



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



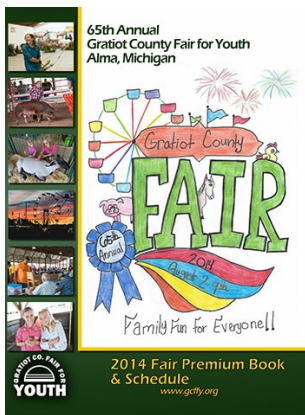
April 23, 2014

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 Books are Ready



GCFFY annually creates a Fair Book which includes all of the rules and classes available to fair exhibitors. The 2014 Fair Book will arrive in hard copy on Monday, April 28 at the Fair Office within the MSU Extension Suite in the Gratiot County Courthouse. [Alternately these books may be downloaded online by clicking here.](#) To register for the fair, exhibitors must complete a fair entry form ([available by clicking here](#)) and turn in the form to the fair office by 4:00 p.m., June 25.

Included with the Fair Entry Form is a Release, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement to complete. All forms are required for exhibitors to show at the fair. [If you want a little help completing your fair entry form, click here.](#)

A special thank you to Kaylee Rodriguez for doing a great job designing our cover. (Anyone interested in being on the 2015 cover please be sure to check out class no. 431 in the fair book.) Another special thank you to Christine Crumbaugh for sharing her talent of photography with us. Her pictures are shown throughout this book.

Planned Gift Continues to Give

Long time fair supporter and past GCFFY president Geryalyn Towersey passed away a few years ago. She left behind a planned gift to GCFFY in her trust. This gift is for her farm to generate income for GCFFY for 25 years and then the assets be split between our fair and the other beneficiaries. I am pleased to say thanks to Mrs. Towersey's vision and the hard work of the Frisbie family who are the trustees, the fair received its annual share of the earnings today which totaled over \$12,000. Today the fair honors and remembers Mrs. Towersey for past contributions to the fair and for her vision to ensure GCFFY is financially sustainable for the next generation.

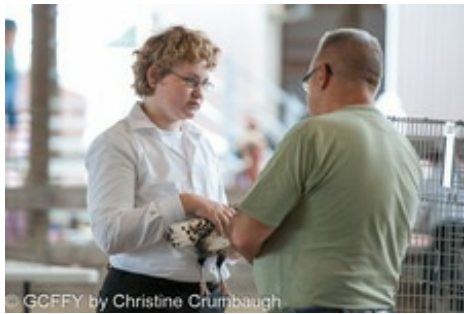
GCFFY Requires Additional Ear Tag in Swine

The Gratiot County Fair for Youth voted in their April 10

meeting to require exhibitors to have their market swine project animals tagged with a new state Swine Identification Tag along with their GCFY ear tag. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is requiring fairs to provide their exhibitors with official MDARD swine ear tags to all fair pigs. The new tags are Allflex brand which is the same brand as GCFY uses for their tags. The tags will be provided to exhibitors at no additional charge and GCFY has updated their market swine forms which are available to download at http://gcfy.org/fair_forms.html. Swine exhibitors are highly encouraged to read the following [Q&A document found by clicking here](#). For additional information contact Brian Gardner at bgardner@gcfy.org or (989) 875-5292.



Poultry Broiler Chicken and Duck Project



Fair exhibitors who are interested in participating in the Market Chicken or Market Duck with “Project” birds must have their project birds ordered by Monday, May 12. Those exhibitors who do not wish to enter the Poultry Project may purchase their birds through any source. There is, however, a special award for exhibitors who use project birds and have the greatest rate of gain. Exhibitors will only be able to sell one entry per market poultry class in Section A of the

poultry section. Pricing on the birds is set on the number purchased but will NOT exceed \$2.35 per chicken and \$4.00 per duck. Birds will tentatively arrive June 2 or 3 and you will be contacted and expected to pick them up at that time. To sign up for project birds or for more information contact Clay Mills, Poultry Superintendent, at (989) 763-1973 or clmills@casair.net.

Fair Horse Registrations

Anyone (including Cloverbuds) wishing to show a horse at the fair must complete a horse registration form by May 1



(http://www.gcfy.org/parts/Registration%20Forms/horse_reg_form.pdf). A copy of a negative Coggins Test (which shows the horse is free of EIA) is required to show at our fair. If, however, you do not have your Coggins Test back from your vet by May 1, still get your registration form in by May 1 and let GCFY know when to expect the test. GCFY asks you to fill-out the classes you expect to take at the fair. Modifications to classes can be made with the horse superintendent at fair check-in. Contact Brian Gardner at the fair office at (989) 875-5292 (bgardner@gcfy.org)

or the horse superintendent, Becky Hirschman, at (989) 875-3355 or becky_hirschman@hotmail.com with any questions.

Fair Seeks Talent Show Superintendent



GCFFY is seeking an individual who is willing to be our 2014 fair Talent Show Superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for setting up the show which is held at 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday of the fair. Superintendent applications are available

at http://www.gcffy.org/parts/Superintendent_Application_2009.pdf and job descriptions are found at http://www.gcffy.org/parts/super_agreement_desc.pdf. Applications are due May 15 to the fair office. Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact the fair office at (989) 875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.

Historical Photo Contest

Submit a historical picture of the fair and/or 4-H and be entered to win 2 GCFFY coffee mugs. The fair and 4-H are looking for photos of 4-H activities from 1964 and before. If you have any, please email a scanned copy to bgardner@gcffy.org or bring them to the MSU Extension office where we will scan them. Pictures submitted may appear online or in print. Let's see what you can come up with. We know there are great pictures out there, and we would love to see them.



CHARLES GARDNER (left) was awarded ribbon at other fairs, won them in Marquette the grand champion ribbon in sheep show Wilson, Corralville, and Marvin King, Jackson, with his Grand sire, Champion.

Record Books for 2014

Gratiot County Fair for Youth has all record books exhibitors may need on the website ([Click Here for Record Books](#)). **New for 2014** will be a revised **HORSE** record book and a new **COMPANION ANIMAL** (includes pocket pets and cats) record sheet. To get the cool GCFFY gear prize for the champion record book, exhibitors must complete the forms and are encouraged to start today.

Fair Queen & Princess Contest

Gratiot County Fair for Youth holds a contest to name the Fair Queen and the Fair Princess every year. The Fair Princess is a fair exhibitor who is between 9 and 13 (as of January 1) and the Fair Queen is an exhibitor between 14 and 19 years old. Contestants enter by completing an application, placing a promotional poster in a Gratiot County business and being interviewed. [Applications, rules and additional information can be found on our fair forms page of](#)



GCFFY by Christine Crumbaugh

gcfffy.org.

While exhibitors can apply without a nomination, if you would like to nominate someone, please contact the fair office at bgardner@gcfffy.org or (989) 875-5292 and GCFY will send them an application and a letter saying they have been nominated and encouraging them to apply.

Club Officer & Achievement Booth Contests Offer GCFY Gear as Prizes

GCFY has contests (Classes 497 & 500 in the 2014 Fair Book) are open to 4-H and FFA Officers. The officer contests are created for officers to be interviewed about their experiences and to provide a display of what they did this past year.

Achievement Booths are set up for the exhibitors to display their accomplishments in the fair, 4-H and FFA. The contests are easy to enter and each entry will require a brief interview which will be conducted on Monday of fair week. Why should you sign up? There are cool GCFY gear laptop cases for each winners. If club leaders submit their officers names to the fair office, the fair will send out contest information to each officer and encourage them to enter.

4-H Leaders' Council Cookbook Features Many Recipes From Fair

If you haven't purchased your copy of the Gratiot County 4-H Leaders' Council Cookbook, you should. The collection of recipes is exceptional and many recipes were submitted by GCFY exhibitors who entered these recipes at fair. The cookbooks are just \$12 each and include a free e-book copy. All proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to Gratiot County 4-H Leaders' Council in support of educational programs. Cookbooks may be purchased from the MSU Extension Office in Ithaca or from a 4-H Leaders' Council representative.

Gratiot County Fair for Youth Changes How Still Exhibits are Displayed



The Gratiot County Fair for Youth Board of Directors approved displaying still exhibits by project area instead of clubs at their last meeting. The change was recommended by a committee of volunteers which included youth exhibitors, 4-H leaders and FFA advisors. The committee presented the board with a plan. Emily Maslovich, a youth fair exhibitor, stated the purpose of the change is "to achieve a uniform theme, while allowing exhibitors to arrange their exhibits in a format that displays the competition by project area." Part of the committee's recommendation which was adopted was to have clubs set up project area displays with decorations provided by the Still Exhibit Committee around the 2014 theme "Reaching for the Stars". In making the change, the board appointed Jennifer Courter as the head of the newly established Superintendent Committee.

The change will only affect how projects are displayed. Judging will be held in the Covered Arena as it has been in the last few years. Current still exhibit project area superintendents will handle judging of the projects. The new committee working with clubs will ensure projects are displayed according to areas. After projects are judged, volunteers will be on hand in the exhibit barns to receive projects and set them up to be displayed.

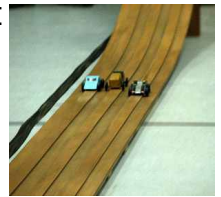
The new GCFY Still Exhibit Committee will be meeting at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 27 and is open to anyone interested in attending. For more information about this change contact the fair office at 989-875-5292.

Pig Scamble Cancelled

Gratiot County Fair for Youth has made a difficult decision to cancel the annual pig scramble this year. Swine PEDv is a virus which has severely affected swine producers and is highly contagious. To help reduce the spread of this disease GCFY decided to reduce the risk to local swine producers by eliminating the Pig Scramble this coming year.

DTE Energy Sponsors the Pinewood Derby

Hopefully all of you are making plans to race a Pinewood Derby car at the fair on Saturday, August 9. DTE Energy has graciously agreed to be the sponsor of the DTE Energy Pinewood Derby at GCFY. Car kits are available at the office for only \$3 each and make excellent club projects however cars can be crafted from other sources as well and many hobby stores feature sections devoted to derby cars. Challenge your non-fair friends as this event is open to everyone and not just fair exhibitors.



Gleaner Joining Hands Day Projects at GCFY

Two different Joining Hands Day projects will take place at the fair this first weekend in May. The Gratiot County 4-H Exchange Club & Moonlight Clovers 4-H Club members will be teaming up with the Harmony Arbor Gleaners to help to paint the interior of the Still Exhibit Barn. The Double H Wranglers 4-H Club will be working with the Alma Arbor #010 Gleaners to construct benches to be used at the fair. The costs of these projects are covered by the respective Gleaner groups. GCFY appreciates these projects to improve our fair.

GCFY Calendar

Anyone interested in knowing what is going on at the fairgrounds is encouraged to visit our Upcoming Events page at www.gcffy.org. ([Click here to open](#)) New at the top of the page is the fairgrounds usage calendar. If you are interested in doing something at the fairgrounds, check the calendar to either make sure your event is listed or to check to see if the area you are interested in using is available. To schedule or change something, contact Brian Gardner at bgardner@gcffy.org or

(989) 875-5292.

GCFFY facilities are available to 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters most generally at no charge. The fair in return will ask that the facilities be left as good or better than you found them. Horse clubs interested in setting up times to ride in the arena are asked to contact Becky Hirschman at (989) 875-3355 or becky_hirschman@hotmail.com.



Register for a Kid's Day Booth

On Thursday, August 7, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., local businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in the Kid's Day Health and Safety Tent at Gratiot County Fair for Youth and sponsored by MidMichigan Health. Each year, Kid's Day booths educate nearly 300 youth and families on a variety of health and safety issues. To expand on this success, organizations and businesses are invited to participate. Booths are set up underneath a tent or outside, depending on the needs. The main purpose is to provide a free county wide event to educate youth and families on health and safety topics. This may be through hands-on activities, videos, handouts, games, etc. GCFFY is open to creative approaches and want to work with groups to see it through. Mark your calendar and send GCFFY your registration form by July 11 and start planning your booth! Packets will be sent out with a parking pass and additional information shortly after July 11. [Click here for a registration form and additional information.](#)

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 (which have not expired) 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.

4th Annual Let's Brag About Ag will Be Better Than Ever

GCFFY 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 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.



Are you still on the fence? Well then this should take you over the edge, join your fair coordinator. Brian is already registered.

GCFFY Registration Deadlines

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

Fair Horse Entry Form - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 1
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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Gratiot County Fair for Youth
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