Indoor Project Entries	
Novice	232
Junior	32
Senior	128

Entry statistics provided by Lincoln County Extension Service. Not reflected in the above table are the adult, FFA indoor projects, day entries during milking contest, dog demonstrations, pet show, lead class or stick horse races which are open to the public.

Junior Livestock Auction

Since it's inception in the early 1960's, the Junior Livestock Sale has provided a year end goal for many of Lincoln County's youth. Up to a year of preparation, culminates with a chance at making it into the Lincoln County Fair Junior Livestock Premium Sale which allows exhibitors to sale a limited number of prize winning livestock, as well as, the best Pie and Cake in Lincoln County. The sale is managed by a separate, independent non-profit organization, the Lincoln County Junior Livestock Sales Committee. The proceeds of the sale go directly to the young person qualifying, to help pay the expenses of raising livestock, as well as, help build college funds for the future. The sale also provides a venue for county and area businesses to invest in the youth of Lincoln County, as well as, participate in a unique advertising campaign. The 2010 Junior Livestock Sale with add-on monies brought over \$100,000 in a single evening in support for the youth of Lincoln County.

Smokey Bear Stampede

The Smokey Bear Stampede has become a keystone event for Lincoln County providing a venue for celebration for residents of the county and economic stimulus as well. Known throughout the Southwest as the premier open rodeo contest with the convenience of participation in conjunction with the Mescalero Rodeo and two or three other roping venues within driving distance, it has become the destination of choice for families for over 30 years. The Smokey Bear Stampede provides the additional funding necessary to adequately fund the maintenance of the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and host the Lincoln County Fair.

2010 Statistics

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Total Entries	166	186	203	180	735
Day Attendance		141	602	515	1258
Evening Attendance	266	579	979	1341	3165
Gross Income	\$4,617	\$7,675	\$19,049	\$25,752	\$57,093

Total expenses for producing the Smokey Bear Stampede was \$39,412.
Net revenue was \$17,681.

Tough Enough to Wear Pink

The Tough Enough to Wear Pink (TETWP) campaign was initiated in 2004 to bring awareness and support to breast cancer awareness and a cure. In 2007, the Lincoln County Fair Association added a designated TETWP day to the Smokey Bear Stampede schedule of events and donates \$1 for every ticket purchased by a person wearing pink, as well as, the proceeds of booth sales of TETWP items available for purchase. In 2009, \$494 was donated from ticket sales and \$1727 in merchandise was sold.

Benefit Ranch Rodeo

In 2008, in support of Lincoln County Deputy Robert Shepperd, a benefit ranch rodeo was organized to help with expenses related to his rehabilitation. At the request of Deputy Shepperd it was decided to continue as an annual event with the proceeds to be donated to a Lincoln County resident(s) who could use assistance during catastrophic life changing events. This event is a short-format ranch rodeo held in July during the early evening in cooperation with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse. After the rodeo, a barn dance is held with an old fashioned pie auction. All proceeds and donations are held in the Lincoln County Cowboy Crises Fund until donated. This year \$5,000 was gifted to a Hondo family.

Lincoln County Fair Queen Contest

The Lincoln County Fair Association sponsors an annual Fair Queen contest just before and culminating during the Smokey Bear Stampede. The contest is open to any eligible Lincoln County female who can meet the requirements during her reigning year. The contest is based on leadership ability and horsemanship and is judged by an independent, non-partial committee of qualified judges. Duties range from leading the running of sponsor flags during Smokey Bear Stampede, promoting all yearly events for the LCFA, awarding prizes at the Lincoln County Fair, photo opportunities, etc. The reigning queen is awarded a crown, trophy buckle, trophy saddle and a scholarship. The reigning queen is given the opportunity and sponsored by the LCFA to compete in the New Mexico State Fair and Rodeo Queens Contest immediately after her crown is relinquished to her successor.

LCFA Sponsorships

The Lincoln County Fair Association annually sponsors individual youth of Lincoln County who have excelled in competition. On an individual basis, the youth associated with LCFA sponsored and promoted activities can request a sponsorship of their next level of competition or awarded travel. In the past, LCFA has sponsored travel of individuals to state and national junior and high school rodeo contests, leadership conventions and national/regional rodeo queen contests. The LCFA's level of sponsorship greatly varies accordingly depending on the need of the individual and the status of the budget of the LCFA.

Other Use of Facilities

Use of Lincoln County Fairgrounds is coordinated by the Lincoln County Fair Association and under advisement of the Lincoln County Manager's Office and Attorney on a fee for use schedule. A contract is signed between Association and User with stipulation that an insurance policy will be obtained for the event. Fee for use is kept to a minimum for Lincoln County Youth organizations to cover expenses incurred due to utility use and incidentals. Examples of uses throughout the year are:

- Arena is unlocked seasonally on Thursdays for open practice
- Lincoln County Rodeo Club
 - Over 100 contestants
 - Six rodeos per year
- 4-H Clubs Meetings
- Lincoln County Extension Service
 - County 4-H Events/Contests
 - District 4-H Events/Contests
 - 4-H Banquets
 - County Educational Forums/Seminars
- NM Longhorn Association annual show
- Cowboy Mounted Action Shooters
- Private Celebrations
- Private Meetings