



Wrapping Up the Fair



August 20, 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

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 her

website, <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.

Fair Sales Topple Last Year's Record

Thanks to a very generous Gratiot County community the combined sales for the livestock and still exhibit sales brought in \$676,255. This amount represents a new record shattering the record sale in 2012 by 20%. [For a detailed report of how the sales played out, click here.](#) Our 2013 buyers are listed

at http://www.gcffy.org/buyers_2013.html. A special thank you goes out to our volunteer auctioneers and ring men: Scott Acker, Mike Doty, Kevin Laethem, John McConnell, John Pavlik, Jr., Joe Sherwood, and Scott Sykora and announcer, (again and again) Burt Henry. Thanks too for our sale clerks



Amy Crumbaugh, Jerry May, Lori Mikek, Matt Newman, Michael Peterson, Erica Rayburn, Luke Rayburn, Becky Roslund, Dan Rossman, Jessica Stellow, Martha Stellow, and Raychelle Story for helping to keep the administrative side of the sale going. Also thank you to all of the superintendents, fair board members, and volunteers who helped in so many ways from the set-up to clean-up and every place in the middle. One thing is certain, this Gratiot County community supports the youth in our fair programs.

Fair Presents 458 Trophies and Special Awards



The Gratiot County Fair for Youth presented 458 trophies and special awards to the fair's youth exhibitors. A first this year is that each of these trophies was sponsored by a very generous Gratiot County community. A list of trophy winners is available

at http://www.gcffy.org/parts/2013_trophy_recipients.pdf. This year we presented trophies, plaques, halters with leads, backpacks, duffle bags, briefcases, tech coats, shirts and banners to recognize youth accomplishments at the fair.

Thank you to all of our fair's donors and sponsors who help us fund our trophies and ribbons. If you are interested in learning how you can become a sponsor in 2014, contact Brian Gardner at the fair office at 989-875-5292.

Record Parking Helps Fair and Six Local Non-Profit Organizations

This year the fair generated over \$18,000 in revenue from gate parking at the fair. The fair splits this revenue with local non-profit organizations who volunteer to collect parking at the fair. Each will receive a share of the revenue which will return over \$750 to each of the organizations. This year, the parking was shared by:



- Alma VFW Post 1454
- Fulton Youth Wrestling
- The Gratiot Hunger Network
- Maple Valley Lions Club

- St. Louis High School Spanish Club
- United Way of Gratiot County

GCFY Participates in Dream Big National Food Drive



The International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions has a national initiative for member fairs to participate in food drives. To meet this challenge, GCFY worked with the Gratiot County Hunger Network which is a collaboration of all the local food pantries to determine the best way to work together to accomplish a common goal of providing food and resources for needy families. This group clearly stated that the best resource they can have is money as it allows them the best flexibility to provide for their clients. The fair

offered this group a day of parking where the fair split the revenue received that day with the Hunger Network. Their efforts generated \$767.83 in revenue for local food pantries. This has allowed us to report 7,678 pounds of food collected in the IAFE's Dream Big challenge.

For more information about the IAFE Dream Big campaign visit www.fairsandexpos.com.

Lost and Found

Each year the fair collects items found on the fairgrounds. We have items such as glasses, show sticks, sheep grooming tables, clothing and even a boy scout scarf.

If you are missing something from the fair, please contact the fair office at 989-875-5292.

We also have a few exhibits which were not collected. Horse record books may be picked up at the fair office in Alma or at the next Horse Developmental meeting.

Fair Presents its Annual Appreciation Awards

Each year, GCFY presents an appreciation award to an individual and a business/organization who have provided outstanding service to the fair. This year the individual award recipient is Bernie Siler. Siler has been very active in supporting fair sales throughout the year and the exhibitors in the Breckenridge community. Earning the business award in 2013 is Wendy's of Alma which is owned by Carol Freed, an alumna of 4-H and the Gratiot County Fair for Youth. Carol has given back in significant ways including donating to the fair's annual fundraising campaign, sponsoring the rodeo, providing refreshments at the sale and, as you all know, purchasing livestock and supporting all of the exhibitors. Congratulations and thank you to both Bernie Siler and Wendy's of Alma! We appreciate you!

[For a list of all of our past fair Appreciation Award Recipients, click here.](#)

From the Fair Office:

Dear Fair Family,

On behalf of the Gratiot County Fair for Youth, I want to extend my appreciation to the countless individuals who donated their time to help make our fair great. Our fair's board of directors spends hours planning and preparing for the fair and then during fair are always the ones who are called when there is a broken toilet or burnt out light bulb. Speaking of the fair's board, I would also like to thank the board's families for not only allowing time away from their loved ones in the name of the fair but for also taking time themselves to pitch in to make our fair better. Each of our fair's superintendents spent a great deal of time getting ready for shows and getting to know the kids in their departments. This year 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters were asked to find time to serve in barn security and then at the River Rock Barn as volunteers and each person who helped is appreciated. I want to thank our fair committees who helped with events like our opening ceremonies, exhibitor dance, parking and awards committee. Thank you to our MSU Extension family for helping us in the office in countless ways, providing education for our volunteers and exhibitors, and running the always entertaining Ag Olympics. And then there are those who chip in where they are needed during clean up days, throughout the fair week and throughout the year to make our fair special.



Because of the great people who volunteer their time and resources, I am convinced we have the best fair in the state. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the people who make up the Gratiot County Fair for Youth.

Brian Gardner

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