

The Delmarva Farmer

New field of leaders at Maryland State Fair

January 30, 2026



Karen Holloway



Mary Amoss



David Gordon

TIMONIUM, Md. — The Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc. announced that Mary Amoss, has been elected chairwoman and Karen Holloway has been elected president of the organization’s Board of Directors.

Additionally, David Gordon, after seven years as assistant to the general manager, has been named general manager of the Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc. Gordon will oversee the operations of the Maryland State Fair, which is heading into its 145th year, as well as all other events held year-round on the 106-acre Maryland State Fairgrounds. Both Amoss’ and Holloway’s involvement with the Maryland State Fair began as 4-H youth exhibitors, grew into agricultural education leadership roles, developed into active membership on the Society’s Board of Directors, and has progressed into the top two board leadership roles.

Amoss, an International Association of Fairs and Expositions Institute of Fair Management School Graduate, was elected to the society’s Board of Directors in 2016 and has served as chairperson on the Education and Scholarship Committee and other committees. She has mentored innumerable Jr. Fair Board Members and Miss Maryland Agriculture participants helping to cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders. Additionally, she has provided years of dedicated service with the Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows and the Harford County Farm Fair.

Amoss said she drew upon her experience as a farm owner and educator to help develop agricultural education programs for the Baltimore County Public Library and the Maryland State Library Agency, Youth Services. She also collaborated with the fair’s 2025 Official Education Partner, Goetze’s Candy Company, together with the Maryland State Library Agency, Baltimore County Public Library, [Harford County Public Library](#), Maryland 4-H, the

Maryland State Fair Junior Fair Board, and Maryland State Fair staff to expand the beloved Cow Tales® Barnyard Bedtime Stories program.

The initiative strengthened young readers' self-esteem and literacy skills and brought joyful learning to the Fair's ULearn Barn, where more than 700 young fairgoers read stories to the animals.

Its success was widely recognized, contributing to the Maryland State Fair earning prestigious awards from the IAFE.

Holloway, the Maryland State Fair 4-H beef show superintendent since 2004, a current National 4-H Livestock Contests committee member and former Maryland 4-H Foundation Board member was elected to the society's Board of Directors in 2019 and served as chairperson of the Agriculture Committee. In a news release, the society said Holloway has brought vast agricultural and business knowledge to the Board from growing up on her family's multi-generational farm, working for The Mill agriculture retail business, and serving as an agricultural science Extension agent in Maryland and Virginia.

Gordon first participated in the Maryland State Fair as a youth 4-H member and Open Class exhibitor and served for 14 years as assistant superintendent for the Maryland State Fair's 4-H Beef Cattle Division and superintendent of the 4-H Livestock Judging Contest for 21 years.

A former University of Maryland Extension educator, he helped manage a county 4-H program with over 900 youth and train its volunteers with a focus on animal science and other programs. He currently runs a 4-H Club in Frederick, Md.

"The Maryland State Fair has shaped my life from my early days as a 4-H exhibitor to my career in fair management, making this appointment especially meaningful," Gordon said. "I am honored to lead the Fair and excited to continue strengthening its role as a premier agricultural and community institution."