

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



January 21, 2014

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

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

GCCFFY Market Beef Registration Deadline Approaching

In order to exhibit a market beef animal at the 2014 Gratiot County Fair for Youth, exhibitors will need to have their animal tagged with an official GCCFFY ear tag (purchased this year), photographed with the ear tag visible and registered on an official registration form.

The form must be turned into the GCCFFY office within the MSU Extension Suite in the Courthouse in Ithaca by **4:00 p.m., Monday, February 3** (or a late fee will be incurred). Ear tags are \$1.00 each and are available at

the fair office and registration forms are online at http://www.gcffy.org/fair_forms.html.

Other GCCFFY market deadlines are April 15 for Feeder Beef and May 15 for Sheep, Swine & Goats.



Two GCCFFY Exhibitors Receive Gold Ribbon Scholarships



2014 recipients: Logan Crumbaugh (left), Large Livestock & Emily Maslovich (right), Static Exhibits

Congratulations to Emily Maslovich and Logan Crumbaugh who were two of only six fair exhibitors state wide to win scholarships from the Great Lakes Agricultural Fair Scholarship Program. Applicants had to compete at one of Michigan's 81 fairs and were judged from an application and an interview. Emily received her scholarship in Static (Still) Exhibits and Logan in Large Livestock. GCCFFY is proud of the

accomplishments of these two outstanding teens.

Your Help is Needed to Build a Great Fair



Thanks to the 83 donors to date, Gratiot County Fair for Youth is well on its way to meeting its goal of having all 446 trophies it offers sponsored. Currently the fair has over 58% of its trophies sponsored. Reaching our goal of 100% trophy sponsorship not only provides well deserved recognition for our exhibitors but it helps the fair complete the funding equation necessary to run a successful fair program, maintain and improve our facilities and provide an educational and memorable fair experience for our exhibitors and our community.

You can help. You can support the fair through a gift to our annual fundraising campaign. A class level donation is only \$50 and donors will be recognized with their name on a trophy and will receive a complimentary weekly

parking pass. [Pledge forms and additional opportunities are outlined here.](#)

GCFY Memorial Scholarship

In just its second year the Gratiot County Community Foundation's GCFY Memorial Scholarship has grown from a \$500 scholarship to a \$900 scholarship which will be offered to a deserving GCFY Exhibitor. The scholarship is open for a graduating high school senior or an exhibitor finishing their first year of college, university or trade school and has the following criteria:



Scholarship Criteria

- Must be a graduating high school senior accepted at a college, university or trade school OR a student currently in his or her first year at a college, university or trade school;
- Must be a current Gratiot County Fair for Youth exhibitor who has participated for a minimum of five years with a preference to exhibitors who participate in multiple areas;
- Display a commitment to community service;
- Demonstrate leadership skills;
- Must not be a previous recipient of this scholarship;
- Must submit an essay outlining the skills learned as a fair exhibitor and how those skills will serve you throughout your lifetime. Be certain to address the aforementioned criteria. Essays must be no longer than one typewritten page in an easy to read font. Also include at least one personal letter of reference.

Scholarship applications are due for this and several other community based scholarships to the Gratiot County Community Foundation by March 12. Every applicant to any GCCF Scholarship must have registered for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1. More details are available at <http://www.gratiotfoundation.org/1/280/scholarships.asp>.

Pinewood Derby Comes to GCFY



Gratiot County Fair for Youth has teamed up with Unique Motor Sports to set up a Pinewood Derby and Matchbox Race on Saturday, August 9. The race will start at 12:00 p.m. under the fair's Pioneer Pavilion. Entries will be open to three youth age groups and a "seasoned" age group. [Official rules are posted on line by clicking here.](#) The fair will be providing a kit building session at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the race so there will be

racers for both prebuilt cars and cars built that morning. Think you can master the forces of gravity and friction to get your car across the finish line first? Well, bring out some sand paper and paint, make your car and let's race!

Support your Fair at the Annual Fair Dinner Dance



Saturday, March 15

6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Prime Rib Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Elks Club, Alma

A hoedown of fun for parents and friends. A prime rib & boasted chicken dinner with games, auctions, and fellowship are planned. Help support Gratiot County Fair for Youth programs. Tickets are just \$25 per person. The cost of the dinner is generously offset by the Alma Elks Club.

Fair Schedule

The exhibitor schedule is mostly set for the 2014 Gratiot County Fair for Youth. [The most current version of the fair schedule is posted online and available to download.](#) Please note that these 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 2014 fair book which will be printed in early May.

By-Laws Updated and New Board Elected at Annual Meeting

During the 2013 GCFY Annual Meeting held in December the members approved the proposed changes to the organization's by-laws. [GCFY's newly modified organizational bylaws are found by clicking here.](#)

Four board slots were filled for three year terms ending in 2016. Slots were filled by Scott Acker, Becky Hirschman, Larry Richards and Martha Stellow. Demi Long from Double C 4-H Club and St. Louis FFA was appointed as our fair's new Teen Representative. Following the Annual Meeting, the fair's newly elected Board of Directors elected its officers for the coming year. The officers are Becky Hirschman, President; Mark Story, Vice President; Argil Willman, Secretary; and Martha Stellow, Treasurer.

During the meeting President Becky Hirschman presented our annual highlights and statistics by powerpoint [which are available by clicking here.](#)

Fair Receives LED lights from Consumers Energy

Consumers Energy, through an incentive program to help them use less energy, provided over 100 energy efficient LED light bulbs to GCFFY. These bulbs are to replace incandescent light bulbs which we will use throughout the fairgrounds to light our barns. This is just another example of how our fair is becoming “greener”.

Camping Update

Campers who camped with us in 2013 were offered their sites again for the 2014 fair. The camping paperwork was due in our office last week. If you missed that deadline, let Brian in the fair office know and get the form in by the first of February or you may lose your campsite. If you or someone you know would like to camp with us, contact the fair office and have them added to the waiting list. The list currently has 39 families on it. The fair will work with campers who want to move first and then will start filling spots from the waiting list starting in February. Typically one prime campsite is auctioned off at the GCFFY dinner dance. Finally the board reinforced an existing campsite rule stating campers may not start setting up prior to Friday of fair. This allows the fair time to do a final mowing and mark campsite boundaries. Why might the fair need an extra day? The extra day provides a cushion in case of rain and volunteer schedules. There will be no exceptions for any reason to this rule so please plan accordingly.

Market Livestock Changes

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth Board of Directors approved recommended changes from the fair’s Large Livestock Committee at the December Board meeting. The changes are listed below.

Large Livestock Skillathon Rules

Skillathon Classes in Beef, Feeder, Sheep and Swine will have the following rules: Contestants will earn points in the following areas:

- o Showmanship
- o Written Quiz
- o Lab Practical
- o Livestock Judging Contest
- o Market Class
- o Record Books.

The rules are as follows:

- Open to all exhibitors
- Contestants are encouraged to participate in all 6 events. Final score will be based on the highest 5 scores.
- Times for quiz and labs will be posted in the fair’s exhibitor schedule
- Prizes awarded for first and second place in each age group
- Register on the Fair Entry Form

Skillathon added in Dairy

Starting in 2014, GCFFY will offer a skillathon class for Dairy exhibitors for two

age groups. More details will be forthcoming.

Changes in Entering Market Livestock:

Exhibitors registering market animals on the fair's pre-entry forms will need to declare a primary animal on their entry form. This animal should only be listed as the primary animal on one registration form although it can be listed as a secondary animal on market registration forms for exhibitors in your immediate family. Also new this year exhibitors will be limited to registering four total animals per species.

Cloverbud Schedule for Livestock Classes

Cloverbuds showing sheep and swine will show (showmanship only) prior to the beginning of the competitive showmanship classes for older exhibitors. Beef & Feeder Cloverbud exhibitors will be combined and show immediately following the Beef Futurity class and prior to feeder showmanship.

Market Livestock Registration Deadlines

Market Beef – 4:00 p.m., Monday, February 3

Market Feeders – 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 15

Market Sheep, Swine & Goats – Thursday, May 15

All market animals must have a photo showing a GCFFY ear tag which are available at the fair office at \$1.00 per tag.

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