



Fair News and Information



January 30, 2013

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

989.875.5292 ♦ www.gcffy.org ♦ info@gcffy.org



Join us for the 2013 GCFY Dinner Auction

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth hopes you can join us on Saturday, February 16 at the 2013 Fair Dinner Auction. The cost is just \$25 per ticket and includes a buffet dinner with Honey Pork Loin and Savory Chicken Breast and most importantly an opportunity to reconnect with your fair friends. A silent auction is planned. For tickets or to donate an auction item contact a fair board member or the fair office at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.

Registering Your 2013 Market Livestock Project

If you are planning on exhibiting and selling a market beef, feeder beef, goat, sheep or swine at the upcoming Gratiot County Fair for Youth, you must register your animal with the fair. Your first registration step is to stop by the fair office (in the MSU Extension Office Suite) and pick up ear tags. Each of these species require each MARKET animal registered to have an official GCFY ear tag. Leftover tags from past years are not acceptable. Next you will want to get your animal tagged and photographed. Each registration form must have a picture showing the side of

the market animal with the ear tag visible and easily read. If this can not be done in one picture include a second showing the ear tag. Finally, you must complete all the information on the registration form and turn it back into the fair office before the registration deadline. If you miss the deadline, there is a \$10 per business day late fee for market registrations up to one month past the deadline.

Registration forms are available online at www.gcfffy.org/fair_forms.html.

Local Volunteers Recognized by the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions

As part of the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE), the organization recognizes volunteers who had provided exceptional service to fairs within the state of Michigan. From all of the eighty-six fairs in Michigan, Jack Butcher, son of Joe and Jennifer Butcher of Alma was recognized as their Youth Volunteer of the Year and Becky Hirschman of Ithaca was honored as the Volunteer of the Year for the thirteen county zone Gratiot County falls under.

Butcher, a sophomore at Alma High School, was recognized for his dedication and hours spent volunteering at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth. "After six inches of rain fell during fair week, we experienced considerable damage to our grounds," states Brian Gardner, GCFFY Fair Coordinator. "Shortly after fair, I looked out my window and saw Jack on a tractor and I don't think he got off until he had repaired all the ruts and holes created in our lawn during fair week." Gardner continued that Butcher has been volunteering at the fair for years and more recently has taken an active role in helping maintain our fair facility.



Hirschman, Ithaca, was honored because of her leadership in renovating the fair's horse facilities this past year. "Becky is a positive force for the fair," states Gardner. "This past year she helped to turn a vision of an improved horse barn into a reality." Hirschman is the fair's current board President and Superintendent of their horse department. "Becky is helpful at every level of the fair," Gardner continues. "She is as apt to be cultivating prospective donors as she is to be cleaning our bathrooms."

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

Gratiot County Fair for Youth Purchases Property

Late in December the Gratiot County Fair for Youth signed official papers to purchase five city lots on the northwest corner of the fairgrounds. The new land currently has a home and garage which the fair hopes can be moved. The additional property will provide more space and accessible parking just west of the new Feeder Barn.

The previous owner approached the fair last fall and offered the GCFFY the first opportunity to purchase the property. The fair evaluated its options and the board authorized its executive committee to enter into a purchase agreement with the land owner. As part of the purchase agreement the fair sought and was granted zoning from the city of Alma to be the same as our existing fairgrounds.

“Our fair is landlocked and any opportunity to secure additional land must be seriously considered,” states GCFFY Board President Becky Hirschman. “The board had a meaningful discussion on the potential uses this additional property would allow the fair and decided to go forward with the purchase.”

If anyone would be interested in moving the existing home they may contact the fair office. For more information contact the fair office at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.

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.

Fair Schedule

The exhibitor schedule is mostly set for the 2013 Gratiot County Fair for Youth. [The most current version of the fair schedule is posted online and available to download.](#) Please note that dates and times may change. Be sure to notice the version date on the top to make sure you have the most current version of the schedule. The official schedule will be printed in the 2013 fair book which will be printed in early May.

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.

Cloverbuds and 8 Year Old Exhibitors

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth allows an 8 year old to enter the fair either as a traditional Cloverbud following the policies and guidelines set forth by Michigan 4-H or as a regular fair exhibitor. Age for 4-H and the fair are determined as the exhibitor's age on January 1. If an exhibitor chooses to show as a fair exhibitor the family needs to understand this will not be as a part of their 4-H club experience.

The exhibitor will need to register and show as an open exhibitor with their fair projects. 4-H has sound and researched reasons why youth in this age group should not participate in competitive events as part of their 4-H experience. We encourage you as a family to determine which option best fits your 8 year old exhibitor.

In other Cloverbud news, you will notice the Gratiot County Fair for Youth along with Gratiot County 4-H are adopting the name Cloverbud to call our 5-8 year old exhibitors. This year, the fair is also purchasing 4 different Cloverbud ribbons.

Different colored ribbons have been ordered and will be presented to Cloverbuds depending on the number of years they have exhibited in the project area.

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.

If you have "liked" us on Facebook and we do not show up on your feed, go to our page and like a post or two or make a comment. Active participation on a page will help ensure you are receiving the information we are distributing.

The Gratiot County 4-H Program's weekly *Monday Memo* is 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. Matt graciously helps distribute fair information in his memo. The Gratiot County 4-H Program also has an active Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GratiotCounty4H. Matt keeps this page filled with amazing opportunities both locally and throughout the state.

Independent Exhibitor verses 4-H or FFA

While I would argue that the best week of the year is fair week, there is so much

more available when you pair this with 4-H and FFA. These organizations have incredible opportunities through clubs, county, state, nationally and even internationally which help children and youth learn new skills while having fun and growing as a person. Contact Matt Newman at 989-875-5233 for information on how you can become involved in 4-H as a member, leader or even starting a new club. Contact your school about information on FFA programs. If you are willing to take a leap and participate, you will create memories which will last your lifetime.

It's not about the Ribbons

The following has been floating around on Facebook recently and truly sums up what is important about kids exhibiting at fairs.

For ribbons will fade, and trophies grow old, money's soon spent and fame soon grows old. The important things are not ribbons or pins, and sometimes it's really the loser who wins; the important things are the friends you make, the experiences you take, working as a team, cooperation and dedication. They'll help you become a mighty fine man. They'll do more for you than a prize ever can. *Author unknown.*

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

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

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

