

Riding by the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds on Highway 62 in Charlestown, you can tell it's that time of year again, it's fair time! The Clark County 4-H Fair will be held on the fairgrounds beginning this Friday, July 11 to July 19. Local 4-H'ers have been preparing for this week for months. 4-H'ers have been working with their animals, fresh vegetables, cakes, cookies, photography, models, and all the other projects. They have been putting all the final touches on each project in preparation for the upcoming fair week.

"We have been working to present the best fair for Clark County for several months. The board members have been working on final touches just as the kids have been," stated Clark County 4-H Board Corporation Chairman David Abbott.

The Clark County 4-H Corporation Board members include: Chairman David Abbott, Vice Chairman Ann Branstetter, Secretary Sharon Beal and Board Members: Amy Burton, Anne Cristiani, Cory Patton, Heidi Elliott, Jeff Hall, Judy Popp, Kathy Jones, Paul Graf, Rhonda Scott, Todd Hall and Tony Barger.

Abbott continued, "We are excited to see the kids with their projects. They are so very proud of the projects they have finished for the fair. Every time I see the kids, I think about what it was like when I was a kid. I remember fair week being a big week. Now, as a board member, I am able to see this generation make the same type of memories that they will cherish."

4-H'ers begin the fun-filled week of fair tomorrow as they will be checking in their projects. Open class entries will also be checked in tomorrow.

The Clark County 4-H Fair will be in full swing beginning on Friday, July 11, as the carnival rides featuring James Gang Amusements will kick off the fair fun from 6 to 11 p.m. James Gang Amusements will offer armbands for \$20 per night. Family Nights will be held on Tuesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 17 where armbands will be available for just \$15.

No county fair would be complete without special events. This year the Clark County fair will again offer special events to highlight the fun. Special Events including Go-Kart Racing, Mud Drags and a Truck/Tractor Pull will be featured throughout the week.

Go Kart Races

Go Kart racing will be held this Friday, July 11 (rain date: Tuesday, July 15) at the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds. Gates open at 4 p.m. and racing starts at 7 p.m. General admission is: \$5, Children 5 and under are free. Pit passes are \$15. Classes: TBA. For more information contact: Ann Branstetter at 502-759-6823 or Tony Barger at 502-817-5691.

Truck/Tractor Pull

The Truck/Tractor Pull will be held Saturday, July 12, starting at 7 p.m. with the Battle of the Bluegrass Truck & Tractor Pull. Scales open at 4 p.m. General admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 7-12 years old, and children 6 and under are free. All pit passes are \$15.

Classes are: Outlaw Super Stock Tractor Combo, Pro Street Diesel Trucks (2.6), Pro Street Semis, Light Limited Super Stock Tractors & Hot Farm Tractors.

Classes are subject to change. Not responsible for accidents. Judges decisions are final.

For more information contact: Ann Branstetter at 502-759-6823 or Tony Barger at 502-817-5691.

Mud Drag

Again this year at the Clark County 4-H Fair will feature Mud Drags. They will be held on Friday, July 18 and Saturday, July 19 at the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds. Gates open at 4 p.m. and the competition starts at 7 p.m. General admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 7-12 years old, and children 6 and under are free. All pit passes are \$15. Classes: Street Stock, Pro Street, Super Stock, Pro Stock, and Modified.

For more information and rules contact: Ann Branstetter at 502-759-6823 or Tony Barger at 502-817-5691.

All proceeds will benefit the Clark County 4-H program.

“The special events always draw a large crowd. I always enjoy walking through the events and seeing people truly enjoying themselves. It is good, quality family fun at reasonable rates. The smiles on the kids’ faces are just priceless,” Abbott stated.

Baby Fair

Another featured event will be the annual Baby Fair. The Baby Fair will be held at 2 p.m. on July 12. The Baby Fair is sponsored by SIEOC Child Care Resource & Referral.

Showcase of Fashions

The Clark County 4-H Fair will again feature the Showcase of Fashions. The event, sponsored by the Clark County Extension Homemakers and Purdue Extension/Clark County will be held on Sunday, July 13. The Showcase of Fashions will be held at the Community Building at the Fairgrounds.

The contest is for individuals who sew and are interested in competing at the county and state level. The state contest is held in conjunction with the Indiana State Fair which is held in August each year.

The Showcase is open to all Clark County residents. Categories include: Family Outfits; Dresses; Coats or Suits; Separates; My Choice; Sewing for Others/Children’s Garments (infants to 5 years); Sewing for Others/Children’s Garments (children ages 6-12); Sewing for others/Teen Garments (teen ages 13-17); Sewing for others/Adult over 18; Wedding Gowns:

Bridesmaids or Formalwear; Embellished with Hand or Machine Embroidery.

The County-Only (not eligible for state fair competition) categories include Creative Touch to Ready-Wear; Wearable Art. The Divisions are non-professional seamstresses and professional seamstresses. Garments modeled must have been made after September 1, 2013.

Entry forms are available at the Purdue Extension Office in Clark County. Questions should be directed to Joyce Dickson, contest chairman, 294-4087 or Nancy Hudson, HHS Extension Educator at 812-256-4591. Entry forms are due by tomorrow, July 10.

Dessert Auction

Another of the featured events of the Clark County 4-H Fair is the ever popular Dessert Auction. This year the Dessert Auction will be held on Wednesday, July 16 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Food Stand. Donations for the Dessert Auction will be accepted from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

“Steve Heil will again be doing the Dessert Auction this year. This is the fourth year he has served as the auctioneer for the Dessert Auction. Heil’s Auction Service does a fine job with this event. It is nothing to see Steve get \$500 out of a delicious blackberry cobbler,” Abbott added with a smile. “But it is all goes to a great cause and sometimes the purchaser even shares the dessert with the audience.”

Abbott added, “Steve is one of the most upstanding auctioneers in Clark County. He will also serve as the auctioneer for the Livestock Auction on Friday night (July 18). His voice has become a familiar one during Friday night’s Livestock Auction. This will be his 22nd year for that auction.”

4-H Memory Bricks

Fair goers will be able to stop by the 4-H Memory Brick Wall located in front of the Main Arena and see the recently engraved memory bricks. The wall currently holds 26 bricks. The 4x8 bricks are still being sold to honor, remember or honor 4-H. The bricks can still be purchased for \$125 for three lines, 15 characters per line including spaces. For more information please contact Anne Cristiani at 502-648-0319.

“Anne has done a great job with the wall. I heard some of the bricks had been engraved and ran over to the fairgrounds to check them out. The bricks look really nice and are a great compliment to the fairgrounds,” Abbott stated.

The Clark County Cattlemen will also be on hand during fair week. The Cattlemen’s Association will begin selling ribeye sandwiches at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 17.

“There is always a long line to get one of the ribeye steak sandwiches. The Cattlemen always do a great job of serving up a good steak sandwich,” Abbott said.

Different shows will be featured throughout fair week including: Saturday, July 12: a cat show

at 12:30 p.m.; horse show- trail class at 3 p.m.; llama show at 4 p.m.; Sunday, July 13: horse and pony show at 12 noon; rabbit show at 4 p.m.; Monday, July 14: horse show contesting at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, July 15: poultry show at 9 a.m.; swine show at 5 p.m.; horse show- trail classes at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, July 16: market wether goat show at 10 a.m.; horse show- fun show at 5 p.m.; beef steer/ beef female show at 7 p.m.; Thursday, July 17: female goat show and dairy goat showmanship at 10 a.m.; dairy cattle show at 1 p.m.; round robin showmanship contest at 7 p.m. and rabbit costume show at 8 p.m.

The 10 year Clark County 4-H members will be honored at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 18.

Abbott continued, "I am really excited for this year's fair. This year, I have served as Chairman of the Board. I want to thank the board members for having confidence in me this year. The Board is a very hard working board that serves the 4-H Corporation year around, not just during fair week. I also want to thank Jim McIntosh, the grounds keeper for the fairgrounds. He does a fine job with the upkeep of our county fairgrounds. Jim has been the grounds keeper for the past 14 years and enjoys every minute of his job. I also want to thank Tom Bowyer for his service to the 4-H as security. He has been making the fairgrounds safe and secure for over 20 years. I also want to thank the many adult volunteers who give their time to the many 4-H clubs that help to make the Clark County 4-H program a success."

Abbott concluded, "Be sure to come out and support the kids this week. They have put a lot of time, energy and hard work into their individual projects. The fair will be a fun-filled week for all of Clark County. Personally, I can't wait for my favorite treats at the fair, a candy apple and cotton candy! I hope to see you at this year's fair."

The Clark County 4-H Food Stand will also be open throughout fair week for fair goers to grab a nice meal and cool off in the air-conditioned building. The Commercial Building will also feature local businesses and organizations to fulfill the fair experience.