

## Get Involved!

Sign up to be on a committee!

If you are interested in being part of a committee please call the office at (815)338-5315 to be added before the end of the month. The committees that we have include:

- Buildings and Grounds
- Commercial Exhibits
- Entertainment Pavilion
- Ethics and Audit
- Fair Book
- Fair Improvement
- Finance
- Gates, Tickets, and Parking
- Grandstand and Entertainment
- Grounds Entertainment
- Legal and By-Laws
- Livestock
- Membership
- Off-Season Rentals
- Personnel
- Publicity and Sponsorship
- Queen Contest
- Safety and Security
- Special Events **\*\*NEW\*\***
- Talent Contest

## Introducing our 2014-2015 Board of Directors...

October 1<sup>st</sup> marked our new year, with quite a few new members who were voted in to be Board of Directors for this 2014-2015 year. We are all very excited to start prepping for our 2015 fair and looking into other events we may want to sponsor for our community during other months of the year. The Directors are staying very busy with working to continuously help both the Association and the Fair grow and evolve to be the best it can be. The Directors include:

Board Officers:

President:	Ken Bauman
Vice President:	Rich Tobiasz
Treasurer:	Tom Linneman
Secretary:	Susan Simons

Directors:

Alden Township	Pam Linneman
Algonquin Township	Kelly Sadowski
Burton Township	Richard Tobiasz
Chemung Township	Richard Crone
Coral Township	Ken Bauman
Dorr Township	Jeff Schumacher
Dunham Township	Walter Davidson
Grafton Township	Dan Fruin
Greenwood Township	Casey Given
Hartland Township	Larry Macheroux
Hebron Township	Phil Walters
Marengo Township	Susan Simons
McHenry Township	Marisa Merkel
Nunda Township	seat open
Richmond Township	Chris Holian
Riley Township	Kathy Meyer
Seneca Township	seat open
At Large	Frank Kearns
At Large	Colin Jeschke
At Large	Cynthia Erckfritz
At Large	Tom Linneman
At Large	open seat

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with our storage drop off days on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in helping please call the office at (815)338-5315 for more information.

## NEW THIS YEAR: Holiday Faire “Homemade for the Holidays”

The Special Events committee is very excited to announce our new winter time event at our own McHenry County Fairgrounds. This year we will be putting on our first annual Holiday Faire on Saturday, December 13 from 10am to 4pm and Sunday, December 14 from 10am to 3pm in building D on the fairgrounds.

During this fun filled weekend you will be able to find up to 30 crafters, demonstrations every hour by our volunteers and superintendents from the Home Arts department, and a Kids Craft Corner where children can make ornaments to take home. We will also have a small stage set up for performance from the Madrigals and a resting place for Santa to take time out from his busy schedule and come to meet with anyone who comes to the event. Tentatively our local 4-H clubs will be using the kitchen to sell food items to help raise money for 4-H. We are also looking to have either a sleigh/carriage ride or hayride outside to take people around the grounds.

We will ask for a donation of a non-perishable food item or \$2 per person for admittance. The Association will then donate all of the donated items to food pantries around McHenry County. We would like to take this time to provide an event for our community to bring their families to and celebrate the holidays while doing some last minute gift shopping. All of the items we will have will be handcrafted.

We are looking for help to make sure the event is successful. We are looking for any holiday decorations that we could borrow for the weekend to decorate both the grounds and the building. The Association is looking for Volunteers to help with the Kids Corner, demonstrations, and the stage. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor one or more of the activities please contact the office. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the office at (815)338-5315 for more information.

Be sure to keep the weekend of December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> free and we will see you at our Holiday Faire!



## Upcoming Events on the Grounds

- ✿ **October 19<sup>th</sup> 2014** Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet.
- ✿ **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 8am to 4pm** Storage drop off
- ✿ **November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 10am to 2pm** Storage drop off
- ✿ **November 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 7:30pm** Monthly Meeting
- ✿ **November 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2014** Office Closed
- ✿ **November 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2014** Office Closed
- ✿ **December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 7:30pm** Monthly Meeting
- ✿ **December 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2014** **\*\*NEW\*\* Holiday Faire**  
Sponsored by MCFA
- ✿ **December 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2014** Office Closed
- ✿ **December 31<sup>st</sup>-Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>** Office Closed
- ✿ **April 26<sup>th</sup> 2015** Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ **May 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2015 (tentative) \*\*NEW\*\* Fiber Fling** Sponsored by MCFA
- ✿ **June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015** Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ **August 5<sup>th</sup> (tentative)-9<sup>th</sup> 2015** McHenry County Fair Sponsored by MCFA
- ✿ **August 16<sup>th</sup> 2015** Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet
- ✿ **October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015** Iron Invasion
- ✿ **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

## 2015 McHenry County Fair

Find here items that are already in the works for the 2015 fair:

The Fair Improvement committee has selected our new theme! The 2015 McHenry County Fair theme will be: "Homemade-Homegrown." We are hoping to take this theme and use it to help support and show off our home arts department. The tentative dates for the 2015 fair are Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. We are still in need of a logo to fit with our new theme so if you are artistic and have an idea as to what you think it should be submit it to the office. Our goal is to have a logo to match our theme by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

We are also requiring all changes to the fair book to be in by the end of November so that we have it ready for promotional material at the Holiday Faire. 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. If we do go this route the printed books will need to be picked up at the office. If you need them mailed there will be an additional charge for shipping.

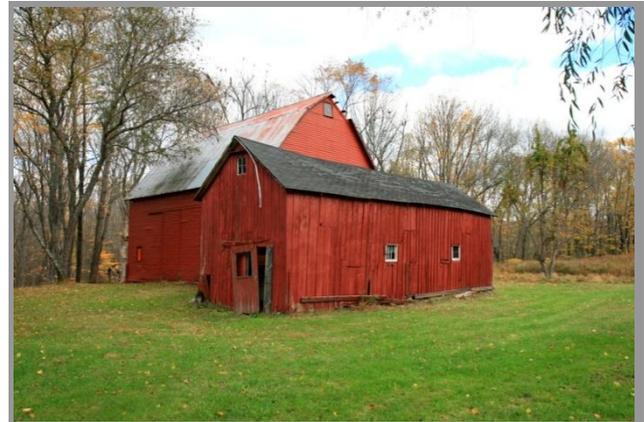
The Home Arts department has also decided that all entries will be picked up on Monday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Times will be announced in the fair book. This is going to provide an opportunity for the public who have paid to come into the fair on Sunday afternoon to see the beautiful displays, instead of an empty building. This will also help with being able to park closer to the building to pick up your items and not have to worry about paying to get into the fair just to pick up your entries. Checks for your premiums will also be available for pick up on that Monday as well.

2014's new recycling program was very successful. The Fair Improvement committee is looking to continue this program in 2015 and make it even more beneficial to the fair's waste than it was this past year. They are looking into ways to separate items better and to recycle more materials. If you are interested in being part of the Green Team please let the office know.

The information booth was a new addition to the 2014 fair. This coming year we are thinking about inviting booster clubs from McHenry County High Schools to work the information booth. They will have the opportunity to sell their spirit wear during their shifts. We would need 2-3 schools per day to make this work. If you have a school that may be interested in being a part of the fair, let the office know and we will get them all of the needed information to sign up for a shift.

## Thank you!!!

On behalf of the 2014 Board of Directors and the staff we would all like to thank all of our volunteers and their families who helped during this past year. We all know that the week of fair is a long hard week that seems like a blur at the end but all of the hard work does not start there; we have numerous volunteers that start months in advance getting everything organized and ready for fair. Then they spend countless hours during fair to make sure that the event as a whole is successful and fun for everyone who attends. Without our fantastic volunteers and their dedication to the Association and the Fair, events such as this would not be possible. So to everyone who helped; thank you! Your time and energy spent creating a great fair and a beautiful fairground is very much appreciated. We could not do it without you!



## Thank you for everything

This past year the Association had some amazing people step down from being part of the Board of Directors. These individuals were part of the reason why we had the fair run so smoothly and they helped make sure the grounds looked the best that they possibly could be. These individuals provided the fair with an ample amount of knowledge and helped all of the new staff members learn the ropes. We would like to give a huge thank you to Charles Beard, Robin Luckey, Debbie Welker, Dave Behrens, Steve Gavers, John Brown and Ben Jacobs. This year and past years would not have been the same without your knowledge, guidance, commitment, and support. Thank you!

# McHenry County Fair Association News

October 15, 2014

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## Meet our President

Ken Bauman is our Association President. Ken, his wife, Beth, and kids, Renee and Randall, run their family farm in Union. Ken is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation operating their 100+ year old farm. They milk 55 head of dairy cattle and raise 20 head of beef cattle a year. Along with their livestock operation, the Baumans farm 1600 acres and custom harvest 1000 acres. Their family also gives many dairy tours at their farm for Dean Foods, McDonalds and local schools during the year.

Ken stays very busy between his career and volunteering for different organizations throughout the county. Not only is he our president, but he also hosts monthly 4-H meetings, volunteers for the McHenry County Extension Office, 4-H and also helps with Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom. Ken has also been involved in the McHenry County Farm Bureau for 10 years. During his time on the Farm Bureau board, he served as their Secretary for 6 years, along with being President of Club Town.

The McHenry County Fair is an event that Ken has been a part of since the age of 13. He was a member of the FFA and began showing Dairy at the county fair. Over the years the fair became a part of both his and his family's life. About 7 years ago Ken became a member of the Association and has been on the Board of Directors for about 5 years. Now as President, he would love for the Association to be a more viable organization for the county and provide different events year round for the public to come and enjoy. By doing this the Association is creating events to promote family time and agriculture education.

Ken's favorite part of the fair is getting to know other families and creating friendships. He feels that there is something to learn from everyone you meet and hopes as he continues working with the Association that others feel they have learned from him as well. Ken also enjoys watching the youth's skills and knowledge improve while they work their way to the top in the show ring from year to year due to their continuous hard work.

Ken's goal for the McHenry County Fair Association is to create one of the best fairs in Northern Illinois and to help make sure that the Association works hard to never stop improving. After all, with our strong ties to the 4-H program is important for us to always strive "to make the best better."



## 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.**