

2015 Fair Exhibitor Information

FAQ's



July 20, 2015

Mailing Address:

219 N. State St. ♦ Alma, Michigan 48801

989.875.5292 ♦ www.gcffy.org ♦ info@gcffy.org

Fair location:

701 S. Lincoln Ave. ♦ Alma, MI 48801

How can I help? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to pass out Livestock Sale refreshments

Good Afternoon,

Due to limited queens court participants this year we are reaching out to exhibitors and parents who would be willing to volunteer a half hour of their time during the Livestock Sale on July 31, 2015. During this half hour we would like no less than three exhibitors to pass out punch to buyers, and one parent to help mix the punch. This would be a great opportunity for exhibitors to meet the local buyers and show their appreciation for all of their support for our fair.

Below you will find a link where you may sign up for a half hour slot to volunteer. Please place the names of exhibitors and one adult next to the time you are willing to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your help!

We're using VolunteerSpot (the leading online Sign-up and reminder tool) to organize our upcoming Sign-ups.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our Sign-Up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/6sKGvU>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Sincerely,

Jessica Stellow

Phone: (989) 330-0638 (Call/Text)

Email: jstellow@gmail.com

How can I help? Volunteers Needed In River Rock Barn

GCCFFY is looking for help in the River Rock Barn. Volunteer shifts are short and the jobs are fun and simple yet go a

long way to helping make the River Rock Barn run smoothly. ***We are asking YOU to sign up today*** by contacting the GCFY Fair Office at lfowler@gcffy.org or 989-875-5292.

What is up with GCFY parking this year?

This summer visitors to the fair will see a **major** change in parking at the fair. Starting the Monday of fair week (July 27) GCFY 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. GCFY 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. GCFY 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 vehicle access to the general fairgrounds.

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 has been created to help us better paint the pictures of our situation.](#)

Are carnival wristbands really **ONLY \$8** if purchased on or before July 26?

YES! Maple Leaf Amusements is allowing us to sell ride tickets for ride wristbands good for one day of unlimited rides for one person. Wrist Bands are available for a special low rate of \$8 each from the GCFY Fair Office. Hurry because this special rate **ends** on Sunday, July 26.

Where do I get my Exhibit Tags?

GCFY mailed or delivered your exhibit tags to your club's administrative leader. Along with exhibit tags, leaders have been provided a sheet to give to each exhibitor who has signed up with GCFY which shows their contact information and lists the classes the fair has in their computer. When reviewing your exhibitor data sheet, notify GCFY if you find errors in your contact information. The fair's database will use this information exactly as it is printed on your sheet in their sale programs and checks (think address). If there are errors, contact Lance Fowler in the GCFY office at lfowler@gcffy.org or call him at 989-875-5292. If you are signed up for the wrong class or if you need to change a class, do NOT call the fair office. Instead please make the change yourself by downloading blank exhibitor tags at http://www.gcffy.org/parts/blank_entry_tags.pdf and filling in the information yourself. This will allow fair staff to make last minute arrangements to assure you have an outstanding fair.

Where can I find a schedule for exhibitors?

In the public, GCFY publicizes a schedule for fair visitors. GCFY has an exhibitor schedule and you should refer to this as much as possible to ensure you are in the right place at the right time. The schedule is printed in the front of your GCFY Fair Book. [A current copy can also be found by clicking here.](#)

In the exhibitor schedule you will find:

- Dates and locations of all shows & sales
- Check-in times for animals and shows
- Weigh-in times
- Location of Exhibitor Dance

Why don't I have Exhibit Tags for all my entries?

GCFFY creates exhibit tags for exhibits which are to be displayed in the Still Exhibit Barn. For this reason our database creates exhibit tags only for still exhibit projects. This year we are not printing tags for our record books as the information should be listed on the record book's cover. Animal project entry tags will be given to animal superintendents who will provide them as they see fit. Some areas do not receive exhibit tags.

How do my Still Exhibit projects get judged?

Exhibit judging will be Saturday, July 25 in the Covered Arena from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Inside the arena, you will find large, easy to find signs for each of the project departments. Find the department your project falls under and take your project to be judged to that area. All Cloverbud still exhibit projects will be judged from the Cloverbud department which is located by the large east door of the arena. This year there will be additional help in the food area to help speed up judging but GCFFY encourages you to come early to beat the crowds that gather towards the end of the fair.

Parking is available on the east side of the covered arena and the gate on Hillcrest Road just east of the Covered Arena will be open during the judging times. The main entrance for judging will be the east entrance of the covered arena.

After your projects are judged, please take your projects to the Still Exhibit Barn to be displayed. There will be no charge for parking on Saturday (or Sunday) of the fair and you can drive and park near the Still Exhibit Barns. Cloverbud projects will be dropped off inside the Merchant's Building and all projects will be in the Still Exhibit Building. Inside the barns there will be many friendly volunteers who will help you find the right project area to deliver your project to be displayed.

As a parent how do I help my child during Still Exhibit Judging?

Parents are an integral part of the fair. Experience has shown, however, during judging our exhibitors are more comfortable talking openly with the judge when the parents step away. This interaction between the exhibitor and judge is an important lesson for the exhibitor and helps develop their communication skills. GCFFY expects exhibitors to take their projects to judges themselves. Some exhibitors will come with many projects and as a parent you are more than able to help your exhibitor hold projects and help keep your child organized. When your exhibitor is getting judged, however, you are encouraged to watch from the bleachers and take pictures. Exhibitors with a large project are welcome to ask the judge to come to the parking area to evaluate their project.

Where can we park while our exhibits are judged?

The gate on Hillcrest Road which runs the north side of the Fairgrounds will be open just east of the Covered Arena. GCFFY encourages you to take your exhibits back to your club display as soon as judging is done. If an exhibit is held back please stop by at 12:30 p.m. to make sure your exhibit gets brought back to your club's display. Feel free to park in this area while your projects are being judged. The dog show will be using this area so please make sure you move your car out of this parking area no later than 1:00 p.m. There will not be parking charges on this Saturday. After your projects

are judged, you can drive them right to your exhibit barn if you are extra cautious watching for people. At this point, Cloverbud projects will be dropped off in the Merchant's Building and all other project areas will be set up in the Still Exhibit Barn.

How do I sign up for the Still Exhibit Auction?

All exhibitors who will be participating in the Still Exhibit Auction must register their project between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on **SATURDAY, JULY 25** on the raised platform along the north bleachers in the Covered Arena. Shanna Acker has volunteered to enter your auction entry in the covered arena. It may be useful if you bring a slip of paper with your auction item description already printed out to give to the volunteer. If you are not registered by 12:30 p.m., there will be a \$25.00 fee to get registered for the auction and you may be added at the end. Remember, only one item may be sold at the auction. If you exhibit a blanket and a picture, you must choose one to be auctioned off. With that said, if your auction item is a pie and you want to sell your pie with ice cream and inside a basket, it is acceptable as the project coordinates with the additions.

What condition should my animals be before I ship them to the fairgrounds?

Before loading livestock for the fair, please take some time to clean the animals and *pay particular attention to getting the ear tags clean and readable*. This helps to ensure check-in and weigh-ins go much smoother.

How can I participate in the fair's Exhibitor Dance?

On Friday, July 31 around 9:00 p.m., the fair will host our annual Exhibitor Dance. This event is *only* for exhibitors and one guest. Parent volunteers – however – are encouraged to come as well to help chaperone. Exhibitors must register at the registration table at the dance. All exhibitors who have turned in a fair entry form or a horse exhibitor entry form will be on a list and may receive a wrist band for themselves and a guest. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Will bedding be available on the fairgrounds?

Yes! Seville Superstars 4-H Club will be selling bagged shavings on our grounds this year. You are not required to use this club's shavings. You are, however, required and expected to keep your animal's pen clean.

When and where do we turn in our large animal record books?

Large animal record books must be turned in between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26 at the northwest corner of the Covered Arena. After fair books are judged, they will be returned to your club display in the exhibit buildings. Small Animal record books are turned into the superintendents.

Where do we pick up our large animal record books?

Market Beef, Feeder Beef, Sheep and Swine record books will be placed in the Still Exhibit barn after they are judged

and recorded (look for them beginning on Wednesday evening). It is the exhibitor's responsibility to pick up the books after fair.

When can we start setting up our pens?

GCFY is asking superintendents to have stall, pen and club display assignments posted by Wednesday, July 22 and will ask you to wait until then to start setting up your displays and decorations.

Clubs can help set up their assigned sections of the Still Exhibit Barn area as well on that Wednesday. Information has been sent to all club leaders sharing with them how they can be included in the Still Exhibit Barn with a handcrafted banner and how they can help with a project area.

Has the Fair Office moved on to the Fairgrounds yet?

Yes! The fair office has moved into the Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office Building at their Alma fairgrounds until the end of August. The MSU Extension office in the old Alma Secretary of State Building is able to sell you parking passes and the fair appreciates their continued collaboration. You can still reach the fair office at 989-875-5292 as calls will be transferred to the fairgrounds. **If you have a question, GCFY encourages you to email them to bgardner@gcffy.org first.** Emails are often more quickly answered.

During the fair the office will have the following hours:

- Saturday, July 25: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 26: 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 27 – Friday, July 31: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1: 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, August 2: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Fair Parking & Parking Pass Sales

The fair will begin charging for parking on Monday, July 27. The fair encourages you to purchase your weekly parking passes in advance. The weekly pass will cost \$12.00 in advance and is now available in the fair office. They will be offered at presale prices through the Still Exhibit Auction on Sunday, July 26. Daily parking passes will be available at the gate for \$5.00. Parking should be at your campsite as your camping rules states or in designated parking areas.

Feeding Areas and ORVs

Trucks and cars are not permitted in the animal exhibit areas. GCFY requires you to find other ways to transport your feed, bedding and tack to your animal area. Parking attendants will be given instructions not to allow unregistered vehicles in the exposition areas. People who park vehicles in blocked off areas may have their vehicles towed. ORVs may be registered if you follow the official ORV rules listed on the registration form (http://www.gcffy.org/parts/off_road_vehicle_registration.pdf), provide a proof-of-insurance, and pay the \$25.00 fee.

When can we check out our livestock and animal exhibits?

Saturday is a very congested day at the fairgrounds. GCFY is expecting a big crowd all day for the Rodeo and will ask

your help in making sure they provide a safe environment for our visitors. For the safety of you and our visitors do not remove your livestock nor any gates, pens, etc. until Sunday, August 2.

Your project animals (other than animal buyers who may take their purchases home Saturday from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) should leave the grounds until 6:00 a.m. when they are released. This does not include animals who have been sold. Check with your superintendent for this time. As a reminder, your market animal changes ownership once the gavel falls. Be sure to feed and take care of your animals for your buyer, and exhibitors are encouraged to be ready to part with their animal early on Saturday.

Again, to alleviate congestion, do **not** take your projects out before Sunday Morning (August 2). This includes any cattle chutes and tents you may have set up between the beef, swine and dairy barns. Still exhibits should be picked up between 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 2. The Still Exhibit Barn will be locked at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 1.

When can I pick up my still exhibit projects?

The Still Exhibit Barns will be open on Sunday, August 2 for project pick-up between 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. If you cannot get your own project, please make arrangements for someone else to pick them up. The fair is not responsible for left-over project. If a buyer purchased one of your still exhibit projects and you leave it at the fairgrounds during the week, you are to pick it up and make sure it is delivered to your buyer.

Fair Clean-Up

This coming Wednesday, July 22, GCFFY has a scheduled a Fair Clean-Up Day. Try to come after dinner between 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of projects to complete. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped on last Wednesday's clean-up day. Our fairgrounds looked great for Rural Urban Day and our volunteers made this possible.

New this year the fair has given each club leader/chapter advisor a clean-up "chore" to be done on Sunday, August 2 before we all leave the grounds. Please be sure to check with your leader/advisor to see what you can do to help.

How are large animal skillathon contests scored?

GCFFY superintendents will score six areas in large animal skillathon contests. The exhibitor's scores in the top five areas will be tallied together (the sixth being dropped) and the exhibitor with the highest score will be declared the winner. The six areas scored are: market/breed class placing, showmanship placing, record book, written test, lab practical test, and livestock judging contest. If you are doing skillathon, you are encouraged to sign up for the Livestock Judging Contest.

How do we find out who won skillathon?

Skillathon winners will be posted in the Still Exhibit Barn. If you finish first or second in your skillathon area you must complete a thank you card as with any trophy and turn it in at the fair office. Prizes will be awarded at the Still Exhibit Awards Program on Saturday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m.

What do we do with our left over pop cans?

The Gratiot County 4-H Exchange Club will be conducting a pop can drive at this year's fair. In the past, the club has had bins set up around the fairgrounds for you to use at your own leisure. However, the club is not doing that this year and

instead will have members coming around Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. for personal can collection. If you will not be at your campsite during these times but would still like to help the 4-H Exchange Club out, please feel free to label your cans and leave them outside your camper. "Any help we can get in raising money is greatly appreciated! Thank you so much!," states Exchange 4-H Club Member Carly Jenkins. Funds raised by the 4-H Exchange Club help to link up Gratiot County 4-H members with 4-H'ers from a county in a different state and includes travel to the other state one year and hosting these exhibitors the following year.

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