

2019 @ The Binbrook Agricultural Society

As we at the Binbrook Agricultural Society reflect on the year that has passed, 2019 was largely a year of continued growth and exciting changes, filled with many success stories as our community grows, and we evolve with it.

We give sincere thanks for the many volunteer hours contributed, by the young and the old. We have been excited to welcome in new faces who have stepped up to join our ranks and help carry us forward for years to come.

Additional and unending gratitude should also go to the retiring members, for helping to guide the fair and our society for so many years, into the success that we are today.

Some of the more visible highlights from 2019 include new roofs for buildings 3 & 4, with a 40-year life expectancy. City sewer connections were completed in December, with final grading and asphalt to return when the ground thaws. Changes to the demo pit and track were also made in August/September 2019 to accommodate the Rodeo.

We are still investigating and seeking input on the future of the kitchen facilities, the exterior of our main hall, and the upgrading of the entrance to the office. Many of these items date to the late 1970's, and year after year the maintenance costs rise. In addition, our HVAC systems in the main hall are approaching their age limit as well, but we are aware of the need, and making plans for the future.

Under direction from the membership last year at the AGM, we sent 3 directors to the Governance 101 workshop at the 2019 Fair Convention and they are attending Governance 201 workshop at the 2020 Convention. They worked diligently throughout the spring to review and rework both the Constitution and the Policies & Procedures, including holding several open public meetings. These will be discussed at this year's AGM and we look forward to affirming the support of our membership for an updated and compliant 2020 Constitution.

The 2019 Binbrook Fair included the addition of the first ever Dodge RAM Rodeo being held on our grounds. It was a great success for its inaugural year and is still the talk of many people in our small town. The fair showed continued success through the exhibitors and vendors that continue to support the fair each year. We also saw some growth at Old McDonalds Farm with the addition of some new educational components; some of which include chick and piglet holding, information signs, and pig owner representation.

2019 saw a small decline in participation in the Home and Garden Show, and the demographics of an evolving Binbrook don't seem to support our traditional New Year's Eve event, but the committees are busy making changes and hoping to come back strong in 2020.

As we look forward to 2020, the projects, the events, and the fair, we want to encourage anyone in our community to reach out and stay in touch. When you have questions or ideas, please share them, and we'll do the same in return.

Sincerely, The BAS Executive and the Board of Directors