



2013 Fair Exhibitor Information



July 30, 2013

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

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

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

Where do I get my Exhibit Tags?

On Saturday, GCFFY mailed your exhibit tags have been mailed to your club's administrative leader. Along with exhibit tags, leaders have been provided a sheet to give to each exhibitor who has signed up with GCFFY which shows their contact information and lists the classes the fair has in their computer. When reviewing your exhibitor data sheet, notify GCFFY if you find errors in your contact information. The fair's database will use this information exactly as it is printed on your sheet in their sale programs and checks (think address). If there are errors, contact Luke Rayburn in the GCFFY office at lrayburn@gcffy.org or calling him at 989-875-5233. If you are signed up for the wrong class or if you need to change a class, do NOT call the fair office and make the change yourself by downloading blank exhibitor tags at http://www.gcffy.org/parts/blank_entry_tags.pdf and filling in the information yourself. This will allow fair staff to make last minute arrangements to have an outstanding fair.

Where can I find a schedule for exhibitors?

In the public, GCFFY publicizes a schedule for fair visitors. GCFFY has an exhibitor schedule and you should refer to this as much as possible to ensure you are in the right place at the right time. **The Exhibitor Schedule in your fair book is *not* correct for the three large animal market shows on Tuesday, August 6. Please change the time for Market Swine to 11:00 a.m., Market Sheep to 1:30 p.m. and Market Beef/Feeder/Breeding Beef to 4:30 p.m.** For a revised schedule click on http://www.gcffy.org/parts/2013_schedule_exhibitor_asof20130128.pdf.

In the exhibitor schedule you will find:

- Dates and locations of all shows
- Check-in times for animals and shows
- Weigh-in times
- Location of Exhibitor Dance

Why don't I have Exhibit Tags for all my entries?

GCFFY creates exhibit tags for exhibits which are to be displayed in club displays of the Still Exhibit Barn. For this reason our database creates exhibit tags for still exhibit projects and record books (which GCFFY want displayed in your club displays). Animal projects entry tags will be given to animal superintendents who will provide them as they see fit. Some areas do not receive exhibit tags.

How do my Still Exhibit projects get judged?

Exhibit judging will be Saturday, August 3 in the Covered Arena from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Inside the arena, you will find large, easy to find signs for each of the project departments. Find the department your project falls under and take your project to be judged to that area. All Cloverbud still exhibit projects will be judged from the Cloverbud department. This year there will be additional help in the food area to help speed up judging but GCFFY encourages you to come early to beat the crowds that gather towards the end of the fair.

As a parent how do I help my child during Still Exhibit Judging?

Parents are an integral part of the fair. Experience has shown, however, during judging our exhibitors are more comfortable talking openly with the judge when the parents step away. This interaction between the exhibitor and judge is an important lesson for the exhibitor and helps develop their communication skills. GCFFY expect exhibitors to take their projects to judges themselves. Some exhibitors will come with many projects and as a parent you are more than able to help your exhibitor hold projects and help keep your child organized. When your exhibitor is getting judged however you are encouraged to watch from the bleachers and to take pictures. Exhibitors with a large project are welcome to ask the judge to come to the parking area to evaluate their project.

Where can we park while our exhibits are judged?

The gate on Hillcrest Road which runs the north side of the Fairgrounds will be open just east of the Covered Arena. GCFFY encourages you to take your exhibits back to your club display as soon as judging is done. If an exhibit is held back please stop by at 12:30 p.m. to make sure your exhibit gets brought back to your club's display. Feel free to park in this area while your projects are being judged. The dog show will be using this area so please make sure you move your car out of this parking area no later than 1:00 p.m. There will be no parking charges on this Saturday. After your projects are judged you can drive them right to your exhibit barn if you are extra cautious watching for people.

How do I sign up for the Still Exhibit Auction?

All exhibitors who will be participating in the Still Exhibit Auction must register

their project between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 3** on the raised platform along the north bleachers in the Covered Arena. Selina Engle has volunteered to enter your auction entry in the covered arena. It may be useful if you bring a slip of paper with your auction item description already printed out to give to the volunteer. If you are not registered by 12:30 p.m., there will be a \$25.00 fee to get registered for the auction. Remember only one item may be sold at the auction. If you exhibit a blanket and a picture, you must choose one to be auctioned off. With that said, if your auction item is a pie and you want to sell your pie with ice cream and inside a basket, it is acceptable as the project coordinates with the additions.

How can I participate in the fair's Exhibitor Dance?

On Friday, August 9 around 9:00 p.m., the fair will host our annual Exhibitor Dance. This event is *only* for exhibitors and one guest. Parent volunteers – however – are encouraged to come as well to help chaperone. Exhibitors must register at the registration table at the dance. All exhibitors who have turned in a fair entry form or a horse exhibitor entry form will be on a list and may receive a wrist band for themselves and a guest. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Will bedding be available on the fairgrounds?

Fair Acres will have a booth on our grounds this year selling tack and bags of pine shavings you may use for bedding. You are not required to use this vendor however you are required and expected to keep your animal's pen clean.

When and where do we turn in our large animal record books.

Large animal record books must be turned in between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the northwest corner of the Covered Arena. After fair books are judged, they will be returned to your club display in the exhibit buildings. Small Animal record books are turned into the superintendents.

When can we start setting up our club display and pens?

GCFFY is asking superintendents to have stall, pen and club display assignments posted by Wednesday, August 1 and will ask you to wait until then to start setting up your displays and decorations.

Fair Office Location

The fair office is moving early this week into the Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office Building at their Alma fairgrounds until the end of August. The MSU Extension office in the Ithaca courthouse is able to sell you parking passes, rodeo tickets, and mega passes and the fair appreciates their continued collaboration. You can still reach the fair office at 989-875-5292 as calls will be transferred to Alma. If you have a question, GCFY encourages you to email them at bgardner@gcffy.org first. Emails are often more quickly answered.

During the fair the office will have the following hours:

- Saturday, August 4: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 5: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 6 – Friday, August 10: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 11: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, August 12: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Fair Parking

The fair will begin charging for parking on Monday, August 5. The fair encourages you to purchase your weekly parking passes in advance. The weekly pass will cost \$12.00 in advance and is now available in the fair office and will be offered at presale prices through the Exhibit Auction on Sunday, August 4. Daily parking passes will be available at the gate for \$5.00. Parking should be at your campsite as your camping rules states or in designated parking areas.

Feeding Areas and ORVs

Trucks and cars are not permitted in the animal exhibit areas. GCFY requires you to find other ways to transport your feed, bedding and tack to your animal area. Parking attendants will be given instructions not to allow unregistered vehicles in the exposition areas. People who park vehicles in blocked off areas may have their vehicles towed. ORVs may be registered if you follow the official ORV rules listed on the registration form (http://www.gcffy.org/parts/off_road_vehicle_registration.pdf), provide a proof-of-insurance, and pay the proper \$25.00 fee.

When can we check out our livestock and animal exhibits?

Saturday is a very congested day at the fairgrounds. GCFY is expecting a big crowd all day and will ask your help in making sure they provide a safe environment for our visitors. Your project animals (other than large animal buyers who may take their purchases home Saturday from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) should leave the grounds until 6:00 a.m. when they are released. This does not include large animals who have been sold. Check with your superintendent for this time. As a reminder your market animal changes ownership once the gavel falls. Be sure to feed and take care of your animals for your buyer and exhibitors are encouraged to be ready to part with their animal early on Saturday.

Again, to alleviate congestion, do **not** take your projects out before Sunday Morning. This includes any cattle chutes and tents you may have set up between the beef, swine and dairy barns. Still exhibits should be picked up between 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 12.

Fair Clean-Up

This coming Wednesday, July 31, GCFFY has a scheduled Fair Clean-Up Day. Try to come after dinner between 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of projects to complete. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped on last Wednesday's clean-up day. Our fairgrounds looked great for Rural Urban Day and our volunteers made this possible.

River Rock Volunteers Needed

The fair is still looking for volunteers – 2 or 3 per shift – to help in the River Rock Barn. Volunteers will help take orders, get pop, water, milk and juice, and help clean tables. This is a great revenue source for GCFFY. The staff at River Rock donate their time and expertise to manage this for us and all the profits go to help improve the fair. Contact Brian Gardner in the fair office for more information or to sign up for a slot. Your help is greatly appreciated.

How are large animal skillathon contests scored?

GCFFY superintendents will score six areas in large animal skillathon contests. The exhibitor's scores in the top five areas will be tallied together (the sixth being dropped) and the exhibitor with the highest score will be declared the winner. The six areas scored are market/breed class placing, showmanship placing, record book, written test, lab practical test, and livestock judging contest. If you are doing skillathon, you are encouraged to sign up for one of these project areas.

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