



State Agriculture and Rural Leaders

2013-6 Resolution on State Fair Investment

Passed June 9, 2013

- Whereas,** the State Ag and Rural Leaders, (SARL) is comprised of agriculture and rural leaders of state and provincial legislative bodies from the US and Canada; and
- Whereas,** our global population is projected to reach nine billion people by 2050 and the non-agriculture population has little to no understanding of the complexities involved in sustaining a viable agriculture system; and
- Whereas,** the potential negative impact of an uninformed population on United States, Canadian, and global food, fiber, and renewable fuel production is great; and
- Whereas,** an informed citizenry will create win-win policies and solutions that insure the long-term sustainability of agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life across the United States and Canada; and
- Whereas,** state, county, provincial, and regional non-profit, government and quasi-government agriculture fairs have been providing education to the agriculture community since the 1700s in the U.S. and Canada by showcasing livestock, crop and horticulture production by identifying superior genes, and by demonstrating best practices, innovations, and cutting edge technologies; and
- Whereas,** state, county, provincial and regional fairs provide one of the most important opportunities for 4-H, FFA and other youth groups to receive recognition and positive reinforcement for their accomplishments; and
- Whereas,** now over 150 million people primarily from urban and suburban areas, two or three generations removed from farms, visit fairs in the U.S. and Canada annually to see farm animals, learn about agriculture and be entertained by family oriented entertainment activities; and
- Whereas,** fairs have now shifted much of their focus, programming, and showcasing to educate urban and suburban visitors about farming, food security, natural resources, and the production, distribution, marketing, and consumption of agriculture products; now therefore be it
- Resolved,** that State Agricultural and Rural Leaders (SARL) supports investment in the infrastructure and programming of state, county, provincial, and regional agriculture fairs by the states and provinces; and be it further
- Resolved,** that this resolution be submitted to state and federal officials as it is deemed necessary.