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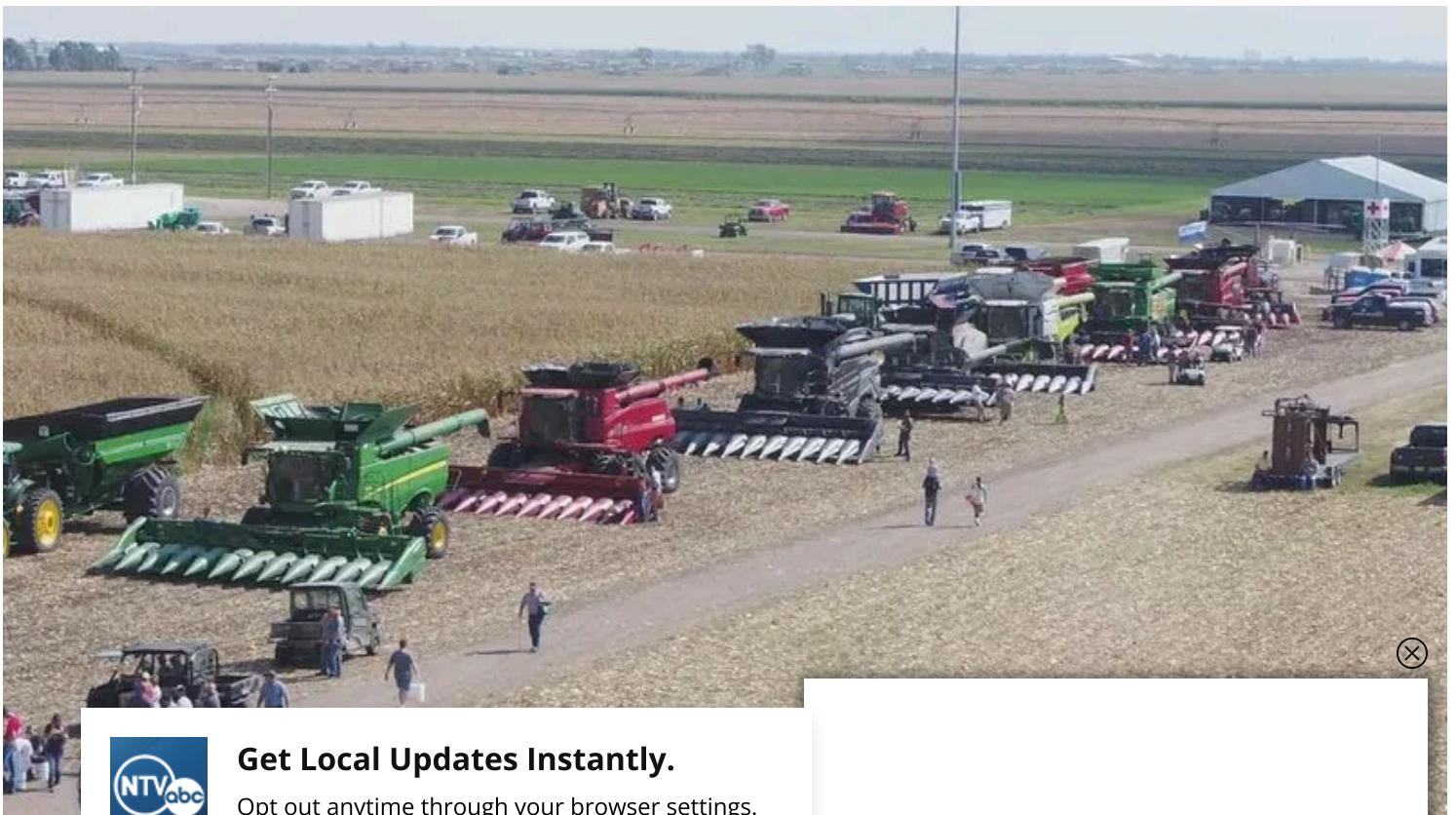
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## Husker Harvest Days cancels 2020 show

by Steve White

Mon, June 29, 2020 at 1:14 PM



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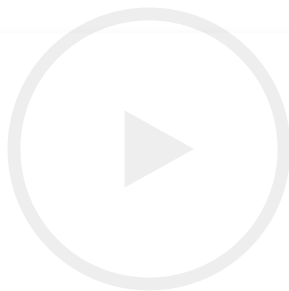
GRAND ISLAND, Neb — Husker Harvest Days is canceled.

The world's largest working, irrigated farm show will not take place in 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Farm Progress Show, held in Iowa is also canceled, for the first time in 65 years.

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Some events will be held in a virtual setting.

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Days ago, show organizers told farmers to mark their calendars, because Husker Harvest Days and Farm Progress show were still on. Husker Harvest Days was scheduled to take place September 15-17 west of Grand Island.

Events Manager Matt Jungmann has been collaborating with other Grand Island area events, to share best practices for how to operate events like the State Fair and Husker Harvest Days.

Even with local and state support, Don Tourte, Senior Vice President of Farm Progress said that in a very short time it became apparent that the situation across the US had rapidly changed.

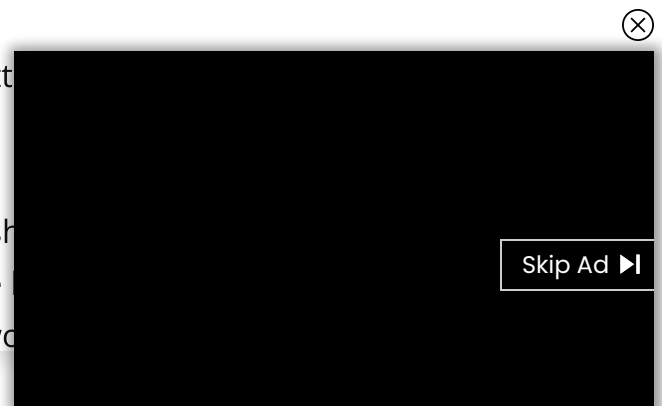
"We have been working with officials in Iowa and Nebraska for our shows, and we appreciate the support they expressed for us to hold the events," Tourte says. "They are critical partners to us, and we are all disappointed to not host the events this year, but feel confident that this is the right decision for our community."

Husker Harvest Days is held on a working farm, and allows visitors to see farm machinery in the field. The harvest demonstrations are a popular attraction, plus there are livestock demonstrations as well.

In addition, there are hundreds of exhibitors from large companies like John Deere and Pioneer, plus Nebraska irrigation companies, small tech startups, and more.

One of the key features of both shows is that they attract visitors from all across the globe.

"Within days of our commitment to hold both farm shows, we saw a significant spike in new cases of COVID-19. We saw a lot of people canceling their travels from all across the country and around the world."



"Within the next two weeks tents and other work would be underway on site. We had to make a decision based on the current landscape so that our exhibitors and suppliers wouldn't potentially waste valuable time and resources," said Jungmann. "While we are hopeful that case numbers throughout the country will decrease soon, we felt compelled to make a proactive decision on our community's behalf, given the information we have today."

A virtual experience was already being planned as an extension to the live event. Jungmann explains that while a virtual event won't give growers the true "tire kicking" experience of being at the show, the events team is gearing up to deliver a robust and dynamic digital experience.

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"Market factors are changing fast, and we'll have more information in the coming weeks about how our virtual experience will be expanded," Jungmann says. "We have 400 acres of corn at two sites that have to be harvested. Ground that must be tilled. We're looking at all of our options to ensure we keep our community connected and engaged."

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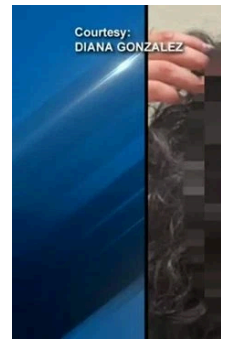
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