

By: Springer

S.R. No. 18

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Cooke County Fair Association is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Cooke County Fair in 2021; and

WHEREAS, The first county fair in Cooke County was held near Gainesville in 1871, on land that had been donated to the Cooke County Agricultural and Mechanical Association by Robert Wheelock, the county's first judge, and J. M. Perry; it featured exhibits and a mule-driven flying jenny, which was an early version of the merry-go-round; fairs were held on the site until 1875, when the land was sold; and

WHEREAS, The fair association established a new 40-acre fairground in 1891 and conducted an annual fair there until 1894; the next fair was held in 1897 at a third location, which featured a racetrack, agricultural displays, livestock judging, and balloon ascensions; subsequent fairs took place at different sites in 1899 and 1906; and

WHEREAS, After festivities were suspended between 1913 and 1926, the Cooke County Fair was reestablished in 1927, and in 1928, it drew more than 13,000 people with two parades, an archery contest, baseball games, a team-pulling competition, and a rodeo; that same year, the City of Gainesville provided the fair association with the use of land east of the city, and over the years, several exhibition halls were added to the property; the fair association took its current name in 1939; and

S.R. No. 18

WHEREAS, Put on hold again during World War II, the fair was restarted in 1947; the Fair Park Community Center was used throughout the year for an annual horse show, a reunion of war veterans on the Fourth of July, and a Juneteenth celebration by the county's African American residents; during the 1950s and 60s, the fair was held in downtown Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, the fair association purchased its current location just outside of the city and built a fair barn; destroyed by a storm in 2006, the barn has been rebuilt, becoming host to many other events year-round, including 4-H and FFA youth workshops, rodeos, circuses, livestock shows, and shooting competitions; and

WHEREAS, For a century and a half, the Cooke County Fair has brought the community together to benefit youth, promote agriculture, and celebrate the area's rich legacy, and it is truly a pleasure to join in marking this special occasion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Cooke County Fair and extend to the Cooke County Fair Association sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the association as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.