



GENERAL INFORMATION

A Note from Katie...

This will be one of my last Monday Memos – Recently, I accepted a position with Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan as an insurance agent in the Central Michigan Area. Though I'm excited about the future, I realize my skills and abilities are only because of the amazing work we've done together to create a wonderful program for our youth. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with all my 4-H families and hope to be a resource, volunteer and supporter for years to come! For full information on my transition please [click here](#).

"Like" Gratiot County 4-H on [Facebook](#) and check us out on our [website](#)!

Clover Climber Camp – **DUE July 15th**

Five and eight year olds will be experiencing some major science blast projects at the 2011 Clover Climber Camp Monday, July 25 at the GCFFY Fairgrounds! Registration forms can be found on the [county 4-H website](#). Cost is \$20 and includes a t-shirt, draw string bag, meals and supplies!

We're also looking for

- Camp Counselors (15 years and older)
- Adult Chaperones

Exchange Club Hosts Kansas!

The Gratiot County 4-H Exchange Club is a multi-cultural state exchange program. The club selects a 4-H club in another state to do a two year exchange, and club members travel to that state and stay with a host 4-H host family.

During the week long experience, the two clubs are engaged in many educational trips around the state as well as fun activities.

Gratiot County 4-H Exchange members include: Alyssa Brown, Amber Brown, Jami Courter, Emily Cross, Courtney Crumbaugh, Carrie Fitzpatrick, Taylor Gibson, Hunter Hrabal, Aubree Jenkins, Caleb Loomis, Jodi Meeker, Stephen Merchant, Thomas Richardson, and Jessica Stellow. Club leaders are Ashlee Gibson, Patty Macha, and Wade Willson.

The trip to Kansas as well as the week of hosting events was funded through several fundraisers and donations and grants.

Supporters included: Gratiot County Community Foundation, Dr. Kelvin Grant and Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l. Inc, Gratiot County 4-H Leaders' Council, Gratiot County 4-H Mini Grant, Alma First Presbyterian Church and 12 Hour Crop Participants, New Haven Church of the Brethren, Alma Youth for Christ, Masonic Pathways Scrapbook Day Tips, Double Eagle Dairy, Spark's Pickle Co., Gratiot County Fair For Youth, The Field's Golf Course and Families of Exchange Club Members.



Interested Gratiot County 4-H members between the ages of 13 and 18 years old are encouraged to join the 4-H Exchange Club. Contact the Gratiot County 4-H office at 989-875-5233 to find out more information and to receive an application. The club will be starting another two year rotation this fall. Keep up with the club adventures on the [Gratiot County 4-H Facebook Page!](#)

Join the Gratiot County 4-H Exchange Club

The Gratiot County 4-H State Exchange Club is accepting up to 10 new members for the 2012-2013 exchange. You must be between the ages of 13 and 18 and able to fulfill the 2 year commitment. If you have any questions about the program, contact Patty Macha at 989-763-4246. Applications are due by Saturday, August 6 2011. Applications can be submitted to the 4-H office.

Summer Camp – **CANCELLED**

ANIMAL PROJECTS:

PQA Plus Training LAST CHANCE

If for some reason you were unable to attend any PQA Plus scheduled trainings, you may contact the MSUE Office. You will need to come to the office between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m by July 15. Youth will watch the video and fill out paperwork, but will only be given a ONE YEAR PQA certification. Please contact the MSUE Office to schedule your appointment.

State 4-H Events

For registration information please email Katie at mccuneka@anr.msu.edu

- MI 4-H DOG SHOW: August 20th. [Show Catalog](#)
- Several Horse Shows held at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth fairgrounds. Look at the upcoming schedule at www.gcffy.org for full show bills.

Additional Upcoming Events

Michigan Ag Expo Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteer hours? Want to start building your promotion section of your State Awards portfolio? May you've always wanted to attend the Michigan Ag Expo, but haven't yet? The planning committee is looking for volunteers to help at various locations throughout the event. Last year we took a group of youth down – and would offer the same opportunity. Volunteers get a free lunch and t-shirt, and should be 14/15 or older. Adult leaders, parents and members are encouraged to volunteer for the following shifts:

Tuesday, July 19
Morning 8:30-1:00
Afternoon 12:30-5:15

Wednesday, July 20
Morning 8:30-1:00
Afternoon 12:30-5:15

Thursday, July 21
Morning 8:30-12:30
Afternoon 12:00-3:00

Anyone interested can contact Katie at mccuneka@anr.msu.edu.

Get Connected!

Have you “liked” the [Gratiot County 4-H Facebook Page](#)? What about the [Gratiot County Fair for Youth](#)? Lots of information and reminders can be found on Facebook – take a second and go like us right now! Then head over to the two websites you should be checking out regularly. www.gratiotcounty4h.weebly.com and www.gcfffy.org !!

Finally, check out the new Michigan 4-H Website. Great to work through and keep up with state wide events and resources! <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/home>



GRATIOT COUNTY FAIR FOR YOUTH

Fair Website – Wealth of Information!

Have a question about fair? Want to help out of town family know about fair information or directions? Direct them to the Gratiot County Fair for Youth website. Updated weekly, the website is host to everything from record books and directions to upcoming events and year round activities. www.gcffy.org – make it a bookmark and check back often!

Feeder Pre-Weigh In

FEEDER Gratiot County Fair for Youth Exhibitors: There is a feeder pre-weigh in on July 23rd from 10am-Noon. If your feeders come to the fair and weigh over 700lbs, there will be no re-weigh and you will be in the over-weight class.

Sheep Shearing Night

Sheep shearing will take place Tuesday, July 19th starting at 5 p.m. with time increments of 5 minutes. It will be \$5/head. Please call (989) 875-5233 to sign up for an available time.

Fair Clean Up & Set Up Nights

Clean up nights are scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 20 and 27th. Wear old clothes, bring a bottle of water and be ready to help set up the fair!!

Gratiot County has Talent!!

Who will be Gratiot County's next singing sensation? You decide! Join us at the fair's Pioneer Pavilion for Elimination Rounds at 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 1 & 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 3. These all lead up to the amazing Finale at 7:00 p.m., Friday, August 5. All events are free.

Is this you or someone you know? The contest is free to enter and is open to individual singers under 30. Songs must be performed live. Instruments and soundtracks are allowed for background music. Songs must not include offensive language. Each singer is limited to one song per night. Performers must audition which will begin at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 28 with our panel of judges.

Contestants must be available at for the auditions starting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 28, the eliminations at 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 1, and 7:00 p.m., August 3, and the finale at 7:00 p.m., Friday, August 5. Registration forms are available by clicking [here](#) or by calling the fair office at (989) 875-5292.

In addition to the title of being the first Gratiot County Has Talent winner, the winner will be asked to perform one song at the fair's popular Super Kicker Rodeo at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, August 6 and receive a pair of VIP tickets. The winner will be featured on the Middle of the Mitten Music Showcase on WMLM, receive \$100 worth of studio time at Woody's Music of St. Louis, and receive a \$100 cash prize.

This event is brought to the fair by our sponsors WMLM, Z92.5 The Castle, & Woody's Music of St. Louis.

Hoofing it for Ag 5K Run/Walk & Udder Fun Run!

Join us for the first Hoofing it for Agriculture 5K Run/Walk and Kid's Udder Fun Run August 6th during the Gratiot County Fair for Youth. Sponsored by county Farm Bureaus, the race begins and ends on the fairgrounds for participants to enjoy the county fair, a t-shirt, goody bags and a pancake breakfast after the run. Kids 10 and under can run in the Udder Fun Race and receive a commemorative cowbell and chocolate milk. Be a part of the inaugural event - [Register by July 15th](#) to receive a discounted price.

**MSU Extension –
Gratiot County**
214 E. Center St.
Suite 11
Ithaca, MI 48847
(989) 875-5233
mccuneka@anr.msu.edu

Club Contest Information

Organizational Leaders should have exhibitor numbers for each area. If tags are missing, please contact Katie or Brian at the MSUE Office.

Achievement Booth Exhibitors:

If you have signed up or are interested in signing up to complete an Achievement Booth at the fair please give me a call or send me an email so that we can discuss your project. This is a new project area so we need to discuss the logistics of booth set up, etc. Contact me no later than July 15th. Thank You ~ Aileen Waldron 989-330-0578, awtrucking@rural-net.com.

Flower Beds

Please have your beds cleaned up and looking pretty no later than JULY 13th! Our fairground is the site for this year's Rural Urban Day Celebration and we want to make a good impression for all the visitors in attendance. If you have any questions or need help with your flowerbed, PLEASE don't hesitate to call me Aileen Waldron at 989-330-0578.

Horticulture & Floriculture

With the challenging spring we have had be sure to remember the classes for flower or vegetable specimen sampler. If on entry morning you can't find 3 vegetables or 3 flowers that match, don't worry! Just bring one good specimen from three different varieties of flowers or vegetables to be displayed as one entry. We will make the necessary paperwork changes when you enter your project at the fair. Any questions, just let me know 989-330-0578. Thanks! Aileen Waldron

Record Books

All record books can be found online at www.gcfffy.org. It's a wonderful educational tool to learn information for showmanship questions and gain knowledge within your industry.

Parking Passes

Parking Passes are available for presale this year at a reduced rate from those purchased from the gate. Weekly passes purchased from the fair at the MSU Extension Office are \$12.00. and will be available early June. At the gate they cost \$15.00. Daily passes will still be available and can be purchased for \$5.00 at the MSU Extension Office or upon entry to the fairgrounds.

Livestock Fair Superintendent Contact Information

Have a question on a rule in the fairbook? Want to know more about check in procedures? Any questions or concerns you have can be directed to the superintendent in the project area you're exhibiting in. For a full list of these dedicated volunteers please click [here](#).