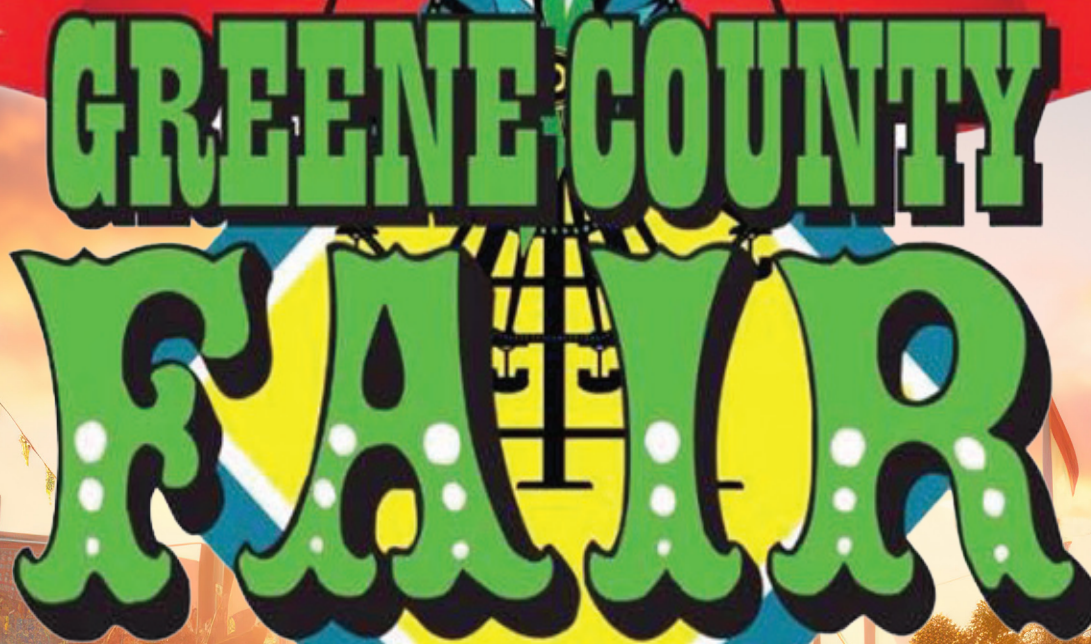


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Welcome to the Greene County Fair

Welcome to the 2024 Greene County fair! The directors, secretary, expo manager, staff, and I would all like to welcome everyone to the 185th Greene County Fair. Our theme this year is "Change Is Good." The future of our community depends on activities such as the fair for our future leaders to learn the skills they need to succeed in life like dedication, commitment, honesty, and hard work. Skills they will need in the workplace to be contributing members of our society. We've been working hard

behind the scenes on our facilities and grounds to make this year the best year yet. We're kicking the 2024 Fair off on Sunday July 28 with our annual Calf Scramble and wrapping up the week with the Tractor and Truck Pulls. The week is filled with fun family events, carnival rides, and lots of good food. We believe there are three important factors that are the pinnacle to this fair: Family, Friends, and



Bobby King

Community. Take in the exhibits by local 4-H and FFA students, Girl Scouts as well as farmers, gardeners and hobbyists who have worked hard all year to grow, sew, and create works that showcase their amazing talent and skills. Don't miss your chance to see the harness races Wednesday and Thursday at our Grandstand. One of the best rewards

for all the hard work is when the sun goes down and the lights come on, seeing the kids smiling ear to ear with excitement in their eyes. That's what makes the Greene County Fair fun, spending time with family and friends making memories you'll never forget. It's worth all the endless hours and dedication. As president I, nor the GCAS Board of Directors, could put on a successful fair year after year and/or run the expo center without the help of the people and businesses of Greene County. I would like to personally thank the Board

of Directors, Junior Fair Board members, Greene County Commissioners, Greene County Public Health, Greene County law enforcement, 4-H/FFA members and their parents, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and everyone committed to making the Greene County Agricultural Society, expo center, and the Greene County Fair a success. Without you we would not be able to put on the Greene County Fair. We look forward to seeing you all at the Greene County Fair. Sincerely, Bobby King President

GREENE COUNTY

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www.greencountyfairgrounds.com

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Follow us: @GreeneFairFun



Discount days

Monday, July 29
Military Discount Day
(Show your Military ID and get in for \$4)

Wednesday, July 31
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Thursday, Aug. 1
Senior Citizen Discount Day
Senior citizens get in for \$4



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Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Rides

Monday-Thursday, July 29 to Aug. 1,
Rides will open at 4 p.m.

Family Night:
Wednesday, July 31, 4-10 p.m.
Wristbands will be priced at a discount with special giveaways for children.

Friday-Saturday, Aug. 2-3,
Rides will be open at 1 p.m.

Prices for the unlimited rides wristbands will be announced. Without a wristband, rides will be priced individually.

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Greene County Fair makes some changes

By Ethan Charles

echarles@aimmediamidwest.com

XENIA — The Greene County Fair has made some changes this year, bringing in national talent and rearranging the layout to promote interactivity and family fun.

One of the most noticeable changes visitors will notice is a new location for fair rides. Usually set up beyond the regular fair activities and show events near the grandstand, the rides this year have been moved to the central lawn right next to the animals and other exhibits.

This change was made “so that it’s more interac-

tive,” according to Public Relations Chair Kala Benton. “Guests will now be able to see a lot of the rides and entertainment right from the road.”

Benton said the fair committee made this change, and others, to get families to come together and enjoy the fair no matter what age they are, without the need to split up around the fair.

Missing from last year’s fair, the Celebrity Hog Show is coming back at 5 p.m. July 31. This event lets adults and local celebrities come in and learn how to show hogs live. The

kids will also get a chance to show them what it takes to show a pig at the county fair, according to Benton.

“We’re also bringing in a nationally known animal judge, and he’s coming in to show some of our large species,” she said. “That will be a huge thing for the kids.”

Texas livestock judge Ryan Rush will be on the fairgrounds Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday judging the larger animals at the fair in the mornings and evenings.

Evening events are scheduled every day at the fair and bring in some of the largest crowds over at the

Grandstands arena.

“The evening events we really want to highlight,” said Benton. “These are huge events for the whole family that always bring in a huge crowd.”

Like every year, the Greene County Fair holds special deals on certain days of the fair for discounted entry. July 29 is Military Discount Day, where Military ID holders can get in for \$4. Senior Citizen Discount Day is also August 1.

The biggest deal day is July 31, Family Day and Food Pantry Discount Day. According to Benton, the fair has

raised more than 5,000 pounds of canned goods to be given out to local food banks. Guests who bring in a non-perishable food item can also get into the fair for \$4, and ride wristbands are discounted after 4 p.m. to encourage families to come together.

“We really want to promote family day,” said Benton. “We’re giving back to local food pantries in the area, and we’ll have discounted wristbands for rides that day as well.”


Thanks to the generous community donations already raised, the Junior Fair Board was awarded a \$2,500

prize for “stocking the trailer.”

“Our fair was the second largest of local food collected, so not only did we stock the local food pantries, by collecting that award we were able to donate to the Junior Fair,” Benton said.

The Greene County Fair runs from July 28 to Aug. 3 this year, with unique events happening all day long alongside the regular animal shows and exhibits. The full fair schedule is available online at www.greencountyfairgrounds.com/fairbook.

Contact Ethan Charles at 937-502-4532.



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File photo

The rides at the Greene County Fair will be located on the central lawn instead of near the Grandstands.

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Reigning fair queen had busy year; will pass the crown on Sunday

By Karen Rase

krase@aimmediamidwest.com

XENIA —Reigning Greene County Fair Queen Alice Hook is nearing the end of her reign and happily shared her experiences and the memories made.

“The past year being queen has been lots of fun and I have enjoyed it,” she said. “I have had lots of new experiences that I am truly thankful for and lots of things that have helped to prepare me for my future. This experience has definitely brought me new insights of the fair. The first one would be that there is a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work that goes in.”

“You have to plan out the events far in advance. I have had lots of interaction with various groups. One of the groups is the Ohio Fairs Managers Association (OFMA).

This group puts on a huge event in January where they have all the fairs represented and an All Ohio Queens Competition.”

Hook didn’t place in that event, but it wasn’t a disappointment at all.

“It was so much fun and such an amazing opportunity,” she said.

“I also got to meet lots of different girls from all over Ohio and I was able to interact with my senior fair board and all the animal committees.”

According to Hook, fair queens are expected to be at as many shows, sales, and local parades as possible, while trying to make it to as many other fairs as possible, and to attend the OFMA Queens Contest so there could be a lot of travel involved.

Hook has done her share of traveling —

visiting the Champaign County Fair, Adams County Fair, and Ross County Fair.

She was in the Jamestown Fall Festival parade, Cedarville Labor Day Parade, and Fairborn Fourth of July Parade, where she got to judge the Little Miss and Little Mister Fairborn pageant.

“I will be taking away all the memories, experiences, and just overall joy that comes with being queen,” Hook said. “I am also taking away leadership and interview skills. Overall, fair queen definitely helped me to boost my confidence. I made some friends — the Adams County and Lucas County Fair Queens for example — and I became good friends with the Greene County Fair princess.”

Being queen was the

culmination of years of hard work.

“Winning to me was achieving a goal I set young — when I first started 4-H as an eight-year-old,” she said. “I quickly wanted to tell everyone that winning was not about the moment, it was about how I got there. It meant showing myself that I can do things that sometimes I don’t think I can.”

Hook said she had worked hard to prepare herself to be the best she could be throughout her 10 years in 4-H, attaining positions such as junior goat ambassador and Assembly Hall ambassador.

“Becoming queen showed me that all of my hard work had paid off,” Hook said.



Submitted photos | Alice Hook

Alice Hook after she was crowned Greene County fair queen in 2023. Her reign will end on Sunday, July 28, when the 2024 Greene County fair queen is named at the start of fair week.

See QUEEN | 7

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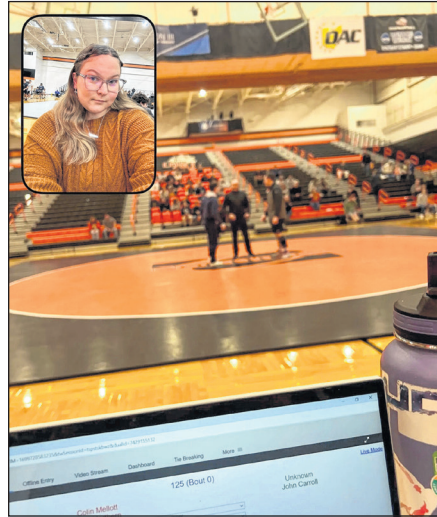
Queen

From page 6

Hook, who received a fair scholarship and one from the Greene County Agriculture Society for becoming queen will “pass her crown” to the next queen on Sunday, July 28, at 5 p.m. in the Assembly Hall when the 2024 fair queen is announced.

During her many years of 4-H participation, Hook showed mostly dairy market goats but moved on to showing rabbits her last four years in 4-H. Although she admits to not placing too high in rabbit showmanship, she did place first and went to the state fair with her pet rabbit project book in 2022 and 2023. The highest honor she received in 4-H while showing goats was reserve champion dairy market goat in 2016.

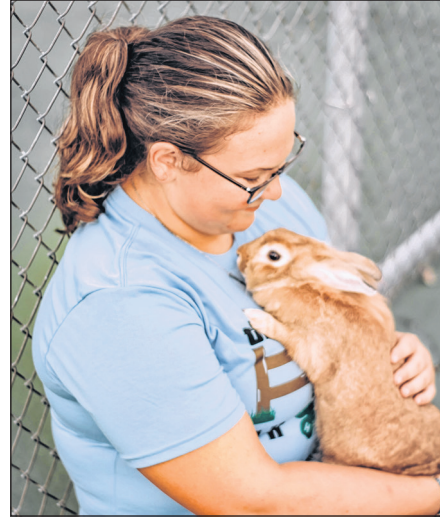
“I also placed high in all five years in skillathon and showmanship,” said Hook. “I have done numerous amounts of non-livestock projects. Over the last 10 years, I most likely did over 20-25



Hook, pictured at Ohio Northern University, runs the head table at a home wrestling match for ONU's men's wrestling team.

projects — from cooking, sewing, and gardening to ropes, sign language, and “Your Health Matters” projects. With those projects, I had multiple that qualified for state.”

The 19-year-old — a 2023 graduate of the Greene County Career Center and Greeneview High School — finished up her 4-H career last year and



Hook and her pet rabbit, Butterscotch, competed in many 4-H competitions over the years.

no longer shows rabbits. She gave away her pet rabbit Butterscotch to a young girl “who loves her and takes great care of her.”

Hook’s tip for incoming fair queens is to “get involved.”

“Don’t be afraid to step up and do something,” she said. “You don’t learn anything by sitting back and watch-

ing. You learn by attending shows and being present.”

This fall, Hook will be heading back to Ohio Northern University where she’ll be a sophomore and resume her studies in mechanical engineering with a concentration in biomedical engineering. Eventually she hopes to go into biomedical research as a career. She has been spending her summer as an engineering intern at Norwood Medical in Dayton.

“I love my job and am thinking of applying for another internship here next summer,” said Hook.

During wrestling season at the university, she’ll work once again for the school’s athletic department as the men’s wrestling team manager. She travels with the team and does its stats and helps with other activities. She is also a member of Kappa Phi where she serves as chaplain and is a Northern Christian Fellowship officer and a member of the Society of Women Engineers.

Reach Karen Rase at 937-502-4534.

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New rodeo event headlines fair grandstand schedule

By Steven Wright

swright@aimmediamidwest.com

XENIA — Expect to see many familiar and exciting events return to the grandstand area at Greene County Fair for 2024.

The list of evening entertainment activities at the main grandstands includes several annual favorites starting with the calf scramble on opening night and concluding the week with truck and tractor pull events.

Sign-up for the calf scramble will be from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, at the Pavilion near the Cattlemen's Concession Trailer. The kiddie event for younger ages will begin at 7 p.m., and the main event will get underway at its conclusion roughly around 7:45 p.m.

Four types of vehicle classes will compete in the Derbydog Demolition Derby at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 29, including full-size and compact street stocks, youth compact stocks, and stock mini-van, truck, or SUV classes.

Driver entry fees are \$50 and pit passes are \$25. More information is available at www.derbydogdemo.com.

A kids event for ages 3-9 involving driving powerwheels vehicles will take place before the event. No powerwheels may be modified except for decoration and all drivers must wear a helmet.

The Rough E Rodeo is new to the schedule in 2024 and will start at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30. Participants in several age groups can compete in



Steven Wright | Greene County News

The grandstands located at the Greene County Fairgrounds are always packed full of fans ready to catch all of the excitement. The 2024 schedule will have nightly favorites such as the calf scramble and harness racing and will add a bull riding competition to the events.

bull riding and barrel racing events sanctioned by the Great Lakes Championship Bull Riding Association. Members of the Professional Bull Riders league will be on hand to perform as well.

Both nights of harness racing will start at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, and Thursday, August 1. Both nights will have six races held at one mile in length. Colts and fillie two years in age will compete Wednesday and three-year-olds on Thursday. The Chip Noble Memorial Pace will close the event and have an \$8,000 prize. The field will be limited to seven starters aged no less than four years, with initial preference to Ohio sired or Ohio owned entrees. Entry fees

2024 GRANDSTAND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun., July 28 Kiddy Calf Scramble, 7 p.m.; Calf Scramble, 7:45 p.m. (Free)

Mon., July 29 ... DERBYDOG Demo Derby, 7 p.m. (\$5 grandstand, \$15 infield)

Tue., July 30 Rough E Rodeo, 7 p.m. (\$5 grandstand, \$10 infield)

Wed., July 31 Harness Racing, 6:30 p.m. (Free)

Thur., Aug. 1 Harness Racing, 6:30 p.m. (Free)

Fri., Aug. 2 OSTPA Truck and Tractor Pulls, 7 p.m. (\$5 grandstand, \$10 infield)

Sat., Aug. 3 DCTPA Tractor and Truck Pull, 7 p.m. (\$5 grandstand, \$10 infield)

range from \$30-100.

Both truck and tractor pull events on Friday, Aug. 2, and Saturday, Aug. 3, start at 7 p.m. and feature multiple entry classes. Participants should call 937-372-8621 for more information.

The calf scramble and harness racing events are free to attend.

All other events will cost \$5 for a grandstand ticket and \$10 for infield access, except for the destruction derby which will be \$15 for patrons to be on the infield.

Contact Steven Wright at 937-502-4498 and follow on Twitter @Steven_Wright_.

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The candidates first submitted an application and then participated in personal interviews. They will now take the stage inside the assembly building at 5 p.m. for open questions in front of friends and families.

Queen candidates



Princess candidate



Karissa is 19 years old and a member of Husky Hustlers 4-H club. This will be her sixth year as a junior fair exhibitor.

Karissa Allen



Gracie is 18 years old and a member of Husky Hustlers 4-H club. This will be her ninth year as a junior fair exhibitor.

Gracie Heider



Kendal is 14 years old and member of Kreative Kids 4-H club. This will be her sixth year as a junior fair exhibitor.

Kendal Bertelson



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Greene County Fair general rules

Staff report

Admission

There will be a “no re-entry” policy during the 2023 fair. Purchasing a weekly ticket or Membership Ticket for \$30 will not only save entrance fees into the fair for the week, but it also will allow you to re-enter the fair without getting your hand stamped.

Single-day tickets purchased at the gate will allow you admission to the fair only once that day. If you leave at any time and return to the fair later in the day or evening, you must purchase another single day ticket.

Sheriff’s deputies and board personnel will be patrolling the fairgrounds regarding persons trying to enter the fairgrounds without paying. Those persons will be escorted to the nearest gate and if they refuse to pay entrance fee, they will be escorted off the property by the sheriff.

No unauthorized cars, trucks, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, golf carts, four-wheelers, ATVs, mowers, tractors, motorcycles, or any other vehicle are permitted on the fairgrounds.

No dogs or any other animal except service dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds at any time.

In addition, no livestock animals, horses, or any other animals are allowed on the midway or camp-

sites, or anywhere unless authorized by a fair board member.

General

No signs may be posted on trees or buildings. No roving vendors or solicitors will be permitted on fairgrounds.

No political candidate shall roam freely upon the fairgrounds distributing campaign literature or tokens but must be limited to no more than four feet from their rented fair booth.

Reserved parking

Any vehicle parked on the fairgrounds between during the fair must have a reserved parking permit displayed in the front window of the vehicle. These permits are available for purchase in the fair office. Entering the fairgrounds without the proper permit is in violation of parking rules and the vehicle’s

owner will be charged for towing the vehicle from the illegal parking place. If you have a reserved parking permit, make sure you are parked in the right space or you may be towed from that space at your expense.

Those persons entering the fairgrounds on sales nights are required to either have a reserved parking permit or park in an adjacent lot next to fairgrounds. Should you be given false information regarding parking on the fairgrounds without a permit, your vehicle will be towed at your expense.

All gates have special permits with the number of the gate on the permit. Do not try to enter a gate with the wrong permit.

Feed at the fairgrounds

All persons needing to deliver feed should enter the Omalee Street Gate only and each person in the vehicle will be required to pay \$6 to get into the fairgrounds. If you leave within 15 minutes the money will be refunded to you.

Behavior

All persons entering through the gates of the Greene County Fairgrounds are expected to act in a mannerly and respectful way to all persons. Any person causing disruption will be escorted off the fairgrounds by a sheriff’s deputy.





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2024 Greene County Fair Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Market Steer & Market Heifers
 Arrive - Dairy Heifers & Cows Arrive
 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. - Swine Arrives

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Market Lambs & Homegrown,
 Breeding Sheep Arrive
 8:00 a.m.–12 Noon Goats Arrive
 8:15 a.m. Swine Exhibitor Meeting, Weigh-In Following
 9:00 a.m. Open Class Livestock Entries Close
 9:00 a.m. 12 Noon Breeding & Meat Pen Rabbits Arrive
 12:30 p.m. Beef Cattle Exhibitor Meeting, Market Beef
 Weigh-In to follow
 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. All poultry arrive/Weigh-in
 (alphabetical order)
 1:00 p.m. Sheep Exhibitor Meeting, Market, Homegrown
 Sheep Weigh-In (to follow Goat Exhibitor) Meeting,
 Market Goat Weigh-In Following Sheep Weigh-In
 3:00 p.m. Rabbit Exhibitor Meeting /Weigh in
 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Swine Jackpot Registration
 7:00 p.m. Junior Fair Board Dance for
 4-H & FFA Members *Pavilion

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 8:00 a.m. Market and Breeding Rabbit show followed
 by Rabbit Showmanship & Rabbit Judging Contest
 Following
 9:00 a.m. Swine Jackpot Show
 9:00 a.m. English Horse Show & Showmanship
 10:00 a.m. Dairy Heifers & Cows Exhibitor Meeting
 12:00 p.m.–1p.m. General Livestock judging sign ups.
 1:00 p.m. Dairy Heifer Show/ Showmanship/ Dairy
 Pee-wee Showmanship
 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Kiddie Calf Scramble Sign Up at
 Pavilion (by Cattlemen's Concession)
 2:00 p.m. General Livestock Judging starts.
 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Coloring, Egg Toss*AB,
 Spoon/Egg Race Following *Front of Fair Office
 5:00 p.m. Royalty Coronation - King & Queen, Prince &
 Princess *AB

6:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony
 7:00 p.m. Kiddie Calf Scramble *GS
 7:45 p.m. Calf Scramble (Following Kiddie Calf
 Scramble) *GS

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024

Military Discount Day
(Show your Military ID- get in for \$4)
 6:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Beef Breeding and Feeders Arrive
 8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 6:00 p.m. Swine Market Showmanship
 9:00 a.m. Nutrition Baking Contest followed by Best of
 Bakers *OSUE
 9:00 a.m. Cloverbud Cupcake Decorating *OSUE
 11:00 a.m. Feeder Calf Showmanship, Breeding
 Showmanship, Feeder Calf Show, Breeding Show
 (Pee-wee Showman to Follow Show)
 4:00 p.m. Rides Open
 4:00 p.m. 4-H Fashion Revue followed by Open
 Modeling *AB
 7:00 p.m. Derbydog Demo Derby *GS

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 9:00 a.m. – Western & Fun Horse Show *HA
 9:00 a.m. Market Goat Show/ Goat Showmanship
 (weight tickets must be turned in one hour after show)
 10:00 a.m. Poultry Fancy, Egg Judging
 1:00 p.m. Poultry Showmanship (Breeding, Meat,
 Market, Ducks, Turkey)
 4:00 p.m. Market Hog Show (Hog Weight Tickets to be
 turned in approx. an hour after show)
 4:00 p.m. Rides Open
 7:00 p.m. Rough E Rodeo *GS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

Family Day/Food Pantry Discount Day
(Bring a non-perishable food item
- get in for \$4)
 8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 8:30 a.m. Market Chicken, Market Ducks & Market
 Turkey Shows Poultry Judging to follow. (weight

tickets must be turned in one hour after shows are
 completed)
 9:00 a.m. Sheep Breeding Show, Market Showmanship,
 Homegrown, Market Show (Sheep Sale tickets must
 be turned in an hour after the show)
 11:00 a.m. Adult/ Pee-wee Swine Showmanship
 12 Noon Youth Activity (Sponsored by Girl Scouts) *AB
 1:00 p.m. 4-H Cookie Decorating *AB
 2:00 p.m. Cloverbud Show and Tell *AB
 3:30 p.m. Diaper Derby Contest *AB
 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Voting for Senior Fair Board
 Members *Exhibitors Hall
 4:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Family Night
 (Ride Wristbands Discounted)
 5:00 p.m. 4-H Awards (Trophy, Clover Awards, etc.) *AB
 5:00 p.m. Adult & Celebrity Swine Showmanship
 5:00 p.m. 3rd Annual Sheriff Gene Fischer First
 Responder Memorial Hog Show!
 6:00 p.m. Rabbit Pee-wee Showmanship
 6:30 p.m. Rabbit Costume Contest
 6:00 p.m. Homegrown Cattle Show and Market
 Showmanship
 7:00 p.m. Market Steer Show (weight tickets must be
 turned in one hour after the Show)
 6:30 p.m. Harness Racing *GS (No Cost)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

Senior Citizen Discount Day
 8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 8:00 a.m. Showman of Showmen Contest Sign Up
 *Cattle Barn
 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Alpaca & Llama Arrive
 9:00 a.m. Cloverbud Stuffed Animal Show, *Barn 2
 9:00 a.m. Dairy Goat Show following will be Fiber, Pack,
 Pygmy, Production & Homegrown
 10:00 a.m. Showman of Showmen Contest in order that
 follows; *Cattle Barn *Cattle, *Hog, *Horse, *Goat,
 *Sheep
 12:00 p.m. Sales Office Opens
 12:00 p.m. Goat Pee-wee Showmanship - Sheep
 Decorating Contest to Follow then Pee-wee Sheep
 Showmanship

2:00 p.m. SALES START AT 2:00 PM, IN THE
 ORDER THAT FOLLOWS;*Market Turkey, *Ducks,
 *Chickens,
 *Market Hog
 1:00 p.m. Cloverbud Veggie Car Race followed by the
 Cloverbud Graduation*AB
 4:00 p.m. Rides Open
 6:30 p.m. Harness Racing *GS (No Cost)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024

8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 9:00 a.m. Alpaca & Llama Show & Showmanship
 3:30 p.m. 4-H Dogs Arrive, Dog Exhibitor Meeting
 12:00 p.m. Royalty Luncheon at OSU Extension
 12:00 p.m. Sales Office Opens
 1:00 p.m. Rides Open
 4:00 p.m. Dog Agility, Freestyle, Drill Team & Tricks
 Show *Hog Barn
 2:00 p.m. SALES START AT 2:00 P.M IN THE ORDER
 THAT FOLLOWS; Dairy Cheese, Market Beef,
 Feeder Calf, & Dairy Feeder, Market Sheep, Market
 Meat Rabbit, Market Goat, Homegrown Meat Market,
 Dairy
 Market Goat
 7:00 p.m. OSTPA Truck and Tractor Pulls *GS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024

8:00 a.m. Greene County Fair Opens
 8:00 a.m. 4-H Dogs Arrive
 8:30 a.m. Dog Showmanship, Obedience, Rally Show,
 Costume Show Following *Hog Barn #2
 11:00 a.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull Sign-Up *Flag Plaza
 12:00 p.m. Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull *Flag Plaza
 1:00 p.m. Rides Open
 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. 4-H & FFA Assembly Building
 projects released (Must be picked up by 8:00 p.m.)
 7:00 p.m. DCTPA Tractor and Truck Pull *GS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Assembly Building Tear
 -Down *AB
 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Open Class Project Pick-Up
 *Exhibitor's Hall

Greene County Fair full of local history

It all began in the late spring of 1833 when the Greene County Commission posted this notice: "It was ordered by the commissioners that notice be given in the Xenia Territory this week that there will be a meeting held at the Court House in Xenia on the last Friday in June, for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society, to be entitled the Greene County Agricultural Society." With this statement, the longest running county fair held west of the Alleghenies was established.

At that time the old courthouse had not been constructed, but there was another building on the present site which accommodated the business of the county. The courthouse with the huge cement pillars which now grace the entry to Woodland Cemetery was not to be constructed for a few more years.

John Paul donated a tract of land in the center of what would become Xenia for the purpose of building a suitable structure to conduct the business of the county. The first courthouse, a brick structure, was occupied in 1809. Thus it was on the grounds of this brick 40-foot square that the first Greene County Fair was held.

Livestock, hand-made household items, and horses were shown. The square was marked off in sections allowing various activities to be presented.

As people became more aware of the possible activities which might take place — and more folks wanted to show off their livestock and enter contests to see who could raise the largest vegetables — it was determined that the courthouse site was inadequate.

In 1852, a 5.89-acre tract of land was donated to the agricultural society and for the first time the Greene County Fair had a permanent home, at least for a while. The western edge of the property bordered Fair Street and probably extended as far south as Market Street. The Columbus Pike was the northern boundary.

One of the features of that fair was the offer of a hot air balloon ride. Unfortunately, on one occasion, the balloon came down in a corn field much to the annoyance of the farmer whose crop was nearly ready for harvest.

This tract became too small for the growing interest of having a fair, so the land was platted and building lots were sold. This provided the agricultural society funding to purchase another site.

In 1867, Richard Galloway offered to sell 36 acres of his property for a new fairground. That property was



Joan Baxter

located on present Fairground Road and is part of the present fairground property.

The folks in Jamestown were so unhappy to have the grounds moved from the eastern edge of Xenia to the northern edge, they began their own fair. Unfortunately, a tornado destroyed the grounds in 1884, so there was once again only one fair in Greene County.

The agricultural society met with some financial challenges, so the property was sold at a sheriff's sale in 1874 to David Millen. Because Millen wanted to see the fair continue, he leased the grounds to the society until 1923 when the heirs deeded the land back to the fair board.

Although many folks came to the fair with horse and buggy or wagon, residents could also ride the train. A special train was run over the Springfield branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad from the Pennsylvania Station to a stop on North Detroit Street. The fare was fifteen cents from the depot to that stop, then passengers would walk to the fairgrounds.

During the 1939 fair a pageant "From Wilderness to Wings" was staged nightly. This was a review of county history including the first 100 years of the fair.

Horse racing has been a popular event for most of the years the fair has been in existence. In 1883 there was a race called a "country stallion trot." Speed was of the essence along with endurance. Horses were to run a mile in each of five separate events. The owner of the horse which finished first in three of the five runs received a premium of \$30. Second place received \$20 and third place \$10. In order to be sure this was a fair race, the owner must have had possession of the animal for at least 90 days prior to the race.

After a few years, the exhibits of hand-made items grew so the merchants no longer were allotted space to display large items. Dozens of quilts would be displayed hanging from ropes suspended near the ceiling. Baked goods looked inviting, and woodworkers displayed their talent as well. The latest fashions were shown by talented dressmakers and the finest knitted and crocheted items were on view along with artist's renderings in oil and water color.

For many years the Grange building housed displays from the local Grange units, and of course who could forget the excellent cuisine and the home-made pies which could be obtained in the dining hall.

Carnival rides, cotton candy, lemonade and entertainment all made the fair a great place to go.



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- 9 Gate House
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