



2018 Green Lake County Fair

August 2-5

"Whole Lotta Happy"

County Board Report

(figures from 2017 are in parentheses)

Community pride and agricultural heritage were on display at this year's 2018 Green Lake County Fair, along with much nicer weather than 2017! It takes so much dedication, time and effort to prepare and show animals and various entries at the Fair, but the culmination of hard work for these exhibitors included not only lots of ribbons, trophies and awards, but valuable life lessons learned along the way. This is a work ethic that will serve our young people well throughout their lives. It's definitely worth everyone's time to tour the barns and exhibits, showing support for the youth of our county who represent the next generation of leaders.

There were 209 (213) Junior exhibitors with 3,590 (3,687) exhibits and 55 (50) Open Class exhibitors with 1,050 (898) exhibits. Premiums paid out totaled \$6,183.25 (\$6,274.50). In 1856, the state recognized the value of the fair as an aid in development and began to give state aid for premiums paid out by all organized agricultural societies presenting exhibitions. Green Lake County Fair state aid equaled \$4,549.45 (\$4,498).

The following Junior exhibitors were honored and privileged by having an entry chosen by the judges to be on exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair held in early August:

Jordan Mace - *Woodworking*
 Calob Congdon - *Crocheting*
 Ethan Brunke - *Mechanical Science*
 Grace Retzlaff - *Clothing*
 Jenna Sternitske - *Natural Science*
 Calob Congdon - *Knitting*
 Samantha Becker - *Cultural Arts*
 Calob Congdon - *Clothing Preview*
 Calob Congdon - *Family Living*



Samantha Becker - *Health/Social/Political Sciences*
 Samantha Becker - *Photography*
 Colton Hilke - *Photography*
 Alexis Dreger - *Photography*
 Claire Heil - *Technology*
 Samantha Becker - *Home Environment*
 Calob Congdon - *Cultural Arts*
 Ethan Brunke - *Communications*
 Dean Shaffer - *Youth Leadership*

Open Class Conference Judging for Foods & Nutrition and Photography continued for the second year. This style of judging allowed exhibitors and fairgoers to listen to the judge critique exhibits in front of an audience and their reasons for a Best of Show Award. This is a wonderful educational opportunity for Open Class exhibitors as regular Open Class judging offers no contact with the judge. Positive feedback continued from many of the exhibitors.

Agriculture works hard for Green Lake County every day. Family-owned farms, food processors and agriculture-related businesses generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic activity while contributing to local income and tax revenue.





The Green Lake County Fair continues to make efforts in increasing agricultural education by offering an AgEducation Station that includes many different agricultural subjects! The East Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association once again offered an interactive display and educated fairgoers about honey bees, beekeeping and honey bee related products. Two educational programs were held on The Power of Protein by the Director of Nutrition with the Wisconsin Beef Council. Addie the Cow was present on Saturday. Addie is a life-size fiberglass milk cow that offers children of all ages an opportunity to experience first hand how to milk a cow. The Sheboygan County Dairy Promotion Committee was on hand to promote the dairy industry and the wonderful dairy products that it produces. In 2019, the new UWEX Agriculture Educator is expected to play a larger role in this area at the Fair and to continue increasing agricultural awareness. The Spudmobile made a return visit. Through interactive technologies, visitors learned about various varieties of potatoes grown in Wisconsin, how they are planted and harvested, the nutritional facts about potatoes and statistics about America's favorite vegetable. Samples were provided by Trembling Prairie Farms (located in the southern part of the county). Another agriculture-related program included Inga Witscher and Around the Farm Table. Host of PBS Television series, provided a cooking demonstration and storytelling program dedicated to connecting consumers to small producers.

This year the Youth Livestock Auction generated \$163,902.91 (\$170,523.65). There were 130 (134) large and small animals sold. The money generated from these sales help youth finance their future animal projects and savings for a college education.

A & P Amusements provided the family-orientated carnival entertainment. Revenues generated totaled \$6,634.00 (\$6,583.00). Commercial space continues to be sold out well in advance of the Fair each year and revenue totaled \$2,555.00 (\$2,730.00).



The Green Lake County Fair provides many nonprofit organizations with the opportunity to raise substantial portions of their annual budgets through fundraising booths. Green Lake County service organizations (*Green Lake Area Animal Shelter, American Legion 306, Green Lake County Farm Bureau, Green Lake County 4-H Clubs, Green Lake County Dairy Promoters, Kiwanis Club of Markesan, Green Lake County Home & Community Education, Green Lake County Horse Council and Green Lake County 4-H Leaders Association*) raised approximately \$47,000 during the four-day Fair. These service organizations use the Fair as their primary fundraising source for a wide variety of charitable projects in Green Lake County. These fundraisers are a win-win for everyone as the organizations get to serve the community at the fair and then use the money they've raised to help the community throughout the rest of the year.

Keeping on track with the Green Lake County Fair's Mission Statement, educational programming can be attended on many occasions throughout the Fair. A few of the educational opportunities offered at the 2018 Fair included Nature's Niche, Green Lake County Sheriff's K-9 Department Demonstration, Wis/DOT Motorcycle Safety Program, Green Lake County Wellness Coalition Cardio Kids!, Madison Area Herpetological Society, Al's Science Magic, and Fox of the River Voyageur Canoe Exhibit, Andy Linder, holder of multiple world records in the sport of footbag (also known as Hacky Sack), demonstrated and shared his skills with fairgoers that were all very curious and eager to practice the skills taught to them.

Last, but not least, the Fair hosted a Be Happy! Bullies Hate It! Program by teaming up with Generations Against Bullying. The idea was to make this an entertaining and fun, family-friendly program that addresses the issues of bullying. The vision of this organization is to bring awareness about the prevalence and devastating effects of bullying in our communities and inspire children AND adults to be upstanders. This program highlighted music and messages by musician/songwriter Franki Moscato (Omro native) and Michael Turner, a successful construction company owner who turned his life around. I was not sure what to expect from this event being held at a county fair, but I was pleasantly surprised from the powerful messages to the size of the crowd.

The Fairest of the Fair program started in 2008. The Fairest serves as a representative of the Green Lake County Fair with duties that include corresponding with local media, attending county events, serving as hostess at the Green Lake County Fair, and attending the Wisconsin Association State Convention to participate in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair program. The recipient would have a chance to enhance public relations, communication and presentation skills. In 2018, the Fair Promotions Committee revamped their program and a Fairest crowning was held in August with reign to begin January 2019. The 2019 Fair Ambassador is Cole Chapman and Junior Fairest of the Fair is Kai Liptow. We look forward to them being spokespersons for the Green Lake County Fair.



Rich Swanke of Princeton hosted the Truck and Tractor Pull on Thursday evening and a Truck Pull on Friday evening. Both events were well attended. Unlike last year, the weather cooperated. The Demolition Derby, organized by the Fair, was moved back to its original 6:00 p.m. timeslot with a new promoter...International Demolition Derby. This promoter also conducts the Fond du Lac County Fair Demolition Derby two weeks prior to the Green Lake County Fair. The promoter had hopes of drawing some of the participants from Fond du Lac. This year's event gate receipts totaled \$8,975 (\$6,600). This proved to be very promising as car count and spectator numbers were up. The new promoter has agreed to stay on for two years.

**We love our
VOLUNTEERS!**

Community service and volunteer leadership are at the root of the success of the county fair. Many hands make light work is a living philosophy that accomplishes tasks beyond imagination. The Fair would like to commend all the volunteers that gave of their time before, during, and after the Fair. Volunteers help out at the Fair Office, as Superintendents, gate tenders during track events, and countless other activities going on throughout the Fair. Without the assistance of these volunteers (consisting of youth and adults), from set-up to take-down, the Fair would not be the success it is. Volunteers are the most important resource community organizations have. The ability of people to work willingly together for the betterment of their community and themselves is a valuable resource. The total number of volunteer hours also reflects the amount of community support the Fair receives.

The Fair established a charitable endowment, beginning with \$10,000, with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in 2009. The Green Lake County Fair Fund will support the future development of youth and the fair, along with general operations. Endowment funds are permanent charitable funds that provide long-term financial support. To date, four contributions have been made (Kinas Excavating, Inc., Markesan Chamber of Commerce, Norb Wiancki Agency-Princeton and Paul Splittgerber). As of 9/30/18, the balance of the endowment is \$17,747.06.



Each new Fair year poses many challenges with tighter budgets and increased expenses. However, I look forward to this challenge and will do my best to be more creative in learning to do more with less, along with trying to increase revenue.

I would like to once again encourage everyone to take time out next summer to visit the Green Lake County Fair. County fairs are more than just a yearly carnival, they're a chance for community building and leadership development opportunities. Take a stroll through the barns, start a conversation with a young exhibitor about their animal/non-animal project, or sign up for a shift in the Fair Office. You will see first hand how the hard work put in by everyone truly pays off.

The redesigned Community Involvement Program (CIP) became the Friends of the Fair Partnership Program. It continues to attract businesses, organizations, and individuals who donate time, services/materials, and financial support to help enhance the Fair. Monies are primarily used to supplement family entertainment and youth exhibitor premiums. The following is a list of 2018 partners:

Grand Champion Level (\$1,000 & Above)

Alliant Energy Foundation
Compeer Financial
Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau
Francis R. & Ruth E. Oberreich Foundation

Champion Level (\$500-\$999)

ThedaCare
Waste Management-FDL
Wisconsin Farmers Union

Blue Ribbon Level (\$250-\$499)

A.F. Gelhar
Ballweg Implement
Century 21 Properties Unlimited
Culligan
Mashuda Contractors, Inc.
National Exchange Bank & Trust

Red Ribbon Level (\$100-\$249)

Alliance Laundry Systems
Animal House Feed Company
Badger Mining Corporation
Berlin River Riders, Inc.

Country Clovers 4-H Club
Design Specialty Builders
Ergo Bank
Fairburn Jolly J's HCE Club
Farmer Grahm
Fox River Patriots 4-H Club
"Golden Rule" Community Credit Union
Grand River Workers 4-H Club
Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Heidel House Resort & Spa
Hometown Broadcasting
Kinas Excavating, Inc.
Kutz Kustom Hog Roasting LLC
Kwik Trip
Markesan Area Chamber of Commerce
Modern Rentals
PGL, Inc.
Pulvermacher Enterprises, Inc.
Ray's Sanitation
Ripon Drug Management Enterprises
Ripon Electric
Ross Motors
Scott Construction
David & Helene Severson



Red Ribbon Level (Cont'd)

Shepard's Drive-In LLC
Spaulding Chiropractic Health Center
State Farm-Caren Reich
Stuart's Landscaping & Garden Center
Sunrisers 4-H Club
United Cooperative
Webster's Marketplace

Pink Ribbon Level (\$50-\$99)

ADVOCAP-Weatherization
Arneson Auto Body LLC
Associated Veterinary Clinic
Avalon Precision Metalsmiths
Blue Star Stable
Margaret Bostelmann
Grand Valley Campground, Inc.
Green Lake Rotary Club
Green Lake Seniors
Markesan State Bank
Petraszak Excavating, Ltd.
Prairie View Rockets 4-H Club
Redeker Dairy Equipment, Inc.
Second Time Around Shop
Stahl Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Visioncare Associates



"Around the World at the Fair"

See you next year!

August 1-4, 2019

Check out the 2018 highlights in
slideshow format! Visit green-lake.uwex.edu, click on Fair
heading and then 2018 Fair Highlights
& Annual Report. Hope you enjoy!