

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



November 18, 2013
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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 be holding its annual membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 5 in the Gratiot Isabella RESD Building, 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.

The fair has some proposed by-law changes which are posted at www.gcffy.org. These proposed changes will be voted upon at the upcoming meeting.

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

Fair Deadlines:

Make sure you are ready for the upcoming fair by meeting our fair deadlines. We currently have the following deadlines to get ready for fair:

BEEF: 4:00 p.m., Monday, February 3, 2014
FEEDER: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2014
HORSE: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 1, 2014
SHEEP/SWINE/GOATS: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 15, 2014
FAIR ENTRY FORMS: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, 2014

PIG SCRAMBLE REGISTRATIONS: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, 2014



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.

These uniquely numbered tags are beneficial in clerking our sale, moving livestock after the fair to their final locations and to ensure exhibitors are exhibiting the animals they register.

Exhibitors registering animals which require photographs must submit a photograph with the ear tag visible for each animal. If multiple exhibitors register the same animal (from the same immediate family), each exhibitor's form must have a photograph of that animal.

Armory Update

Representatives from GCFY and the Michigan National Guard met with Representative Tom Leonard, Senator Judy Emmons, and staff from Senator Roger Kahn's office and Representative Rick Outman's office last month to work on a mutually beneficial, long term solution between the two organizations. At the meeting the National Guard and GCFY outlined work they have accomplished earlier regarding the use of their grounds during the week of fair. The Armory has changed their plans to reduce the amount of space they will take from the campsites which sit partially on their property. The Armory also confirmed they will not break ground until after the fair in 2014. GCFY will make an announcement as soon as a final agreement is made.

Strong Community Support of Livestock Sale



Every quarter the International Association of Fairs and Expositions puts out a magazine highlighting fairs across the continent. The past two issues feature reports from member fairs about their annual fair. One of the stats reported is gross livestock sale revenue. GCFY's 2013 livestock sale finished sixth in sale revenue of reported fairs behind four fairs in California and one in central Washington state. A disclaimer here... not every fair reports and not every fair reports

their sale proceeds. Even so, THANK YOU to our very generous community for supporting our youth exhibitors.

Fair Camping

GCFY's policy on camping is to offer the previous year's campers the opportunity to camp at the upcoming fair. Offer letters will go out this month with camping reservations which will be due on February 14 (It is never too early to start thinking about that perfect Valentines Day gift). To fill the gaps of campers who will no longer be camping with us, the fair will start contacting individuals on our campsite waiting list. Anyone wishing to be on the waiting list should contact Brian at 989-875-5292 or email bgardner@gcffy.org with your name, address, phone (including cell) and email. Families are added to the list in the order they are received.

Camping Rule Change

The first rule on the 2014 GCFY camping rules talks about when campers can set-up their campers for the fair. Camping set-up **will begin on the Friday before the first day of the fair**. Each year there are many requests to set-up campsites early. The fair attempts to complete its final prefair mowing on the Wednesday before the fair but if the weather does not permit it, mowing will not be able to happen until Thursday. As soon as the final mowing is completed, GCFY's Camping Committee paints lines for the campsites. Before GCFY painted campsites the fair office fielded many questions about boundary lines. To ensure we have the option to finalize our campground preparations, this year this rule will

be enforced and no campers will be allowed to set-up before the Friday prior to the start of fair. Advanced requests will be politely denied and anyone choosing to set-up prior to that time will either be fined \$500 or they will need to remove their camper and lose their camping privileges. Please plan accordingly so everyone can have a great fair.

Project Area Focus

Are you or someone you know a club officer? Then encourage them to look into signing up for one of our leadership classes at the fair. These contests are open to officers in a 4-H Club or an FFA Chapter. The exhibitors are to document the responsibilities of their club/chapter in a portfolio and turn that into a fair project which is to include a portfolio of their experiences, a visual display and an interview. Another great project in this area is an Achievement Booth display. Exhibitors are to set up their personal achievements from fair, 4-H and/or FFA. Last year's winners received an embroidered laptop bag and the fair expects to have similar awards in 2014.

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.](#)

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 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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