



Fair News and Information



November 13, 2012

214 E. Center St., Suite 11 ♦ Ithaca, Michigan 48847

989.875.5292 ♦ www.gcfffy.org ♦ info@gcfffy.org

Gratiot County Fair for Youth Announces Annual Association Meeting & Election of Directors



The Gratiot County Fair for Youth will be holding its annual membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 6 in the Gratiot County Commission on Aging Meeting Room, Ithaca. At the meeting, the board of directors will present the annual report of the fair, and assign fair committees. The membership will elect four members to its board of directors, and the new teen representative will be announced.

Anyone interested in running for the fair's Board of Directors and wishing to be included on the ballot needs to complete a short intent form which is available at www.gcfffy.org. The fair will also be appointing one teen representative at the meeting. Representatives will be chosen based upon their application (available at www.gcfffy.org) and an interview.

For more information, contact the fair office at 989-875-5292 or info@gcfffy.org.

GCFFY Seeks Applicants for its Board of Directors

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors at its annual membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 6 at the Commission on Aging in Ithaca. Four seats for adult members will be filled at the election and one teen representative will be selected from the applicants. To be included on the official ballot, members must submit a completed nominating petition to the fair office by November 21. Board members whose term is expiring and who are eligible for re-election are Jake Cary, Darcy Martyn, Mark Story, and Argil Willman.

This year the GCFY is seeking empowered teens between the ages of 16 and 19 years old to apply to fill the position currently filled by Sara Stack. The board has two appointed Teen Representatives who each serve a two year term on alternating years. Interested teens must submit an application to the fair office by November 21. Teen Representatives are full voting board members and are encouraged to ensure the board is making decisions with youth exhibitors in mind. The board appoints a selection committee who will review the teen applications, conduct interviews and select one qualified applicant to fill the position. The selected Teen Representative will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Board members are expected to attend board meetings typically held on the first Thursday of each month at the Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office in Alma. Other board member expectations are to serve on fair committees, serve one day as a "Day Chair" during fair week, help at fair clean up days and to bring an open mind to board meetings.

Nominating petitions and Teen Representative applications are available online at www.gcffy.org or by contacting the GCFY fair office at (989) 875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org with questions.

Fair Seeks Swine Superintendent

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth is seeking a qualified person to serve as our fair's volunteer swine superintendent. Candidates should be organized, have basic knowledge of how a fair livestock show runs, and most importantly interact well with our youth exhibitors, volunteers and parents. As a large animal superintendent the selected person will:



- Serve on the fair's Large Livestock Committee as a voting member (a committee which usually meets twice per year)
- Review registration forms
- Work with the fair office to get ready for fair
- Set up and assign pens
- Check-in and weigh-in swine projects
- Introduce themselves with swine exhibitors
- Set up the market show and showmanship show
- Help the fair office prepare the sale bill
- Get the exhibitors ready for the sale
- Prepare swine exhibits for the showmanship sweepstakes
- Arrange for transportation of swine after the sale
- Work with exhibitors and volunteers to clean-up barn after the fair

This position fills the vacancy left by Ben Pritchard & Stacey Giles who have done

an incredible job in this area for the past few years. Applications are available at www.gcfffy.org and are due by Thursday, December 13. Contact the fair office with any questions at bgardner@gcfffy.org or (989) 875-5292.

New Leadership Fair Classes:



In an effort to encourage youth leadership participation within 4-H clubs and FFA organizations, the Gratiot County Fair for Youth is creating new leadership awards for the 2013 fair. The first award is not new, however it has been underutilized and we hope to boost enrollment in this area. The intent of these will be to provide substantial awards whether this is a cash award or a significant prize on the level of a skillathon. Each area will award a prize

valued at a minimum of \$50 and possibly two per group. The goal for these classes will be to encourage club leaders to utilize their youth leaders and help them to develop and enhance their leadership roles within clubs. Information on how adult leaders can better develop leadership skills within their exhibitors can be found in the *Helping You Help Officers and Committees* (4H1467) found at: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/helping_officerscommittees.

Achievement Booth:

Exhibitors (ages 13 – 19 years old) are to display their personal achievements from 4-H, FFA, and the fair within the fair's achievement booth display areas which are 20 inches wide, 12 inches deep, and 18 inches high. Each exhibitor will be interviewed about their booth and their personal achievements.

Club Officer Awards:

While the details have yet to be scoped out completely, the fair will offer contests to encourage traditional youth leadership roles within their 4-H clubs. Officers will be expected to create a small display to be exhibited in their club booth, be interviewed about their experiences, and present copies of their official reports for their club. The following will be expected from leaders:

- Club President/Vice President Contest: Exhibitors will need to document their experiences with actual pieces of their year's experience. Documentation is to include campaign materials (if appropriate) and agendas of meetings created with adult leaders/advisors. Interviewers may ask exhibitors about their ability to run a meeting, their ability to engage other exhibitors in discussion, obstacles they overcame and other items found in the document "So "You Are President of Your Club..." found in the *Helping You Help Officers and Committees* (4H1467) found at: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/helping_officerscommittees.
- Club Treasurers: Exhibitors will need to document their experiences with documentation of their year's club reports. Club Treasurers are to follow the guidelines set up within the *Michigan 4-H Treasurer's Record Book* (4H1203) found at: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/mi4H_treasurer_record FFA treasurers can follow guidelines set up by their organization. Exhibitors must complete the forms used by their club and forms the book outlines to be

completed by youth exhibitors. Treasurers will be interviewed and can expect questions about their role as the treasurer, challenges they overcame as an officer, how they work with the club's leader/advisor, other leadership roles within their club and the importance of keeping good records.

- Club Secretaries: Exhibitors will need to present copies of the club minutes they took as the secretary. Club Secretaries are to follow the rules outlined in the document "So "You Are Secretary of Your Club..." found in the *Helping You Help Officers and Committees* (4H1467) found at:

http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/helping_officerscommittees.

Interviewers may ask exhibitors about their experiences as club secretary, what they learned, how they worked with adult leaders/advisors, challenges they overcame, and how they worked with the youth within their clubs.

Important Fair Dates

- BEEF: 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2013
- FEEDER: 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 15, 2013
- HORSE: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013
- SHEEP/SWINE/GOATS: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2013
- FAIR ENTRY FORMS: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2013
- PIG SCRAMBLE REGISTRATIONS: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Anyone showing a market beef steer, feeder steer, lamb, hog or goat MUST purchase ear tags from the fair office. Each year the fair orders new tags so please make sure you use current year tags. Tags cost the fair more than we charge. They are incredibly beneficial in clerking our sale, moving livestock after the fair to their final locations and to ensure exhibitors are exhibiting the animals they register. As soon as the order comes into the office, the fair will announce this on the fair's website (www.gcffy.org), through our fair's Facebook account (www.facebook.com/gcffy), and in the Gratiot County 4-H's *Monday Memo*.

Upcoming Fair Events

Be sure to mark your calendars for these outstanding events:

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth will be hosting our annual Fair Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at the Town & Country in Ithaca. The fair's Dinner Dance is a great opportunity to support the fair and spend time with our fair's family.

The 2013 fair Golf Outing will be held on Thursday, June 20 at the Fields Golf Course in Ithaca. This past year was the first year I was able to golf and it was amazing how much fun all of the golfers had dodging golf balls, and spending time with friends. Following the Golf Outing is our fair's annual road sign auction.

Important Connection

Over the past two years, the fair has been



awarded three grants totaling \$22,500 from the Gratiot County Community Foundation. Grants were awarded for the construction of our fair's new Feeder Barn, the renovation of our North Horse Barn and for allowing us to purchase safe new goat pens. This is just a small part of what the Foundation does for Gratiot County.



This past year, volunteers helped us find funds and establish the Gratiot County Fair for Youth Memorial Scholarship Fund within the Gratiot County Community Foundation. This fund will only spend the interest and earnings it generates which means the fund balance will grow each year. The fund is currently over the amount needed to create a scholarship. The first scholarship from this fund will be awarded in the spring of 2014 to a fair exhibitor based on their connection to the fair and their service to their community.

The fair appreciates its important connection to the foundation and the generosity of their donors who make these grants and scholarship available.

Keeping Up-To-Date

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth posts information in various places. All important information will be placed on www.gcffy.org. As information for the fair goes up on the [fair's website](#), the fair will make a post on its Facebook account at www.facebook.com/gcffy.

The fair will also be sending information to the Gratiot County 4-H Program to be put in the program's *Monday Memo* which is sent via email every Monday (except holidays). The *Monday Memo* is also the prime source for information for 4-H news and information and a small dose of wit, humor and trivia. Contact our 4-H Coordinator, Matthew Newman, at newman39@anr.msu.edu if you would like to be added to this mailing list. The Gratiot County 4-H Program also has an active Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GratiotCounty4H.

Fair Campsites

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth follows its camping policy and guidelines for allocating its 150 campsites at the fair. Campers who camped during our last fair will be offered their sites first. Letters will go out the end of November for these campers to pay for their sites and sign they understand and agree to our camping rules. If campers want to move after everyone has responded, we do our best to accommodate requests. The next step is to review our campsite waiting list. Currently we have 26 families on this list. The fair will contact families on this list in the order they were received until all of our empty sites have been filled. To get on the waiting list or if you have any questions, contact the fair office at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org. Please provide your name, address, phone number (including cell phone) and email address. Families will be added in the order they were received.

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Gratiot County Fair for Youth
214 E. Center St., Suite 11
Ithaca, MI 48847
US

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