

It's Fair'ly Important

News from the Fair Office



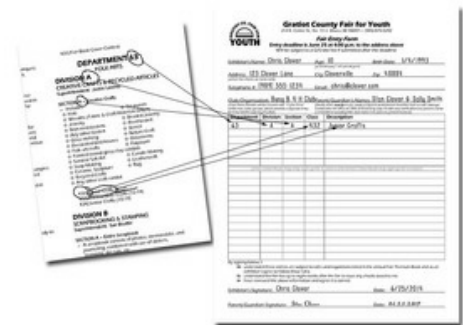
June 24, 2015

Office (Mailing) Location: 219 N. State St. ♦ Alma, MI 48801
989.875.5292 ♦ www.gcffy.org ♦ info@gcffy.org

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

Fair Entry Forms Due 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 25

What one thing does every GCFY 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 Thursday, June 25 to the fair within the MSU Extension Suite in our new office in Alma (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@gcffy.org. Fair classes are found in the fair book and entry forms are available at



http://www.gcffy.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.gcffy.org/fair_entry_form_instructions.html.

Who Does Not Need to Complete a Fair Entry Form?

If you are participating in **only** Horses, 4-H Archery or 4-H Robotics you do not need to register on a Fair Entry Form. In fact there are no classes in the Fair Book to sign up under for these classes. These exhibitors will though need to complete a Liability Release Form (which is available as the last page of the fair entry form and horse registration form). If these exhibitors are interested in showing anything else such as a pie or a rabbit, they then must complete the fair entry form. If you have preregistered your market beef, feeder beef, goat, sheep or swine project you still **MUST** complete the Fair Entry Form. It is on this form where you will register for the classes you will be exhibiting in such as your market class, showmanship, record book, skillathon, etc. If you have questions please contact Brian Gardner the Fair Office at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.

Poultry Projects Banned from GCFY but Sale Will Go On

On June 1, 2015 the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development issued a ban on exhibiting any live poultry projects. This ban includes all birds shown at Gratiot County Fair for Youth. This means that there will sadly be no domestic birds shown (or brought) to the fair this year. Many of us are already feeling the catastrophic impact this strain of avian influenza has had on poultry across the nation if you have purchased eggs or chicken recently as fifty million chickens have already died from this disease since the first of the year.



The GCFFY Board of Directors approved a plan for exhibitors to be able to sell their market projects and still comply with the MDARD ban. Breeding stock poultry will not be shown and need to be kept home. Exhibitors who show breeding stock animals may sign up for record book and skillathon classes on their fair entry forms. Market Chicken Pens, Duck Pens, Geese and Turkeys and Egg Pullets will not be shown but can still be sold within the MDARD guidelines. Final guidelines are posted at www.gcffy.org and include exhibitors providing 2 pictures of their project animals, completing a mandatory record book and an interview during their regularly scheduled poultry show, setting up one cage with one of the mentioned photos and any other items the exhibitor wishes and dropping off the market poultry on Sunday, July 26 between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Ashley so they can go to Munsells Processor in Fowlerville. Birds will be sold at the sale, processed and frozen with a USDA inspected seal. Egg pullets will be sold at the sale from the picture and then delivered by the exhibitor to the buyers after the sale. The fair will continue to hold record book classes and skillathon classes.

A complete plan is posted on www.gcffy.org with revised information. All poultry exhibitors are required to review this information. Please contact Clay Mills at 989-763-1973 or or Brian Gardner at the fair office at bgardner@gcffy.org or 989-875-5292.

Mark Your Calendar For GCFFY Sales



Annually GCFFY has two sales where youth are able to sell projects they have worked on throughout the year. The first sale is the fair's Still Exhibit Sale which will be held on Sunday, July 26 and will begin at 5:00 p.m. This is your opportunity to support projects hand crafted by the fair's youth participants in areas such as foods (and by foods I mean amazing desserts, meals and culinary creations), wood working, photography, welding and more. Later on Friday, July 31 at 11:00 a.m. the fair will have it's annual Livestock Sale where youth will be able to sell market projects. Species selling will be Rabbits, Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Goats, Feeder Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Milk, Crops & Beef. Be sure your calendar is marked for these great events.

Gratiot County Community Foundation and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Award Grants



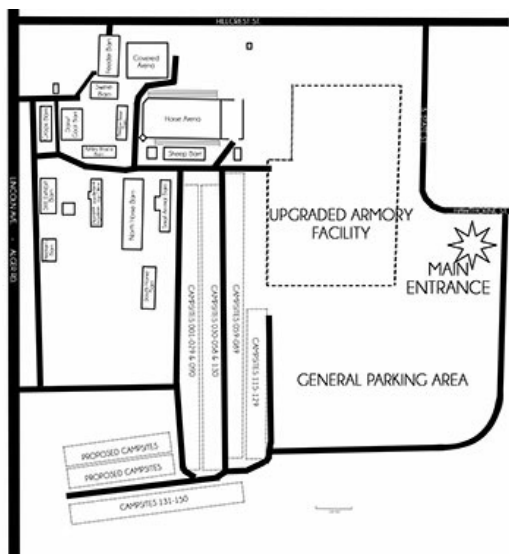
Gratiot County Community Foundation and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have awarded generous grant funding to Gratiot County Fair for Youth to develop new the new south parking area and to move 24 campsites. Grant funding has helped GCFFY fund installation of new roads and driveways, leveling and planting of the parking area south of the main Armory, establishing twenty-four new campsites, fencing to funnel visitors away from campsites and placing signage to



help direct visitors to the new parking areas. This project has been done because of upgrades by the local Armory that were necessary to keep them within increased national security guidelines.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development awarded GCFFY \$20,000 in grant funding from their competitive Fair Capital Improvement matching grant program. Gratiot County Community Foundation awarded the fair \$5,000 which can be used to offset the state's matching grant requirement. The completed project is expected to cost GCFFY over \$50,000. Other donations of in-kind services and even from the Beebe Beef 4-H Club will help offset the costs of the improvements.

Significant Parking Changes Come to GCFFY



This summer visitors to the fair will see a major change in parking at the fair. Starting the Monday of fair week (July 27) GCFFY will close the entrances on Alger Road (or Lincoln Ave.) and will not allow their use during the week of the fair as newly relocated campsites will be put inside the old parking area. All visitors will need to use the new entrance which will be off of Hawthorn Road just beyond the Armory. GCFFY will have signs helping to direct traffic to new parking areas.

Entering off of Hawthorn Street, visitors will gain access to the large parking area south of the main Alma Armory but still on the Armory property. Parking attendants will be available at the gates to direct traffic into parking areas. GCFFY will install temporary fencing along the fair perimeter. This fencing will direct fair visitors

away from camping areas and encourage them to enter near the fairgrounds next to the bathhouse.

Visitors who are camping with us, have special needs such as vendors who need to bring in supplies or visitors with handicapped permits will follow the road through the parking area to another gate which will permit them vehicle access to the general fairgrounds. Campers and vendors will be provided one weekly parking pass that will be different from general parking passes. Camping families will be able to purchase one additional special permit parking pass in addition to this parking permit.

As always weekly vehicle admission (parking) permits are available for \$15 at the gate or for \$12 through Sunday, July 26 from the fair office. Daily vehicle admission (parking) rates will be \$5.

[A map is available by clicking here.](#)

To help make this transition as smooth as possible for everyone, GCFFY encourages everyone to share this information with family and friends who may visit them at the fair.

Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee Awards GCFFY Grant for Soy Based Products

From the diesel fuel that powers GCFY grounds equipment to the soap pumped in the bathrooms GCFY is utilizing many soy based products thanks to a generous matching grant from the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. This grant helps the fair use green, renewable resources. In the three years funding has been awarded the fair has used these biorenewable products in its paint and stain, bio-diesel fuel, hand soap, and even the ink in our commercially printed products. Funding for this grant comes from money soy bean farmers contribute and supports community fairs across the state.



Plan to Join GCFY at the Tradewind Energy Rodeo!!!



TradeWind Energy and GCFY invite you to join us for an amazing rodeo at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, August 1. The rodeo is put on by Super Kicker Rodeo Productions who are proven to put on an incredible rodeo with great stock and riders as well as provide us with a fun and entertaining rodeo. Rodeo tickets will be \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Along with the title sponsor, TradeWind Energy, several other great fair supporters support the rodeo including chute sponsors Four D Farms, Spartan Insurance Agency and the Fields Golf Course and arena sponsor Bader & Sons and Mutton Busting Sponsors. Mutton Busting Sponsors are Ensz Transport, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Lakeside Motor Sports/Nelson's Speed Shop, MAC Middleton, Maple Rapids Lumber, Petersen Oil & Propane, Powell's Service, Saia Fabricating, Wheeler Dairy and Z92.5 The Castle/WMLM. Partner Level Sponsors include Scott Allen, Farm Bureau Insurance, Capital Equipment, Carman's Tree Service, Stacey Cary, Heatmaster Outdoor Wood Stoves, Loomis Transport, Miller Auto Sales, Pat's Auto, Inc., Premier Components, Inc., Trails End Trucking and Wendy's of Alma. Other sponsors include United Producers-Fowler and John Musser Insurance Agency.

If you are interested in supporting the fair's mission and its rodeo contact the fair office at 989.875.5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.

Expanded Midway Brings New Rides and Great Deals



This past spring GCFY cleared all of the poles and leveled the ground in the midway section of the fairgrounds at the request of Maple Leaf Amusements. This will allow Maple Leaf Amusements to utilize the entire space south of the Pioneer Pavilion for their carnival. The result will be a larger midway with several rides all ages will enjoy. Furthermore, Maple Leaf will feature Nagel Concessions which are well known for bringing exceptional fair food. Expect to find fair favorites like elephant ears, cotton candy, caramel corn, fresh squeezed lemonade, sausages and fries. To see a list of rides and more information about the

amusement company visit <http://mapleleafamusements.com/rides/>.

This year, Maple Leaf is allowing us to sell presale wrist bands at an incredible rate of just \$8.00 each. The wrist bands will be for one person to ride all day on any ride. The catch is they are only available presale through Sunday, July 26 so plan ahead and get your tickets early.

New this year as well will be an opportunity to win a pre-owned vehicle. Maple Leaf Amusements will be giving every person who gets a daily wrist band (and YES the presale wrist bands are included in this) a ticket to get their name into a drawing for a free pre-owned car (car awarded "as is"). The drawing will be held at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, August 1 at the carnival's ticket booth. Only those present at the drawing will be eligible to win and winner must be 18 years old to claim the car.



Gratiot County Community Foundations Awards Two GCFY Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Courtney Crumbaugh from Ithaca and Slade Martin from Elwell were awarded the Gratiot County Fair for Youth Memorial Scholarship from the Gratiot County Community Foundation. These scholarships will be paid from the community foundation's endowed GCFY Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund is still growing and awards only the earnings from the fund's balance as scholarships.

Courtney Crumbaugh graduated from Ithaca High School and is enrolled at Kettering University where she will attend in the fall. Courtney started exhibiting projects at the fair as a Cloverbud participant and every year added new projects to show. Over the past two years, Courtney served as the



Teen Representative on the fair's Board of Directors where she actively served and was a familiar face in the fair office during fair week.

Slade Martin is a 4.0 graduate from Alma High School and a twelve year fair exhibitor. Slade has shown feeders, chickens, turkeys and projects at the fair. This fall he will begin studying at Michigan State University as a Spartan. Slade credits the fair and 4-H for helping to instill in him responsibility and leadership. He served as the president of the Seville Superstars 4-H Club and a counselor for the Gratiot County 4-H Coldwater Camp.

Fair Clean Up Days Announced

Gratiot County Fair for Youth will be holding Fair Clean Up events on Wednesday, July 15, Sunday, July 19 and Wednesday, July 22. These three clean ups will start around 5:30 p.m. and will run for a while. For each clean up day the fair office will have a list of projects which need to be done. On Wednesday, July 22 pens will be assigned by the animal superintendents and the exhibit barn will be ready to be decorated. Anyone wanting to help is encouraged to drop by and give us a helping hand. Along with jobs posted in the fair office, GCFY will also have pre-fair parking passes, carnival passes



and rodeo tickets for sale.

The fair is also creating lists of job descriptions for Sunday, August 2 to help clean up after the fair. The fair will be asking 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters to help and as such will be assigning clubs certain tasks and provide them with clear directions to make it as simple as possible. We are hoping this will help make sure our grounds are put back in tip-top shape after the fair.

Lance Fowler and Phil Lombard Join GCFY's Team

GCFY is pleased to welcome Lance Fowler and Phil Lombard aboard our fair's staff team. Lance is serving in the position of the Fair Intern where he is already in the office entering data and helping to coordinate events. Lance is a past GCFY exhibitor, a CMU student and is completing his tenure as a State Officer of the Michigan FFA. If you have driven by the fairgrounds lately and have thought wow this place looks great, you can thank Phil. Phil is our new groundskeeper as well as a former fair dad and current fair grandfather. GCFY asks that you give them a warm welcome to the fair.

Pinewood Derby & Matchbox Derby Comes to GCFY



All the fun and excitement of racing cars comes to GCFY in a non-motorized but equally fun way. Unique Motorsports will set up an official Pinewood Derby track and a Matchbox Derby track under the fair's Pioneer Pavilion on Saturday, August 1. Anyone is welcome to participate. Participants can purchase a kit from the fair office for \$3.00 or from a local hardware store or use a car they have previously created. Furthermore GCFY will host a construction day at 12:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to create a car that day and cars constructed will compete only against cars constructed during the construction time. For the Matchbox Derby

participants can bring their own favorite Matchbox or Hot Wheels car or purchase one from Unique Motor Sports for a small price. [Additional information and rules are available from Unique Motorsports by clicking here.](#) Let's race!

Presale Carnival Wristbands for \$8

The best deal on the fairgrounds just might be the \$8.00 presale ride pass for unlimited carnival rides. Presale passes are good for one person to unlimited rides for one day between Monday, July 27 and Saturday, August 1. So if you think your kids would like to ride a couple days you would buy each kid two wrist bands and they would be good for any day during the week. Presale wrist bands will be eligible for a ticket into the carnival's car drawing. Plan well as tickets will only be sold through Sunday, July 26 from the GCFY Fair Office.



Curious about the rides Maple Leaf Amusements will be bringing to the fair? Check them out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MapleLeafAmusements?ref=ts>. Last week Maple Leaf posted a video of one of their rides called the Star Trooper and let's say it looks pretty awesome for the thrill seekers.

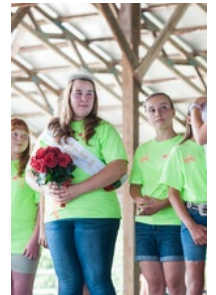
King Arthur Flour Baking Contest



Calling all bakers... I want to challenge you to sign up for the 2015 King Arthur Flour Baking Contest. Fair exhibitors will see this as a class in this year's fair book (Class 414 on pg. 43) for youth interested in baking cupcakes. There is an adult (over 19 years old) class as well and the fair will accept projects during still exhibit judging on Saturday, July 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 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.gcfy.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.

Applications Online for GCFY Queen and Princess Contest

Each year GCFY crowns a fair queen and princess at the fair's opening ceremonies which will be held on Sunday, July 26. To be part of the Queen/Princess contests or be on the court, youth must submit an application with a reference, create a poster advertising the fair and display it at a local business and complete an interview. [Applications are online for the Junior Court \(ages 9-13\) application and the Senior Court \(ages 14-19\) by clicking here.](#) Applications are due on Monday, July 6 to the Fair Office (located with MSU Extension inside the building that previously housed the Secretary of State in Alma.



Rabbit Tattooing Clinic

On Saturday, July 11 the Small Animal Committee is hosting a Rabbit Tattooing Clinic from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Small Animal Barn. All rabbits showing at the fair either breed or market classes must be tattooed in the left ear. If you cannot make it on July 11, contact Brett or Jeanne Fidler at bfidler@mtpleasant.edzone.net or 989-763-1076.

GCFY has Moved!!!

Gratiot County Fair for Youth, who's office has been located with MSU Extension since its inception in 1950, has moved along with MSU Extension. MSU Extension and GCFY now have the following mailing address and are now located at:

219 N. State St.
Alma, MI 48801



This is the same building that housed the Alma Secretary of State office until this May and the building is physically about one mile north of the fairgrounds. All of phone lines will remain the same. Stop by and say "hi" if you are in the area. GCFY is proud to be affiliated with our MSU Extension Partners who help the fair in numerous ways and thanks Gratiot County for their continued support.



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