



Plan to save struggling country shows

by James Hancock – ABC South East SA

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The group says it will step in to help struggling shows.

A group intent on saving struggling country shows will be launched in South Australia today.

The Next Generation group says a lack of younger volunteers is threatening the future of agricultural shows, which are an integral feature of rural life.

The problem recently forced the closure of the 100-year-old Renmark Show in South Australia's Riverland.

Amanda Kroehn will chair the group and says country shows could die unless action is taken now.

"There are certainly some shows in areas that are dwindling in terms of popularity," she said.

"It's hard when a show gets to that point to try and pick it up and get it to continue and have a bright future and that's where our group comes in."

"This group is going to be really important, bouncing ideas, coming up with different ways of getting young kids involved."

"We'd like to provide support to the shows that are struggling, if there's anything we can do, we can run a competition and help out on show day."

The President of the Federal Council of Agricultural Societies, Ken Pascoe, says the movement started in Queensland in 2009.

He says most volunteers are in their sixties, and says it is imperative that show societies involve younger people.

"Maintenance of our great Australian agricultural shows, I couldn't talk enough about the next generation and the future they hold," he said.

There are plans to launch the movement at a national level.



Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-15/country-shows/2795828/?site=southeastsa>