



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS DURING THE BENTON FRANKLIN FAIR & RODEO

1. WHO RUNS WHAT AT THE FAIRGROUNDS?

Answer:

The Benton County Event Center & Fairgrounds — including McDaniel Arena — is owned and operated by Benton County.

The Benton Franklin Fair Association, on the other hand, is a separate nonprofit organization that puts on the annual Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo.

This renovation project, including the newly updated grandstands, is a Benton County investment designed to support *all* year-round events — not just the fair.

2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BENTON COUNTY AND THE BENTON FRANKLIN FAIR ASSOCIATION?

Answer:

- **Benton County:**
 - Owns the land, buildings, and facilities
 - Oversees improvements (parking, seating, restrooms, accessibility)
 - Funds renovations using county economic development dollars
 - Supports year-round community events

- **Benton Franklin Fair Association:**
 - Independent nonprofit
 - Produces and manages the annual Fair & Rodeo
 - Uses fairgrounds facilities for fair week
 - Sets and manages all ticket prices (admission, parking, etc.)
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3. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE TO MCDANIEL ARENA?

Answer:

Benton County's renovation includes:

- Seating expansion from 3,000 to 6,000
- Upgraded restrooms and concessions
- Improved access to amenities
- Enhanced lighting, air, and sound quality
- New shade-wall feature
- Preservation of the historic south-side "over the chutes" structure

These upgrades benefit both the Fair Association's events and other community gatherings throughout the year.

4. WHY DID BENTON COUNTY INVEST IN THIS RENOVATION?

Answer:

For over 75 years, McDaniel Arena and the Fairgrounds have supported local economic growth and community tradition. The renovation, funded by Benton County, is part of a long-term effort to keep the facilities safe, modern, accessible, and ready for:

- Public events
- Private rentals
- Live entertainment
- Rodeos
- The Benton Franklin Fair

A better event center and fairgrounds benefit everyone in the community.

