

Maryland's fairs are more popular than the Orioles

ANNAPOLIS, Md — What's one of the most popular activities in the State of Maryland? Before you say going to Orioles

games you might want to look at the latest report of the Maryland State Fair Board which reveals that some 1.3 million people attend fairs and community

shows and that 49,000 people take an active part as exhibitors.

Besides being fun for viewer and participant alike, such shows and fairs are designed to acquaint urban and suburban folks with a working knowledge of where their food comes from by telling the story of Maryland's agricultural vitality and heritage.

The Fair Board, an attached agency of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, fosters such shows and fairs through its financial support in the form of premiums, trophies and ribbons.

During the fiscal 1979 period covered by the Board's report, some 185 activities are listed including one state fair, 38 county and regional fairs and shows, 45 Maryland 4-H activities, 43 Maryland FFA activities, 46 local community shows and contests, and 13 field days.

The numbers of Marylanders who enjoy such activities as viewers and participants mushrooms when you consider that over 49,500 people entered some 130,000 entries in these activities which drew over 1,360,000 people as viewers.

For the fiscal 1979 period, the Fair Board reports receipts of \$1,449,829 which came from a special tax on horse racing bets at the state's race tracks. A full \$1 million of this figure is allocated to the operators of the Maryland State Fair at Timonium for capital improvements under a multi-year plan approved by the General Assembly several years ago.

The Fair Board's regular activities, assistance to fairs

and shows through premium money, utilized \$414,849 of which only \$34,938 was accounted for in administrative expenses. Much of the credit for the low overhead must go to the fact that the board is composed of nine unpaid private citizens who give of their time and talents.

Frank D. Brown, Jr., serves as Chairman of the Fair Board with Grover K. Walker as Vice-Chairman and Richard N. Willa as Secretary. The other members are: Earl C. Robertson, John M. Crum, Gerald B. Truitt, Jr., Frank C. Downey, Edna M. White and J. Gordon Warfield. Ms. Carol Aragon is the Board's full time Executive Secretary.

Embargo aid bill gets first OK

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House Agriculture Committee's subcommittee on Conservation and Credit has unanimously approved legislation by U.S. Congressman Tom Harkin to substantially reduce interest rates for on-farm storage facility loans and to continue a government program due to expire in May which helps farmers experiencing serious, but temporary, financial problems refinance their obligations.

The bill was introduced three weeks ago to help farmers increase their on-farm storage capacity and to extend needed financial protection in the wake of

President Carter's embargo of American grain sales to the Soviet Union.

The bill, as approved on a 16-0 vote by the subcommittee, reduces the interest rates for Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Service storage facility loans from the current 10.5 per cent to 8 per cent annually. It also increases the maximum individual loan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The legislation also extends the Farmers Home Administration's Economic Emergency Assistance program until September 30, 1981, nearly two years

beyond its present May, 1980 cut-off date.

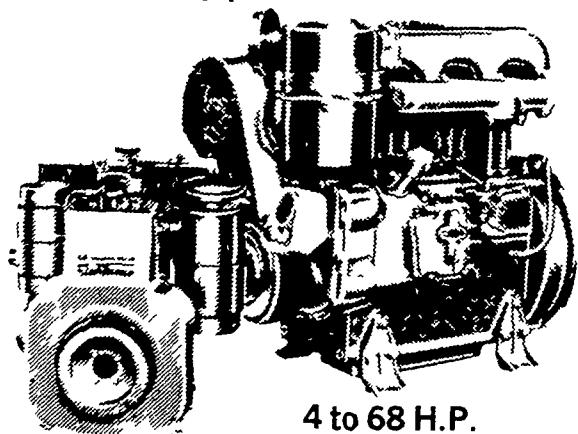
It also provides an additional \$2 billion lending authority for the program which is nearing its current lending limit.

The full House Agriculture Committee is set to consider the bill this week.

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Thursday, February 28th

9 30 A M Draft Horse and Mule Show
Large Arena
11 30 A M Tack Sale - Small Arena
1 00 P M Draft Horse and Mule Sale
Small Arena
1 00 P M 5,500 lb Class Stock Tractor Pull
Large Arena
6 00 P M 13,000 lb Class Stock Tractor Pull
Large Arena

Friday, February 29th

9 00 A M First Pa All Breed Swine Show
Small Arena
1 00 P M Lightweight Class Horse Pull
(3200 lbs & less) - Large Arena
7 00 P M Heavyweight Class Horse Pull
(over 3,200 lbs) - Large Arena
*4-H Safe Driving Demonstration

*Time and location to be determined

Saturday, March 1st

10 00 A M 9,000 lbs Class Stock Tractor Pull
Large Arena
11 00 A M First Pa All Breed Swine Sale
Small Arena
*1 30 P M Young Farmers-Expo Winter
Volleyball Tournament
Large Arena
6 00 P M Tractor Pull Finals - (three classes)
Large Arena

Tickets Required	
Adults	\$3 00 Advance \$2 00
Children	\$2 00 Advance \$1 00 (12 & under)

For Further Information Contact The State Farm Show Office — 717-787-5373