

**From:** Jeannine Domeyer  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 1:20 PM  
**To:** Lukan, Steven [LEGIS]  
**Subject:** County Fairs

Dear Mr. Lukan,

I received word today via the Iowa tourism newsletter of two issues I would like to voice my opinion on. It appears as though the appropriation for County Fairs has been eliminated from the budget. This funding is vital to building and maintaining the infrastructure of the Delaware County Fairgrounds. This infrastructure serves the fairgrounds in a host of ways. Often times when people consider a fair they think of the value a Fair brings to its community in the way of agricultural education. We consider this a huge part of the Delaware County Fair, but in addition, we serve as a large tourism venue for our region. The biggest event in Delaware County each year, the Fair brings in over 50,000 people to Manchester in one week. Evidenced by the addresses of our ticket buyers and the license plates in our parking lot, many of our fair-goers are not only from outside of our county but also from outside of the state of Iowa. Maintaining these grounds for our local 4-H and FFA students as well as our visitors is very important to us. Bringing in out of state dollars to venues such as the Fair; RAGBRAI, which we will be hosting this year; The Iowa High School Rodeo Finals, which we will be bidding for this year; The National Polocrosse Finals, which we will be bidding on this year and the 2012 Iowa Fire Convention is a vital part of not only maintaining but growing the economy of Delaware County as well as the State of Iowa. Oftentimes people think of tourism as an extra thing that we should work on during good times but it is important to realize that tourism is a driving economic force that can revitalize an area better than anything else due to it's very nature which is bringing in outside revenue. These revenue streams are important to rural area such as Delaware County. In the same vein, my second issue also deals with tourism. Once again we are faced with the problems created by school districts starting so early in August. Their start dates directly effect how people plan their vacations and how they spend their discretionary dollars. Overlapping the school start date with the biggest tourism event in the state of Iowa, the Iowa State Fair, is indeed a poor choice. Having been named the #2 place to visit in the United States, the Iowa State Fair has received national attention and is acclaimed as a place everyone should visit in their lifetime, yet we allow the schools to start early enough that kids from our own state, cannot attend this great event. It is a huge concern of the parents who would like their kids to not only attend but participate in the State Fair for the learning opportunity it provides.

I know that your job is difficult when trying to please so many people. I only ask that you give these items due consideration when voting on these issues.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Domeyer, Manager  
Delaware County Fair & Facilities

**Response from Steven Lukan:**

**From:** Lukan, Steven [LEGIS] [mailto:Steven.Lukan@legis.state.ia.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 2:17 PM  
**To:** Jeannine Domeyer  
**Subject:** RE: County Fairs

Jeannine,

We will do what we can for the county fair budget line item. Several years ago it was also cut out and the Legislature voted to put it back in place. I am not sure if we can get the votes to overturn the Governor on that this year or not but we will work to restore it.

Also on the school start date I did vote for a hard date at the end of August several years ago. That bill then died in the Senate. This year it looks unlikely we will have much support to adjust the calendar given the extremely high number of snow days that schools are dealing with. They are very defensive of this issue and may not be willing to work with us very much. I understand the problems it is causing in Iowa, with young people wanting to work and businesses wanting to hire them over the summer, but when the summer is cut to 9 or 10 weeks it is a big disincentive for both groups, as well as the pinch it puts on tourism.

Steve