



2008 Green Lake County Fair "Celebrate 150 Years of Green Lake County" County Board Report

The 2008 Green Lake County Jr. Free Fair, "Celebrate 150 Years of Green Lake County," was held July 31-August 3. The Fair remains an excellent venue to recognize the youth (and adults) of our county as they demonstrate their skills and knowledge. It is also a way to connect young people with their communities and let them learn skills they can use their whole lives. The Fair also continues to be a great countywide family-orientated event.

2008 boasted 185 Junior exhibitors with 2,836 exhibits and 63 Open Class exhibitors with 1,090 exhibits. This is an increase of 239 exhibits! Total premiums paid out equaled \$6,259.50. Photography and Cultural Arts exhibits reached near record levels based on exhibitor count. The wonderful exhibits were evidence of hard work and dedication by the youth and adults in Green Lake County. Best of Show Rosettes were awarded to Open Division exhibitors as well. Several State Fair Awards are given by judges to Junior exhibits. In order to be selected for State Fair, a county must provide a venue for exhibits to be judged. Only those that are given the opportunity to be judged at the County level are able to be chosen to exhibit their project work to a statewide audience.



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:

Adrian Altwies-Woodworking

Alyssa Berndt-Demonstrations

Kayla Dredske-Natural Science

Nicole Eastman-Clothing

Amanda Murkley-Crocheting

Jeremy Pulvermacher-Electricity

Teresa Pulvermacher-Home Environment

Ariel Robbins-Knitting

Annelise Roti-Roti-Woodworking

Emily Schmuhl-Clothing

Animal Exhibitors included: Morgan Fox, Jacob Held, Lucas Schulz, Mariah Schulz (Sheep), Brett Peth, Hunter Stenholt (Open Dairy, Lucas Schultz, Mariah Schulz, Stephanie Walker (Swine)).

State Dog Show participants included: Becky Ballweg, Keeana Murphy, April Ott, Ashley Ott, Carissa Schmuhl, Emily Schmuhl, Carly Wesner.

State Horse Show participants included: Ashley Ott (Gymkhana), Emily Combs, Margaret Cram, Callie Langenhorst, Taylor Schuster, Allison Yentz.

The State Fair Aids to supplement budgeted premiums for the exhibitors totaled \$1,991.03 in 2007. The first of two payments has been received (in the amount of \$2,914.32). We will be receiving one more check before the end of the year. Last year, it was reported that the total aid received in 2008 would be higher than 2007 due to the extensive lobbying to reinstate State funds. Based on the first-half payment received in 2008, it is evident the Lobbyist hired by the Wisconsin Association of Fairs was very successful.

The Youth Livestock Auction led to the sale of 85 large animals (44-swine, 27-beef, 14-sheep), 10 small animals, and 5 dairy animals. A total of 48 buyers purchased animals totaling \$104,164.25. The money generated from these sales help youth finance their animal projects.



Many thanks are due to the county's historical societies for their support in this year's themed celebration. With their expertise and dedication, the Fair was complete. The display area created by the societies proved to be quite a popular site to visit during the Fair. To close out the four-day celebration, presentations in honor of Green Lake County's 150th birthday were made with state and local dignitaries present. Birthday cake was enjoyed by all. Thank you also the County Board who staffed an area to give out balloons and a commemorative history/calendar handout to those attending the Fair.



At this time, the Fair would also like to commend all the volunteers that gave of their time before, during and after the Fair. Once again, the Fair staff used volunteers to help out at the Fair Office, which was greatly appreciated. Without the assistance of these volunteers, from set-up to take-down, the Fair would not be the success it is.

A & P Amusements once again provided the family-orientated carnival entertainment. Revenues generated totaled \$6,866 – this figure is \$1,146 higher than 2007.

All commercial space was sold this year well before the Fair opened. Commercial Space revenue totaled \$1,650.00.

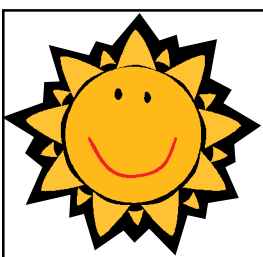
Green Lake County service organizations (*Green Lake County Farm Bureau, Green Lake County 4-H, Green Lake County Dairy Promoters, Kiwanis Club of Markesan, Green Lake County Home & Community Education, All-Terrain Riders ATV Club, and the Green Lake County 4-H Leaders Association*) raised close to \$40,000 during the Fair this year. These service organizations use the Fair as their primary fundraising source for their generous contributions throughout year in Green Lake County.



The Princeton All-Terrain ATV Club provided the track entertainment for Friday evening. The event was very successful this year and once again very well organized. Rich Swanke of Princeton hosted the Truck and Tractor Pull on Thursday evening. This event also proved to be very successful well organized. New to the Fair this year was a track event held on Sunday afternoon. Roy Fleegal from Berlin hosted an Antique and Farm Tractor Pull. Many thanks to all of these organizations/individuals for stepping forward to bring these fine track events to the Fair and for their dedication and hard work! The Demolition Derby that is organized by the Fair continues to be a successful Track Event on Saturday evening. This year's event brought in \$12,484.00 in gate receipts.

The Community Involvement Program continues to attract community business/organizations and individuals, who donate time, services/materials, and financial support to help offset Fair costs.

In all, the Fair was the most successful it has been in years. The weather was BEAUTIFUL, which definitely helped. Everyone enjoyed the birthday theme of "Celebrate 150 Years of Green Lake County." When the final figures are in, the amount of revenue will slightly exceed the anticipated amount of approximately \$24,000.



With "bright" thoughts of 2009 already at hand, the Fair Committee and staff are looking into options for increasing revenue and to make the 2009 Fair even more successful.

Hope to see everyone at the 2009 Fair, with a theme of, "Tropical Fun in the Sun" which will be held August 6-9.