

Hendry County Fair and Youth Livestock Show, Inc.
Fairgrounds and Rodeo Complex Renovation Project

4. Proposed Improvements

The open air pavilion currently seats about 700 spectators in one large open plan room. We have an adjoining dressing room and a two head male/female restroom. The goal is to enclose this facility in and have it climate controlled while at the same time keeping the open floor plan. Currently there is one facility in our entire county that is capable of hosting an indoor event with adequate seating for just under 300. There is not a facility that has adequate A.C. or Audio Visual requirements to host any type of large crowd for educational or social events. This facility is greatly needed for a variety of reasons and the Fair board along with the County feel that this addition would allow for the facility to start generating revenue to allow for more needed upgrades. In addition to the need to upgrade this facility we would like to give you some historical background on what this facility currently does on an annual basis and emphasize that this upgrade will only enhance these current events while allowing for more events to occur. Every year our annual Miss Hendry County Pageant is held in the pavilion and it routinely has a standing room only crowd with people crowding around in the open air to watch the pageant. Monthly our local Fair Board has a cooking club that educates young boys and girls of varying ages about our locally grown produce and beef. The fair board intertwines a whole language approach educationally into this program. We also help host two annual farm tours in conjunction with the Hendry County IFAS office and our local Cattleman Chapter. These farm tours routinely host over 600 people from around the Globe and educate them on the abundance of Hendry and Glades Agriculture. We have in the past been a food pantry drop and host to a number of other civic organizations fundraising activities. We are a staging area and have been designated for a number of years in the event there is regional natural disaster, Wilma was the last time equipment was staged in our facility. We feel by enhancing this facility these uses will only grow and allow for a better, more comfortable experience regardless of what mother natures has in store for us in Florida.

In addition to having no climate controlled buildings on site our facility currently has no R.V. slots that meet National Electric Code standards. In turn the ability for the Fair to be able to charge for usage and host an event that is professional in nature is extremely limited. E.g. Florida High School Rodeo, Florida Junior High aka Cinch and All Florida Junior Rodeo have said that until our facilities get a facelift they will not be visiting. These types of Rodeos are the definition of economic catalyst for an area like Clewiston and we have made significant strides to build the relationships along with being geographically blessed in the center of the State to appeal to these organizations. It is nearly impossible to make the financial upgrades to the R. V. and or facilities upgrades with the lack of ability to generate revenue and tell our agricultural story. We have a definite need for 85 of these slots to be refurbished. Our current facility has water and sewer capacity to handle this many hookups but we cannot justify charging when we do not have safe electrical hookups as of now.

Finally, the Raising Cane Rodeo facility owned and operated by the Fair board was at one time an extremely well liked and used facility due to the geographic location of Clewiston. Recently, the fair board has held a number of Rodeos and the facility is once again gaining traction but the time has come for a major refurbishment or someone and/or some animal is going to get injured badly. The facility was originally built as a pleasure horse show arena and has outlived the life span of the material used by a number of years. Twice monthly and for most National Holidays we host events for the community with local rides around town and also run a program known regionally as Exceptional Equestrians where we provide therapeutic riding sessions free to those with special needs. We have been told by numerous stock contractors that they will not return until facility upgrades are complete because of the danger and inefficiencies associated with the current facility. It is impossible to get a signed commitment from Florida High School Rodeo and some of their other affiliate organizations until we show major improvement. Along with the arena and livestock pen needs we have no way of hosting any crowd larger than around 500 people without the spectators bringing their own chairs for seats. The goal is to get a one sided 3,500 seat covered spectator section that is ADA compliant. In getting this major seating requirement met we will be able to once again get back to charging a correct number for attendance with the justification that the facility meets the charge. We will be upgrading the wiring for the entire facility to allow for better A/V and lighting of the arena floor itself. Currently we have numerous dark spots on the arena which affect Equine performance sometimes and frequent black outs because the electrical panels are old and dilapidated. Numerous pictures will help to illustrate the need for upgrades at the arena and the perimeter fencing in and around the arena. These resources will allow for significant upgrades to be made that will have a major impact on the educational and economic outcomes of our area. Thanks for your consideration.

- \$100,000 Engineering Plans and Specs total project
- \$335,000.00 Enclose Fairgrounds Pavilion: Electrical, Insulation, A/V needs, and Upgrade to meet ADA Compliance
- \$95,000.00 AC for Pavilion Facility
- \$65,000.00 Install and Upgrade RV Hookups
- \$80,000.00 Install and replace perimeter fencing for all 17 Acres
- \$525,000 Install ADA Compliant Bleachers, Refurbishment of Arena and Lighting