

## Updates and Remodel

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has moved forward with starting some updates to Building D this year! Over the next few years the Association will be working to improve the building's interior one section at a time. This year we will be updating the walls that surround the bathrooms, kitchen and office area towards the entrance of the building. The idea is to replace the slightly outdated green walls with a natural wood look.

The kitchen will also receive a few improvements. This past summer we purchased a new freezer for the kitchen. This year we will be replacing the sink that is currently there with a triple basin sink. This sink will be deeper and will be able to be easily used for dish washing. There will be a second sink installed in the kitchen as well that will be used as a hand washing station. If the budget allows we will also be able to give the room a fresh coat of paint and will work on the serving windows so they easily close.

If you are interested in helping with this project or sponsoring any of the Building D updates please contact the office at (815)338-5315.

### Welcome!

We would like to say welcome to our two new board members. Chad Bauer was elected to represent the final At Large seat and Brett Gieseke was elected to take the Seneca Township seat. We are very excited to have these two join the group!

## 2015 McHenry County Fair "Homemade-Homegrown"

The Association is hard at work planning all of our entertainment and activities for this year's fair. One exciting addition this year is a magician act. He will do 3 shows a day for fair goers to enjoy for free! This stage will also be available for additional entertainment. The commercial committee is also looking to have a recruiter tent and college row where people can go to collect information and talk to individuals regarding going to school for a degree and opportunities to serve.

We are also very excited to announce that Blend will be here on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the week of the Fair. Blend is an A Capella doo-wop group who brings back hits from the 50's and 60's with a twist of fun! They will do three shows a day and will do surprise appearances around the grounds. All of their shows will be free ground entertainment for fairgoers to enjoy. Be sure to check them out!

This year we are looking into the possibility of having a printed version of the fair book again. If you are interested in purchasing a printed copy *please* let the office know as soon as possible to get your name on a list and to help make sure we order the proper amount. The books will be good for one year and will cost \$5 a piece. They will include Junior Show and Open Show. We will also have fair information listed with a schedule of events. If we do go this route the printed books will need to be picked up at the office, we will contact everyone who has signed up for a book once they have come in. If you need them mailed there will be an additional charge for shipping.

We have our admission fees set for the 2015 fair. This year the following rules have been set. All exhibitors will be required to purchase one exhibitor pass for \$15. The exhibitor pass will be the equivalent to a season pass (normally \$20) and will allow you to enter the fair an unlimited amount of times throughout the five days. If you enter in a Home Arts (or Non-Livestock) department and bring your item in for judging you will receive a \$5 refund in the form of a check to be issued at the same time as premium checks. This will then bring your week long pass down to \$10 which comes to \$2 a day. We are hoping the incentive will help support our home arts/non-livestock departments. 4-Hers will only need to purchase one pass this year. All 4-Hers will receive their pass from the fair office which means they will no longer need to purchase a second exhibitor pass when signing up for Open or Junior Open Show. Every exhibitor will have the opportunity to purchase a second exhibitor pass if desired at the same discounted price for family members.

Non-exhibitor gate fees are as follows:

Season Pass (good all week)	\$20
Adult one day pass (Wed-Thur)	\$6
Adult one day pass (Fri-Sun)	\$8
Child(8-13) and Senior one day pass (Wed-Thur)	\$3
Military (with ID) (Wed-Thur)	Free
Child(8-13), Sr., Military (with ID) one day pass (Fri-Sun)	\$4
Child 8 and under (Wed-Sun)	Free
Family pack (Admission for 4 family members-any age)	\$25
Coupon available: \$2 off Adult Tickets	
Public Parking in main lots	Free
Reserve Parking (between camping and 4-H building)	\$35
Exhibitor parking (one pass per exhibiting family)	Free

## NEW THIS YEAR:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Fiber Fling Sponsored by McHenry County Fair Association

*Join us for our first annual Spring Fiber Fling!*

#### Where:

McHenry County Fairgrounds  
11900 Country Club Rd  
Woodstock, IL 60098

#### When:

Saturday, May 16 and  
Sunday, May 17, 2015

#### What:

Your very own McHenry County Sheep and Wool Show! Attend one of the sheep and alpaca shows. Shop at the many different craft and artesian vendors which include; fiber, quilting, sewing and so much more! There will also be beginning, intermediate and advanced classes that you can sign up for to learn the trades and craft of many of the items you will see at the show. Some of the classes will include; spinning, weaving, quilting, sewing or fiber animal management classes. Check our website often and stay tuned for our April Newsletter for more information and a schedule of events! We hope to see you there!



## Upcoming Events on the Grounds

- ✿ Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 Love is in the Air (vendor/craft show)
- ✿ Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 Paws and Hooves Tack Sale
- ✿ March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ March 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 Wedding Show
- ✿ April 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ April 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 Iron Justice
- ✿ April 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ May 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ May 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2015 **\*\*NEW\*\*Fiber Fling**  
Sponsored by MCFA
- ✿ May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ June 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 Classic Car Show
- ✿ June 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ July 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ July 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 Classic Car Show
- ✿ July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ August 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ August 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2015 **McHenry County Fair**  
Sponsored by MCFA
- ✿ August 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ August 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 Classic Car Show
- ✿ Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 Motocross Racing
- ✿ Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 MCF Association Yearly Meeting
- ✿ October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 Iron Invasion
- ✿ October 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ October 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ October 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> (tentative)**\*\*NEW\*\* Scare at the Fair** Sponsored by MCFA
- ✿ Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 MCF Association Meeting
- ✿ Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Faire**  
Sponsored by MCFA

## 2014 Holiday Faire

On the weekend of December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the McHenry County Fair Association and their Special Events committee worked extremely hard to hold the first annual Holiday Faire. This was one of the first events outside of the annual Fair that the Association has sponsored. Thanks to all of the volunteers and great teamwork the weekend was a success! Our focus was to make a family fun event where parents could do some shopping while children were able to have fun, meet Santa, and learn how to create different crafts.

By the end of the weekend, we had 600 people come through the doors for a total donation of 700 pounds of non-perishable food items. The Association split the donated items and gave 300 pounds to Turning Point in Woodstock and 400 pounds to the Woodstock Food Pantry.

A total of 33 craft vendor booths joined the festivities this year, which completely filled the building. Families had a variety of activities to join in on. Of course, meeting Santa was a huge hit. There were also booths set up for children to make crafts for no cost. Through the generosity of the public, there were enough donations to cover the cost of the supplies and to ensure that we will be able to have that booth supplied and at no cost again next year. They were able to make Reindeer food, decorate pinecones to hang as ornaments, make a Reindeer out of a pinecone, create snowflakes to hang, and paint the inside of a glass ornament to create a marbled effect. By the end of the weekend over 300 crafts were made and taken home by the individual to enjoy.

Right next to the craft corner was the Home Arts Department. At this booth we had set up some examples of different projects that have been shown in Home Arts during the past few years. Judy Porter spent most of the weekend in that area teaching embroidery to quite a few different individuals of all ages. A few even finished a project there with her and are planning on showing in the Junior Show this coming year. Other topics demonstrated by volunteers were photography (by Nancy Shepherd), cup cake decorating (by Denise Woolridge), making a stuffed animal (by Judy Porter), and crocheting (by Edwina Young).

Due to the generosity of the Madaus Family there was also an opportunity to go on a hayride around the grounds at no additional cost. On the hayride, our very own Vice President, Rich Tobiasz talked about the history of the fairground and all of the projects we have in mind for the future years to come. The hayride ended with Rich reciting "The Night Before Christmas" with some help from the group on the ride. Due to the popularity of the hayride, the number of hayrides almost doubled from what we originally had scheduled.

Due to the positive feedback and excitement that we received from the community, the Association's board of directors has agreed to hold a 2015 Holiday Faire which will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to save the date!

## Photos from the Holiday Faire



# McHenry County Fair Association News

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## Ag Day T-Shirt Sale!

Through the Crystal Clover 4-H Club

To all Agriculture lovers in McHenry County! Did you know that there is a National Agriculture Day? Well March 18th is the day set to celebrate all things wonderful about Ag! The Crystal Clovers 4-H club is inviting you to purchase and wear this t-shirt to show your Ag pride.

This is a fundraiser for the Crystal Clover 4-H club who will then donate the money to the McHenry County Extension Office for programming. Please consider ordering some shirts and wear them on March 18th. These super cute tees make great gifts. Help support agriculture in McHenry County.

The back of the shirt will say "We love our McHenry County Ag!" T-shirts are ultra-soft, pre-shrunk, 100% combed ring spun cotton. Children's t-shirts are standard 100% cotton.

Children: S (retail size 6-8), M (retail size 10-12), L (retail size 14-16).

Adult: S, M, L, XL (add \$3 per shirt for 2X, 3X)

T-shirts are \$15 each (add \$3 per shirt for 2X, 3X) Orders and payment are due to the 4-H office by February 2, 2015.

Use the website listed here to order your shirt today!

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=11643>



## McHenry County Fair Association

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Thank you for taking an interest in the McHenry County Fair Association. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the quarterly newsletter please contact the office to get their name on the mailing list.

If you are a volunteer or a superintendent and you have information you would like published or an article you would like to have included please let the office know.