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The Hart County News-Herald

OPINION

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Ag Commissioner announces 10 county fair grant awards

Grants will fund infrastructure improvements for county fairgrounds

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 17, 2025) – The Kentucky Department of Agriculture awarded a record number of county fair grants this year for new construction and renovations projects. Ten county fairs across the state were awarded grants totaling \$748,793.13, Commissioner Jonathan Shell has announced.

“For agricultural communities across the state, county fairs lie at their cores,” Commissioner Shell said. “I’m thrilled to announce we were able to award grants to a record number of counties this year by providing funding to 10 local county fair boards for vital infrastructure improvements. These grants will allow county fair boards to enrich the fair experience for their communities and their agricultural partners.”

The amount and the recipient of each grant include:

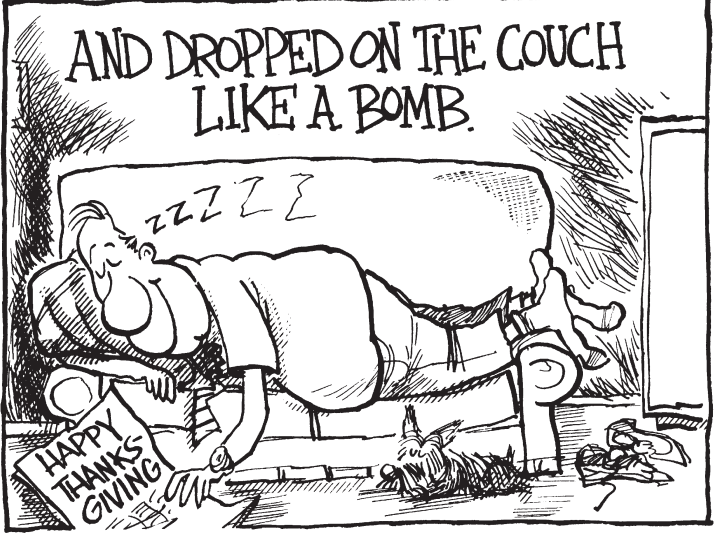
- Ballard County – \$44,117.19 for site prep and installation of a horse barn and metal stalls.
- Boyd County – \$62,233.50 for nine sets of bleachers and concrete.
- Clark County – \$15,984 for roof repair, a pageant room expansion, and replacement of the show ring fence and lighting.
- Clinton County – \$75,859.30 for arena fencing and a gate, concrete safety walls and guard rails, a new announcer stand, speakers at the arena and track, a new flagpole, and replacement of the septic system.
- Germantown Fair – \$100,000 for building renovations including windows, doors, insulation, HVAC, electric, siding, roof.
- Hart County – \$70,746.60 for reconstruction of an exhibit hall roof, porch overhangs, walkways, lighting, fencing, and public announcement system.
- Laurel County – \$100,000 for restrooms and concession building.
- Oldham County – \$100,000 for two sets of bleachers, asphalt/concrete walkways, and a new agriculture building.
- Pulaski County – \$79,852.54 to replace outdoor lighting and HVAC, and a building upgrade.
- Shelby County – \$100,000 for renovation of a horse barn.

Any incorporated fair board in Kentucky may apply with the State Aid to Local Agricultural Fairs Program for grants in the amount of \$10,000-\$100,000. Each grant will fund 75 percent of the total cost of the project, with the local fair board matching the other 25 percent. Each project

AWARDS

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A time of gratitude

FROM THE STAFF OF THE HART COUNTY NEWS-HERALD

Grateful for Hart County:

A Thanksgiving Message from the News-Herald

As Thanksgiving arrives, Hart County once again shows the strength and heart that define our community. This year, we are especially grateful for the people whose work often goes unseen but whose impact is felt every day.

We are thankful for our farmers, who continue long-standing traditions of agriculture that support both our families and our local economy. We appreciate our educators, school staff, and bus drivers who invest in our children’s futures. We salute our first responders and law enforcement officers who keep our homes and roads safe. And we are so thankful for a robust tourism,

industrial, and small business economies that shows steady stability and growth

XHart County is a place where neighbors still check on each other, where churches uplift families in need, and where community pride shines through at school events, festivals, and local gatherings. These values—simple, steady, and deeply rooted—are what make our home so special.

As families gather around the table this Thanksgiving, we hope everyone takes time to recognize the blessings that only small communities like ours can offer. From the staff of the *Hart County News-Herald*, we wish you a warm, peaceful, and grateful Thanksgiving.

Hart County Democrats Wrap Up 2025 With Year-End Meeting

SUBMITTED NEWS

The Hart County Democratic Party wrapped up 2025 with a great meeting featuring Judge Executive Joe Choate speaking about the current financial state of our county and his goals for the future. A good crowd was on hand to hear Choate speak and ask questions.

Kathy Nichols of Canmer was selected as Volunteer of the Year for her work in making our tabling efforts such a success this fall and her long-standing support of the Committee.

The group discussed our goal of reaching every registered Democrat



in Hart County before the May 2026 Primary Election. We will use relational organizing where Committee members and volunteers will contact their Democratic friends to encourage them to be more active and involved in the Hart County Democratic Party. If you are interested or just want to hear more about this organizing strategy, contact us via

our Facebook, Instagram pages or leave a message via email at hartcodems@gmail.com

We celebrated with food and fellowship. Next year will be a busy election year and we need all Democrats to get involved! We wish all Hart Countians a wonderful, safe holiday season filled with friends and family.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Hart County News-Herald welcomes letters to the editor regarding our publications or local issues of importance. Letters should be no more than 300 words; we reserve the right to edit for clarity or length, or to reject letters that are in poor taste or libelous. Writers must include their name and a valid telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will be rejected. Send your letter by email to print@jpinews.com or marybeth@jpinews.com or mail to or drop off at any Jobe Publishing office.

