

**Opinion No. 332.****Fairs—Expenses of Fairs—County Commissioners.**

HELD: The Board of County Commissioners of a county may not expend more than \$200.00 altogether for the purposes mentioned in Section 4550, R. C. M. 1935.

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July 24, 1936.

Mr. Eugene L. Murphy  
County Attorney  
Choteau, Montana

You have called attention to a paragraph of Section 4550, R. C. M. 1935, reading as follows: "The Board of County Commissioners of any county in Montana may appropriate each year the sum of two hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, out of the general funds of the county, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of collecting, transporting and taking care of any exhibit from such county at any county agricultural fair, seed show, or other agricultural exhibition held within the State of Montana" and have asked my opinion as to whether the county commissioners are limited to the appropriation of \$200 for all purposes, or whether they may appropriate \$200 for every fair to which they would send an exhibit. You call attention to the word "any" before the words "county agricultural fair," underscored above, and suggest that it might be possible for the county commissioners to give the \$200 to each fair.

If the word "any" is given the meaning of "each" and thus includes all county agricultural fairs, seed shows or other agricultural exhibitions held within the State of Montana, then the same word used before the word "exhibit," underscored above, might be given the same meaning and the county commissioners would be authorized to give \$200 for each exhibit at each county fair, seed show or agricultural exhibit and thousands of dollars might thus be expended. If the legislature had any intention of giving such practically unlimited power to the county commissioners it would undoubtedly have expressed it in more appropriate language.

It is my opinion that the county commissioners may not expend more than \$200 altogether for the purpose mentioned in this paragraph.