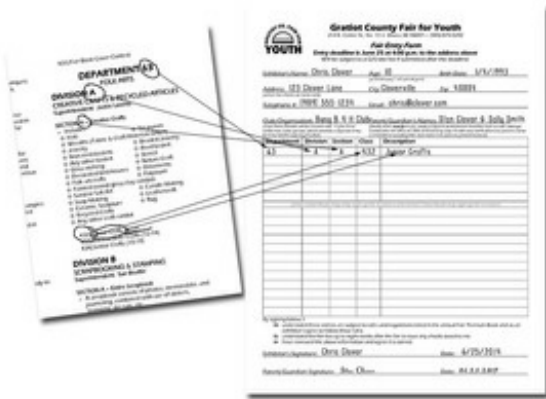


It's Fair'ly Important News from the Fair Office



June 18, 2014
214 E. Center St., Suite 11 ♦ Ithaca, Michigan 48847
989.875.5292 ♦ www.gcfffy.org ♦ info@gcfffy.org
Fair location: 701 S. Lincoln Ave., Alma, MI 48801

Fair Entry Forms Due June 25



What one thing does every GCFFY exhibitor have in common? They will have all completed their Fair Entry Form and turned it into the fair office. Completed and signed forms (along with the release found at the end) are due by Wednesday, June 25 to the fair within the MSU Extension Suite in the Courthouse (after June 25, forms may be completed but must include a \$25.00 late entry fee). Forms can be hand delivered, mailed or emailed to bgardner@gcfffy.org. Fair classes are found in the fair book and

entry forms are available at http://www.gcfffy.org/parts/Registration%20Forms/fair_entry_form_v20132.pdf. If you would like instructions or help completing the fair entry form, click on http://www.gcfffy.org/fair_entry_form_instructions.html or contact Brian or Luke in the fair office at 989-875-5292. Every rule does have an exception. If you are showing only horses or will be participating only in the 4-H Archery Competition through the Non-Typical Shooters 4-H Club, you do not need to complete the fair entry form but you will need to have a completed Release, Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement on file for each participant.

Singers Encouraged to Audition

Auditions are quickly approaching for the 2014 Gratiot County Has Talent. Gratiot County Has Talent is a fun, singing competition which takes place during the fair on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings on stage at the Pioneer Pavilion. Auditions are open for anyone 25 or younger on Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the fair's Pioneer Pavilion. Registration forms and more information are available at http://www.gcfffy.org/fair_gctalent.html. The winner will receive a \$100 award, studio time at Woody's Music (\$300 value), a cool guitar and a great trophy with a working USB microphone attached. Also, their song will be played on Z-92.5 The Castle and WMLM.



More Talent Opportunities

Every year GCFY holds its annual fair Talent Show on Tuesday of the fair. This show is not limited to singing as singers, dancers, musicians and possibly even magicians will take the stage to share their talents with us. Great prizes will be awarded starting at \$100 for the trophy winner. Registration forms are due July 15 and can be found at http://www.gcffy.org/parts/talent_show_entry.pdf.

Fair Seeks Talent Show Superintendent

Speaking of the Talent Show, we need your help. GCFY seeks a volunteer to help us manage our fair's Talent Show on Tuesday, August 5. The Superintendent will collect the registration forms from the fair office, organize what acts go when, find judges (with the help of the fair office) and meet and greet participants to help them relax. If you can help us with this task, please contact the fair office at 989-875-5292.

Dan Rossman Retires from MSU Extension



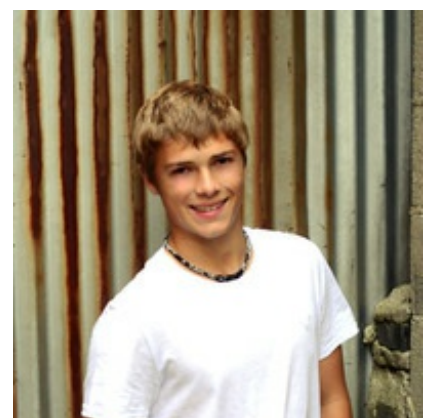
Dan Rossman who started working for MSU Extension in 1978 will be retiring on

July 1. Dan has been a constant source of stability for MSU Extension in Gratiot County during these past 36 years. Dan supported agriculture in Gratiot County by bringing the research based knowledge from Michigan State University and other universities to the local community so the research could be applied to help

farmers make wise decisions. As the Gratiot MSUE County Extension Director, Dan was an advocate for 4-H and for the fair. At the fair, Dan has been active in organizing the fun games during the Ag Olympics, planning the Crop & Weed ID Contest and always willing to help wherever he is needed. A retirement celebration is being planned to honor Dan for his outstanding service on Friday, June 27 at the Gratiot Isabella RESD Building in Ithaca from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Luke Mallory Receives GCFY Memorial Scholarship

Gratiot County Fair for youth is pleased to announce Luke Mallory of Elwell as the recipient of the 2014 GCFY Memorial Scholarship from the [Gratiot County Community Foundation](#). Fourteen deserving GCFY exhibitors submitted applications for this scholarship and each of them did an exceptional job completing their application. Luke, the son of Bob & Chanda Mallory, has been a GCFY exhibitor for eight years and has demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities in the Seville Superstars 4-H Club, Alma FFA Chapter and the Non Typical Shooters 4-H Club. Luke graduated from Alma High School and will



be attending Michigan State University in the fall planning to study Mechanical Engineering and Ag Business. GCFY congratulates Luke for earning this scholarship.



Money for this scholarship comes from an endowed fund held at the Gratiot County Community Foundation. This means the scholarship fund will continue to grow and award scholarships and in fact it is probable that two scholarships will be presented in 2015. If you would like information on how to donate to this scholarship fund to help support the future education of GCFY exhibitors, contact Brian Gardner at the GCFY Office or the Gratiot County Community Foundation.

Gratiot County Community Foundation Awards Grant to Improve Safety and Accessibility to Gratiot County Fair for Youth



The Gratiot County Community Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Gratiot County Fair for Youth. The grant will be used to improve accessibility and safety on the Alma fair grounds. The grant funded project will improve four key areas of the fair. First GCFY will improve access and safety to the fair's Covered Arena by paving around the seating area of the south set of bleachers and paving a path into the arena. The Covered Arena is where the

majority of the fair's events are held including the youth livestock and exhibit auctions and the horse pull. The second improvement the fair will make will be to replace the sandy entrances to the North Horse Barn with paved entrances. Continuing with paving improvements, the fair will pave around its Pioneer Pavilion and create a paved walk to its Cafeteria building. The final project will be to upgrade the fair's public address system located within the fair office that will allow the fair to better communicate emergencies.

"We are very pleased the Gratiot County Community Foundation chose to partner with us to make these upgrades on our fair grounds," states the fair's President, Becky Hirschman. "These improvements will help better serve our community and the support of the Foundation will help the fair better accomplish its organizational mission."

The grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation will be used as a match to a grant the fair received earlier from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development which requires a local match thus doubling the impact of the Foundation's award.

4th Annual Hoofing it for 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 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 to help, 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.

King Arthur Flour Baking Contest



Calling all bakers... I want to challenge you to sign up for the 2014 King Arthur Flour Baking Contest. Fair exhibitors will see this as a class in this year's fair book (Class 422 on pg. 43) for youth interested in baking cupcakes. Then on Saturday, August 9 we will have a contest for adults interested in baking breads or pies. Invite the bakers in your family to dust off their favorite recipes. Registration is simple. Check out the rules and entry information found at <http://www.gcffy.org/parts/kafcontest.pdf>.

The best part of this is great prizes awarded by King Arthur Flour Company with the top prize being a \$75 gift certificate to their store. I hope to see you there, and I hope you bring samples to the fair office.

Record Books for 2014

Gratiot County Fair for Youth has all the 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 earn the cool GCFY gear prize for the champion record book, exhibitors must complete the forms and are encouraged to start today.

Animal Health Requirements for Fairs

Each year the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides an updated Animal Exhibition Requirement document for fairs. The rules within this document cover not only our fair but all fairs in Michigan. [For a review of these rules click here](#).

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 (as of January 1). 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 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 GCFFY will send them an application and a letter saying they have been nominated and encourage them to apply.

Club Officer & Achievement Booth Contests Offer GCFFY Gear as Prizes

GCFFY has contests (Classes 497 & 500 in the 2014 Fair Book) that 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? Because GCFFY has gear for each winner such as laptop cases. If club leaders submit their officers names to the fair office, the fair will send out contest information to each officer and encourage him or her 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 GCFFY 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.

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 GCFFY. 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.



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. The Health and Safety Tent is sponsored by MidMichigan Health. Each year, Kid's Day booths educate nearly 300 youth and families on a variety of health and safety issues. 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. 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. 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.](#)

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

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Gratiot County Fair for Youth
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