

**The Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair will be 95  
Years Old in 2021**

**It's a wonderful history of  
community caring –**

**State Champion Fair – 2019 – AAA  
Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**



**Since the first Putnam County Fair in 1856 only wars and pandemics have interrupted its annual late summer gathering. Neighbors meeting neighbors, sharing the abundance of the harvest from gardens and fields, and exhibiting livestock, dairy cattle, horses, hogs and poultry.**

**It all began two years after Putnam became a county ... Putnam County was re-established as a Tennessee County in 1854 and our first Putnam County Fair was held two years later in 1856 just north of the square on**

**C.E. Wilson's property on Dixie Avenue. The fair was not held during the Civil War. Six years after the Civil War in 1871 the fair board purchased six acres of land for \$60. This site was still known as the old fairgrounds in 1909 when Dixie College acquired the land. That property is now the quad at Tennessee Technological University.**

**In 1895, five years after the railroad came to Cookeville, a new fairground was built next to the railroad near 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Ave. The fair had its own railroad spur, which would bring fair goers from as far away as Nashville and Harriman. In 1932 another site became the fairgrounds at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Maple Avenue.**

**The fair stayed there for 24 years until a fire broke out during the 1956 fair and burned several buildings. The next year we moved to our present location on Jefferson Ave., and we have been in this location for 65 years.**

**In 2013 the fair board set out to create the fair of our memories – a clean, safe fairground with lots of events and activities available anytime the gates are open -- and each year we have moved closer and closer to that dream.**

**In 2019 the Putnam County Commission authorized the purchase of 196 acres property in West Cookeville on Tennessee Avenue to be the new home of the Putnam County Expo Center and Fairgrounds. The current property will be sold in 2021 and work at the new property begun to build a twelve month facility.**

**The Putnam County Fair has been recognized as an award winning county fair by the Tennessee Association of Fairs.**

**2019 State Champion Fair, AAA Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**

**2018 First Runner-Up, AAA Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**

**2016 First Runner-Up, AAA Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**

**2014 Most Improved Fair, AAA Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**

**2009 State Champion Fair, AAA Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**

**1976 "Champion of Champions" Fair, Tennessee Association of Fairs**

**1975 State Champion Fair, AAA Division, Tennessee Association of Fairs**