



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



February 21, 2014

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

989.875.5292 ♦ [www.gcffy.org](http://www.gcffy.org) ♦ [info@gcffy.org](mailto:info@gcffy.org)

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

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## Your Help is Needed to Build a Great Fair



Thanks to the 109 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 75% 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.

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## MSU Extension Announces Youth Swine PQA Session

**Any exhibitor who brings a pig to the fair MUST be certified from the National Pork Board's Pork Quality Assurance Program.** This national program helps to ensure swine are raised according to the national standards expected from consumers who purchase pork products.



On Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gratiot-Isabella RESD building in Ithaca, a youth PQA session will be conducted by MSU Extension Educator Jerry May. The Youth PQA

Plus program covers 10 Good Production Practices and is an educational program for youth ages 8 to 19. If you are interested in taking this youth PQA session, please call the Gratiot MSU Extension office at 989-875-5233 to sign-up.

Alternatively, Michigan youth have an opportunity to access the program via an online tutorial thru the National Pork Board. If you are interested in the online program option please contact the Pork Checkoff Center at 1-800-456-7675, state that you are a youth from Michigan and request access to the online Youth PQA Plus program. Representatives from the Pork Checkoff Center will enter you into the program's database and give you access to the online tutorial.

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## Fair Seeks Goat Superintendent

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth is seeking a qualified person to serve as our fair's volunteer goat superintendent. Candidates should be organized, have basic knowledge of how a fair goat 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
- Complete a criminal history check as dictated by GCFY policy
- Work with the fair office to get ready for fair
- Set up and assign pens
- Check-in goat projects
- Introduce themselves to goat exhibitors
- Set up the goat show
- Set up for goats selling in the Market Livestock Sale
- Prepare goat 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 Monday, March 3. Contact the fair office with any questions at [bgardner@gcffy.org](mailto:bgardner@gcffy.org) or (989) 875-5292.

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## Pinewood Derby Car Kits are Available



New to the fair this summer will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GCFY Pinewood Derby to be held on Saturday, August 9 at 12:00



p.m. Derby cars must be a certain size and under a certain weight. Specific rules are posted at <http://www.gcffy.org/parts/2014pinewoodderby.pdf>. To help people race these cars, the fair has kits available with everything you will need to build a basic wedge car and cost only \$3.00. Existing cars or creations completely from scratch will also be accepted.

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## Fair Receives MDARD Grant

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth has received a word from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development that it has received a grant to improve accessibility on the fairgrounds. The grant awarded at \$10,290 will cover half of the projected costs of a four part project. The first part of the project will improve access and safety to the Covered Arena by paving the bleacher areas and closing off access to the livestock staging area. Next, the completed project will pave the sandy entrances to the North Horse Barn and install drains. The third part will pave areas around the Pioneer Pavilion and provide a paved walkway between the pavilion and the Cafeteria. Finally the grant will help fund upgrading the PA system located in the Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office. All of this will help the fair better serve our community.

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## Small Animal Changes

At the February GCFY Board of Directors Meeting, the board approved fair book changes proposed by the fair's Small Animal Committee. A complete list of the changes in the goat, poultry, and rabbit project areas can be found at [http://www.gcffy.org/parts/2014\\_sa\\_changes.pdf](http://www.gcffy.org/parts/2014_sa_changes.pdf).

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## Red Star Yeast Available

Each year Red Star Yeast sends the fair a quantity of baking yeast to give to fair participants. There are leftover yeast packets from the 2013 fair and are available to our exhibitors. If you would like some yeast for yourself or even better for a baking project within your 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, stop by the Fair Office in the MSU Extension Suite or contact [bgardner@gcffy.org](mailto:bgardner@gcffy.org).

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Let's Brag About Ag will Be Better Than Ever

GCFY has teamed up with the Gratiot County Farm Bureau to put on the best 5K in the state. Why, you ask is this the best? It will start within the Gratiot County Fair for Youth Grounds and nothing is better than that. New this year will be online registrations (which will open March 1) and individual chip timing of the



participants. The race will begin with the Udder Fun Run at 8:50 a.m. for kids followed by the 5K run/walk at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$20 before July 27 and can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Alma/HoofingitforAg>. For other questions or to volunteer contact Marisa Bramer at [ryanmari7@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmari7@gmail.com).



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## GCFFY Registration Deadlines

If you plan to exhibit at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth, there are a few deadlines you must know.

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

Market Sheep, Swine & Goats – 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 15

Fair Entry Form - 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 25

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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