

County Fair Pilot 2017

Cooperative Effort Between
MDARD

Saginaw, Bay and Midland County LHDs

Chris, Joel, Mike and Sean

Overview

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Solicited interest of local health departments to take over responsibility for County Fairs
 - Survey Conducted by MDARD
- Three jurisdictions identified by MDARD
 - Saginaw Count Department of Public Health
 - Bay County Health Department
 - Midland County Department of Public Health

Planning Aspects

- Meeting with MDARD, LHDs and MAFE – March
(Michigan Assoc of Fairs and Exhibitions— Steve Thelen, Larry Bush)
- Regional Meeting of Fair Boards in Midland – April
- Strategies Developed
 - Licensing plan
 - Inspection Approach
- Face to Face Meeting at MDARD / Follow up Calls
 - Solidifying Plans
 - Development of Short Survey

Saginaw County

- Fair Dates – August 1-5
- Number of Facilities – 9 temporary food licenses issued plus 11 STFUs (only 2 requested inspections)
- License Fees – Non-Profit \$52.00 and For Profit \$93.00
- Team Size – 4 EH Specialists and EH Director
- Prior to Fair Activities
 - Communication with vendors and MDARD staff
 - One Temporary License inspected and issued on July 30 that was open for vendors and Fair volunteers for Fair set-up days
- At Fair Activities
 - Temporary food and STFU inspections

Bay County

- Fair Dates – August 8-12
- Number of Facilities - 6 temporary food licenses, 4 STFUs present
- License Fees - \$71-105 Non-Profit/For Profit
- Team Size – 2
- Prior to Fair
 - Contact Fair Board
 - Send Applications and Fee Schedule
 - Confirm all applications are received and match the list of proposed vendors
- At Fair
 - Meet With Fair Board Member(s)
 - Consult with MDARD Representative
 - Conduct inspections
 - Total hours including all meetings with MDARD and prep time: 12 hours

Midland County

- Fair Dates – August 13-19
- Number of Facilities – 22 Temporary Foods + STFUs (1 paid insp)
- License Fees - \$63.00 non-profit, \$70.00 for profit
- Team Size – 2 LHD/2 MDARD for inspections
- Prior to Fair
 - Regular contact with Fair Manager
 - Site visit(s) which included campgrounds and permanent locations
- At Fair
 - Joint inspections w/MDARD
 - Walk around with MDARD/LHD Administration
 - Total hours invested – 22 hrs, not counting office time

Midland County Recap (continued)

- Two temporary foods were in regular buildings
 - Service clubs operate during fair, closed otherwise
- Significant Flood Event in late June
 - Both buildings flooded plus the 4H Building (fixed food)
- Cleanup/repair was substandard at one
 - Lack of access to building by both Fair Mgr/LHD
 - Flood water swabbed out after flood, building left closed after
 - No disinfectant – mold growth occurred
 - Required multiple LHD follow-ups to get facility ok'd

Results of Pilot - Positives

- Collaboration between MDARD, LHDs, Fair Boards and MAFE was good
- Survey indicated that most showed satisfaction with transition
 - Only 29% indicated they were dissatisfied/very dissatisfied
- Survey indicated that most vendors were ok with licensing changes
 - Only 8% indicated license handling issues
- MDARD and LHD staff worked together well during inspections
 - One inspector from each, LHD was lead inspector
 - 65% indicated inspection process was consistent with prior year
- Communication efforts were good, although imperfect

Results of Pilot - Opportunities

- Communication – Can never have too much!
 - Some vendors indicated they were unaware of pilot
 - Notifying of vendors operating at multiple fairs of pilot
- Some LHDs felt it was challenging to get complete vendor list
- It started to feel a little rushed as the Fair dates neared

Next Steps

- MDARD will provide info materials to license applicants prior
- Information packet to be developed with overview/contacts
- MDARD will plan to attend Fair Convention in January
- Other communication opportunities will be explored
- MDARD and LHD will seek continually improve rapport
 - conduct joint visits/inspections at least a couple of times per year
- Final report will be developed

Moving Ahead

- Likely that Bay, Saginaw and Midland will continue to operate the County Fair inspection program
- MDARD will plan to solicit interest from other LHDs
- A phased approach will be developed by MDARD to roll this out to more LHDs
- For LHDs not interested, no changes are forthcoming
 - MDARD will continue to operate Fair inspections

County Fair Pilot

- Thank you!

- Questions?