



It's Fair'ly Important News from the Fair Office



October 4, 2013

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

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Fair location: 701 S. Lincoln Ave., Alma, MI 48801



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

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth will hold its annual membership meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 5 at the Gratiot-Isabella RESD Mahoney Administration Building (1131 E. Center St.) in Ithaca. At the meeting, the board of directors will present the annual report of the fair, assign fair committees, elect four members to its board of directors, and announce the new teen representative.

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 by clicking here](#). The fair will also be appointing one teen representative at the meeting. Teen Representatives will be chosen based upon their application ([available by clicking here](#)) and an interview.

Invest in the Fair... "Buy" a Goat Pen

As you already know the last couple of years, the fair has increased the space in the Small Animal Barn by utilizing other space for our goats. To do this, the fair has invested in new goat pens which greatly improved the ability to house animal projects at the fair. We were able to do this thanks to a generous lead gift of \$7,500 from the Gratiot County Community Foundation.



We are inviting you to participate in this project by sponsoring a goat pen. Through your donation, you will help the fair complete its funding equation for these new pens. You can be a pen donor with a gift of \$250.00 for which your name will be placed on the permanent donor board that will hang in the Dairy/Goat Barn. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

[More information may be found by clicking here.](#) [Pledge forms are available by clicking here.](#)



Winter Storage Space Available

Need help storing those summer toys during the winter? The Gratiot County Fair for Youth fairgrounds in Alma has secure, locked storage facilities which can house travel trailers, watercrafts, motorcycles and cars you want to protect from the harsh Michigan winter. All of the storage facilities have concrete floors. [Click here for more information and registration materials.](#)

Fair Seeks Rabbit Superintendent



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

- Serve on the fair's Small Animal Committee as a voting member
- Work with the fair office to get ready for fair
- Set up and assign cages
- Check-in rabbit projects
- Introduce themselves to rabbit exhibitors
- Set up the rabbit show
- Prepare rabbit exhibits for the showmanship sweepstakes
- Work with exhibitors and volunteers to clean-up barn after the fair

[Applications](#) and [Agreements](#) are available on the fair's website and are due to the fair office by Friday, November 1. Contact the fair office with any questions at bgardner@gcffy.org or (989) 875-5292.

Gold Ribbon Scholarship Program

Gratiot County Fair for Youth may nominate up to three individuals for a competitive scholarship program through the Great Lakes Agricultural Scholarship Program. Exhibitors from a participating county fair in Michigan can apply in one of three areas: Large Livestock (Beef, sheep, swine, horses, llamas, dairy), Small Animals (Cats, dogs, goats, pocket pets, rabbits, cavies, poultry), and Static (Still) Exhibits (including all crafts, horticulture, communications, foods, etc.). Applicants will be judged on an application ([click here for an application form](#)) and an interview to be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the Amway Grand Plaza as part of the annual Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions



meeting. Two scholarships (\$1,000 for first and \$500 for second) will be awarded in each of the three categories. Younger exhibitors are eligible as any money earned will go into a 529 CREF savings account in their name. Local applications are due on Friday, November 1. Please contact the fair office at (989) 875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org for more information or help on completing the application and forms.

Gratiot County Fair for Youth Expands Usage of Green Soy-Based Products



The 2013 fair was greener this year thanks to a grant received from the Michigan Soybean Promotional Committee. Because of grant funding the fair was able to purchase fair books and promotional brochures printed in renewable soy-based ink along with soy-based cleaning products, paints, sealers and fuels.

“The fair had many large projects we wanted to accomplish, and we were thrilled when we were able to utilize soy-based products to complete them,” states GCFY Board Secretary, Martha Stellow. “Every year we paint a significant amount of our infrastructure, and use significant gallons of diesel and it is nice knowing our products were greener this year.”

This is one part of the fair’s initiative to be more environmentally friendly this year. Earlier this year fair replaced seven high capacity outdoor lights to energy efficient LED lights.

Fair House Contents Removal

Gratiot County Fair for Youth will be removing the contents of the house it purchased last year on the southeast corner of Hillcrest Rd. & Lincoln (Alger) Ave. The fair will be incorporating this property into the fairgrounds over the next few months and this will include removing the house. If anyone is interested in the contents of the home or the home itself, the fair’s Building and Grounds Committee will be on-site on from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 12 and will allow anyone willing to sign a hold harmless agreement to help themselves to the contents of this house on a first come, first served basis.

GCFY Memorial Scholarship Fund Tops \$25,000

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth Memorial Scholarship Fund within the Gratiot County Community Foundation has reached \$25,000. This is an endowed scholarship fund which means only the earnings of the scholarship fund will be spent to fund the scholarship and the fund balance will be here for the coming year and the coming generations. Last year the first scholarship was presented to Chelsea Nowlin in the amount of \$500. For more information including selection criteria and how to apply, click on http://www.gratiotfoundation.org/1/280/gratiot_county_fair_for_youth_memorial_scholarshi.asp.



Armory Notifies Fair of Possible Renovations



Representatives from the Michigan National Guard Armory in Alma have notified Gratiot



County Fair for Youth of possible renovations. The Alma Armory's property borders the fair property on the east side of the fairgrounds. The Armory states the renovations will keep in compliance with national security guidelines. Renovations include a storage shed on the west side of their building and a high security fence on their part of their property's perimeter. If the building plans are completed, some camping

sites and parking will be affected.

GCFY is working with the Armory and state decision makers to find a positive solution for both the fair and the Armory.

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

2014 Fair Dates

The 2014 Gratiot County Fair for Youth will be Saturday, August 2 through Saturday, August 9, 2014. Mark your calendars for what will be the best event of the year.

Fair Requires Background Checks on Volunteers

Gratiot County Fair for Youth's Board of Directors adopted a policy to require criminal history background checks on fair board directors, superintendents, assistant superintendents and staff. The Gratiot County 4-H Program has graciously offered to perform criminal background checks on behalf of the board. Volunteers who are existing Gratiot County 4-H leaders will have met the requirements the fair's new requirements. This is another example of GCFY's commitment to provide a safe environment for its youth exhibitors.

Fair Pictures

A special thank you goes out to Christine Crumbaugh for keeping our fair's Facebook up-to-date with her amazing photographs of the fair. Because of Chris' efforts the fair received over 23,000 hits on its Facebook account over the week and gained many new "likes". Chris has uploaded all of her pictures to



<http://capturedbychristinecrumbaugh.com/gcffy>, and is offering them as high quality digital downloads for \$5.00 per image. She will donate all of her income back to the fair.

Speaking of Facebook and thanks to Chris, the fair reached 23,500 viewers on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gcffy.

If you have pictures of the fair you are willing to share, please send them to Brian at bgardner@gcffy.org. The fair uses these pictures in its publications and reports.

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