

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

## STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KATHLEEN ANGERER ACTING DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Michigan's fair industry, welcome to the 2023 county fair season!

Millions of people attend Michigan's county fairs each year. I'm confident fairgoers will continue to enjoy the sights, sounds and activities that have become an annual tradition for many of us.

Michigan's county fairs are an important part of our state's growing food and agriculture industry, helping to maintain a much-needed connection to rural traditions while highlighting modern agriculture practices. Our state's 85 local, county, and state fairs provide safe, family-friendly entertainment and celebrate the bounty of our agricultural harvest.

Fairgoers support the nearly 50,000 Michigan youth who participate in livestock and community arts exhibitions each year. Many local businesses and families also support the efforts of our young exhibitors' efforts through youth livestock auctions held at most of our county fairs. Many of our exhibitors use the auction proceeds to help fund their continued education.

Whether you are here as a sponsor, exhibitor, or a fairgoer, there are many family memories awaiting you. I wish you great adventures during the 2023 fair season.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Angerer

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Director