

It's Fair'ly Important

News from the Fair Office



February 10, 2016

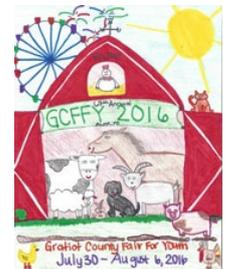
Office (Mailing) Location: 219 N. State St. ♦ Alma, MI 48801

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

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

Fair Presents its Fair Exhibitor Schedule

There are only a few minor changes to the GCFY show schedule this coming year when compared to last summer. On the schedule are times and location of each event which should help families plan for a successful 2016 fair. The dates and times are tentative at this time. A few events have not yet been contracted and there is a possibility of slight changes so please plan accordingly. [Click here for your copy of the exhibitor schedule.](#) Check your fair book when they arrive in April, which will feature a cover designed by Emma Campbell, for further updates to this schedule.



Fair Board Lowers the Age Cloverbuds Can Exhibit Animals



Gratiot County Fair for Youth's Board of Directors lowered the age of Senior Cloverbuds from seven to six. The difference between junior and senior Cloverbuds as outlined in the fair's Cloverbud department (111) in the fair book is that Junior Cloverbuds are only allowed to participate with still exhibit projects and senior Cloverbuds may participate in a still exhibit and one animal project. Cloverbud projects will remain non-competitive following the state 4-H guidelines

on 5-8 year old youth.

Maple Leaf Amusements Returns to GCFY

Maple Leaf Amusements who provided the biggest, most exciting midway for Gratiot County Fair for Youth will be returning to the 2016 fair. Along with traditional fair favorites like the Sizzler, Carousel and Ferris Wheel, Maple Leaf will bring more thrilling rides such as the Himalaya, Crazy Surf and Star Trooper. "Maple Leaf Amusements brought GCFY an amazing carnival in 2015 and we expect they will be even better in 2016", states Brian Gardner, GCFY's Fair Coordinator. "Maple Leaf has rides for all ages from the youngest riders to the thrill seekers and they are known for having quality workers."





These exciting rides paired with the industry leading Nagel food wagons will continue to make GCFY an outstanding place for a fun family outing. Expect carnival favorites such as pop corn, carmel corn, elephant ears, lemonade, corn dogs and sausage. You can also try deep fried Oreos and Twinkies. Maple Leaf Amusements will be set up at our midway on Monday, August 1 and the rides will run through Saturday, August 6. Presale daily wrist bands will again be available

prior to the fair at a reduced price.

Fairgrounds Usage

On the south side of Alma sits a beautiful facility which might be the perfect location to host your next event. GCFY's fairgrounds is the perfect location for a company retreat or picnic, a peaceful meeting, a family reunion or of course an animal event. GCFY has covered picnic areas; an all-weather, technology equipped conference room large barns and arenas. Our online calendar has all of our events listed at www.gcffy.org found by clicking on Upcoming Events tab. If you would like to see how GCFY could serve your needs, contact Brian Gardner at the fair office at 989.875.5292 or bgardner@gcffy.org.



Any 4-H club or FFA chapter who is looking for a meeting location or a place to hold your next club event is encouraged to consider the fairgrounds. The cost for 4-H and FFA groups is often waived depending on the scope of the event and the amount of work it will take fair staff to clean-up after the event.

Your Help is Needed to Build a Great Fair



Thanks to the 100 donors to date, Gratiot County Fair for Youth is well on its way to meeting its goal of having all 466 trophies and awards it offers sponsored. Currently the fair is about two-thirds of the way to its goal. 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 starts at \$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.](#)

Support Your Fair at the Annual Fair Dinner Dance



Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19 for the fair's annual Dinner Dance. Held again at the Elks Lodge in Alma, this great time to reconnect with friends from around the county. The funds raised will support GCFFY projects such as repairing its aging facilities, improving its accessibility and providing quality ribbons and awards. A silent auction will also be set up with some great items donated by local businesses and families. If you have an auction item to donate, contact the fair office with details of your donation. Dinner is just \$25 per guest and will include broasted chicken and pork loin along with salad, corn, mashed potatoes and dessert. Contact a Fair Board member or the GCFFY Fair Office at (989) 875-5252 to purchase your tickets.

GCFFY Memorial Scholarship



In just its fourth year the Gratiot County Community Foundation's GCFFY Memorial Scholarship has grown from one \$500 scholarship to two \$600 scholarships which will be offered to two deserving GCFFY exhibitors. The scholarship is open for a graduating high school seniors or exhibitors finishing their first year of college, university or trade school and has the following criteria:

- Must be a graduating high school senior accepted at a college, university or trade school OR a student currently in his or her first year at a college, university or trade school;
- Must be a current Gratiot County Fair for Youth exhibitor who has participated for a minimum of five years with a preference to exhibitors who participate in multiple areas;
- Display a commitment to community service;
- Demonstrate leadership skills;
- Must not be a previous recipient of this scholarship;
- Must submit an essay outlining the skills learned as a fair exhibitor and how those skills will serve you throughout your lifetime. Be certain to address the aforementioned criteria. Essays must be no longer than one typewritten page in an easy to read font. Also include at least one personal letter of reference.

Scholarship applications are due in March for this and several other community based scholarships to the Gratiot County Community Foundation. Every applicant to any Foundation scholarship must have registered for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 8. More details are available at <http://www.gratiotfoundation.org/1/280/scholarships.asp>.

GCFY Market Beef Project



The registration deadline to sell market beef projects at GCFY is 4:00 p.m., Monday, February 22. To sell market beef as well as market feeder beef, goats, sheep or swine at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth Livestock Sale the animals must be properly registered with GCFY which includes turning in the registration form in on-time along with pictures of each animal registered showing the animal's ear tag (which can be read) and already applied in the project animal's ear. Official GCFY tags cost \$1 each and are available at the fair office within the MSU Extension Suite which is now located at 219 N. State St. in Alma (the building that houses the Secretary of State). Market beef project animals must weigh at least 950 pounds when they weigh-in on Sunday, July 31, 2016 and exhibitors

are encouraged to make their project selections accordingly. This year there are no market beef rule changes from those in the 2015 fair book. Registration forms are online at http://gcfy.org/parts/Registration%20Forms/2016_beef_prereg.pdf. Contact Brian Gardner at the Fair Office at 989-875-5292 or bgardner@gcfy.org with questions about the registration process or beef superintendents Derek Hessbrook (989 - 620 - 7907) or Ashlee Gibson at (989 - 488 - 7047) or ashlee.gibson@greenstonefcs.com with project animal questions.

PQA Cards Must Be Attached to Swine Registration Form

In order to show market swine projects, exhibitors must attach a copy of a current Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Certificate on their swine registration form. Gratiot County Fair for Youth requires all swine exhibitors to complete PQA certification which helps to educate youth exhibitors on the best ways to raise a quality meat project. This requirement is at the request of some of the buyers of fair market swine at the fair. This will mean exhibitors must have the PQA certification completed prior to the May 15 market swine registration deadline.

GCFY Registration Dates and Information

In order to show at GCFY each exhibitor must be registered. Most all of the fair events will be signed up for on our fair's Fair Entry Form (which is due on June 25) however there are a few but very important registration deadlines.



- To show a **market beef steer, market feeder beef steer, market goat, market lamb** the exhibitor must also complete a Market Registration Form **along** with their fair entry form. These market registration forms will require the exhibitor to have their animals tagged and provide on their registration form a picture of the animal showing the tag (without being held) in its ear. All tags must be purchased from the fair office within the MSU Extension Office (now located in Alma). Tags for beef, feeders, goats and lambs cost \$1 each. Swine project animals will use a tag provided at no cost from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Swine tags are still available from GCFY. The two registration forms required by each exhibitor to exhibit one of these market animals are due at GCFY's office within MSU Extension Office at:

Species	Market Animal Due Date	Fair Entry Form Due Date
MARKET BEEF	4:00 p.m., Monday, February 22	4:00 p.m., Monday, June 27

MARKET FEEDER BEEF	4:00 p.m., Friday, April 15	4:00 p.m., Monday, June 27
MARKET GOATS	4:00 p.m., Monday, May 16	4:00 p.m., Monday, June 27
MARKET SHEEP	4:00 p.m., Monday, May 16	4:00 p.m., Monday, June 27
MARKET SWINE (PIG)	4:00 p.m., Monday, May 16	4:00 p.m., Monday, June 27

- To show a **horse or pony**, the exhibitor must complete a horse registration form by Monday, May 2 and turn it into the fair office within MSU Extension's office (now located in Alma) by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

If you miss your registration deadline, you may still turn in your forms; however, there will be late registration fees. For the market animals each exhibitor will be charged a \$10 per business day fee (where business day is referred to as a day Gratiot County government offices are open) up to one month past the registration deadline (after which registrations will be closed). Late Fair Entry Forms will cost a flat \$25 to enter.

GCFY Youth Plans Golf Outing



While you have your calendars out, mark the date for the 2016 GCFY Golf Outing. The event will tentatively be Thursday, June 16 at the Fields Golf Course in Ithaca. This is always a great outing and odds are you will be able to have a lot of fun, enjoy some golf and help out Gratiot County Fair for Youth. We hope to see you there.



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