

2014 Antrim County Fair Annual Report

Antrim County Fair Mission Statement

The Antrim County Fair provides an important annual outlet for education, exhibition and demonstration of agriculture, home economics, science and art. It is a recreation based outlet for county residents and visitors to share and display their hobbies and interests with a special emphasis on youth. Its goal is to provide a fun and educational experience for all.

As this mission statement was developed, the Antrim County Fair Board began to work on shaping the future of this growing event. We continue to develop programs, and find organizations that bring education and entertainment to Fair Week.

Highlights from 2014:

*5K Cross-Country Run
Square Dancing
Horse Pull
Concession Stand
Local Bands
Wagon Rides
Pony Rides*

*Children's Activities, including a Tractor Pull, Table Games, Crafts, Bouncy Barn Sandbox
Educational Demonstrations
Cake Walk
Local Fire Departments
Jaws of Life and Smoke House*

As always, Antrim County 4-H members displayed many projects and participated in competitive livestock shows.

In 2014, our kitchen/concession stand was updated. With the larger space, we were able to serve our customers better and offer improved access for Farm Bureau members who offer added meal options. We feel this addition increases our ability to meet the needs of visitors and participants, allowing us to meet current health standards, and increasing revenue.

We have received a second grant from MDARD (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) for an electrical upgrade to our facilities which will further improve kitchen activities and increase availability for Demonstrators, Musicians, and Vendors.

As a fund raiser, we had a successful 5K Cross-Country Run/Walk in the Cedar River Natural Area, bringing in runners from across the US and Canada. We also held our first Silent Auction. Both events were well received, and will be on the venue for 2015.

Plans for 2015:

- Adopt a 5-year Strategic Plan for the Antrim County Fair.
- Networking with Communities within Antrim County to include more organizations.
- Providing new contests to encourage increased exhibitor entries.

The result of these efforts includes the addition of an Ice Cream Social, A Short Story Contest, a Photo Contest, and an all new Children's Activity Area.

2015 Antrim County Fair Association Board Members

OFFICERS

Paul Cooper

9641 Bailey Road
Mancelona, MI 49659
231-587-8194
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Term Expires: November 2015
PRESIDENT

Crystal Swain

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Danielle Thompson

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SECRETARY

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Jim Veenstra

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Term Expires: Lifetime Honorary

2015 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Desiree Herrst

Sarah Swain

EX-OFFICIOS

Cindy Garwood, MSUE 4H Coordinator

Karen Bargy, County Commissioner

Antrim County Fair 2015 Projected Income and Expenses

<u>Projected Expenses</u>	<u>2015 Projected</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
5K Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 851.98
Advertising	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 820.00
Agriculture Education	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Bank Fees	\$ 36.00	\$ 36.00
Bookkeeping Services	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Capital Improvements/Electrical Grant	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 524.37
Entertainment	\$ 300.00	\$ 154.31
Equipment/Rental	\$ 700.00	\$ 550.00
Fairbook Cover Prize <i>(Donated)</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Fees	\$ 200.00	\$ 165.80
Food Booth Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 942.88
Kitchen/grant funded	\$ -	\$ 6,316.36
Grant Writing	\$ 500.00	\$ 90.00
Grounds Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Horse Pull Premiums <i>(Based on 10 entries)</i>	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Horsemanship/Best Dressed Award	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Insurance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,234.00
Judges Fees <i>(Horse Show, Rabbit, Poultry, Dog Show)</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
MAFE <i>(Convention \$0.00/Dues \$85.00)</i>	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Memberships	\$ 200.00	\$ 30.00
Merchandise	\$ 275.00	\$ -
MHA Event Services <i>(Insurance \$125/Boat & Weights \$175/Judge \$75/C)</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Premiums <i>(average based on previous 3 years)</i>	\$ 1,188.00	\$ 1,383.50
Printing Expenses	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,202.17
Raffle	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Ribbons/Trophies	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.12
Sign <i>(Funds donated)</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 700.00	\$ 593.09
Unclaimed Property - State of Michigan	\$ 65.00	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 22,649.00	\$ 18,279.58

<u>Projected Income</u>	<u>2015 Projected</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
Antrim County	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Grant Income	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,158.51
5K Registration	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
5K Sponsorship	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
50/50 & Pass the Hat at Horse Pull	\$ 100.00	\$ 228.68
Bouncy Barn	\$ 50.00	\$ 26.84
Cake Walk	\$ 200.00	\$ 123.25
Donations	\$ 500.00	\$ 553.05
Fair Book Ads	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,360.00
Food Booth	\$ 2,229.00	\$ 1,941.99
Horse Pull Entry Fees <i>Based on 10 entries</i>	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 100.00	\$ 96.25
Pancake Breakfast & Steak Fry	\$ 275.00	\$ 425.00
Raffle	\$ 50.00	\$ 68.00
Silent Auction	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 744.00
Vendor Booths	\$ 125.00	\$ 85.00
Total Income	\$ 23,079.00	\$ 21,710.57
Projected Payments	\$ 22,649.00	
Projected Ending Balance	\$ 430.00	



Antrim County Fair Board

Officers

Paul Cooper, President (2015)
Crystal Swain, Vice President (2015)
Danielle Thompson Treasurer (2017)
Inga Waldrep, Secretary (2017)

Trustees

Lillian Bartholomew (LHM)
Teresa Cole (2015)
Sue Cooper (2016)
Chris Doebler (2016)
Ed Nachazel (2017)
Lois Nachazel (2017)
Brian Robinson (2016)
Chris Thompson (2015)
Jim Veenstra (LHM)

LHM=Lifetime Honorary Member

2015 Youth Trustees

Desiree Herrst
Sarah Swain

Ex-Officio Members

Cindy Garwood
4H Program Coordinator

Karen Bargy
Antrim County Commissioner

2015 Fair Highlights

Free Admission
Free Parking
Free Kids Games
Food Booths Open Daily

Exhibit Hall, Small Animal Barn, and
Large Animal Barn Open All Day

THURSDAY

SENIOR CITIZEN APPRECIATION

Horse Show
Caring For Your Horse
Activity Tent
Cake Walk
Bingo & Checkers Tournament
Poultry Show

FRIDAY

VETERAN'S APPRECIATION

Flag Raising & Veteran's Tribute
Michigan Blood Drive
Large Livestock Judging
Rabbit Show
Contest Winners Announced
4H Market Livestock Auction

SATURDAY

FAMILY HERITAGE DAY

5K/1K Run
Pancake Breakfast
Kids Games/Dunk Tank/Petting Farm
Demonstrations
Dog Show
Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction Closes
Horse Pull & 50/50 Raffle

SUNDAY

WORSHIP DAY

Exhibits Close

Antrim County Fair



2015 Artwork by Elliott Willson

**Homemade or Homegrown
Since 1979**

**August 6-8, 2015
Craven Park, Bellaire**

P.O. Box 223, Mancelona, MI 49659

AntrimCountyFair.com

Like us on Facebook

Homegrown Since 1979

The Antrim County Fair has a long history of providing families with the opportunity for wholesome entertainment, family education, and the chance to exhibit what children and adults alike have learned about livestock, horticulture, crafts and more.

Over the years, our fair has remained small by design, catering to families who appreciate the flavor of a truly hometown fair. It is our intention to expand and improve the fair in this vein, offering events which attract visitors to celebrate agriculture, hand-crafted items, locally grown market animals, and entertainment which encourages the interaction of families. The Antrim County Fair is focused on bringing youth and families together to showcase their talents in art, homemaking, crafting, animal science, horsemanship, and raising livestock.

In a typical year, dozens of exhibitors from the county participate in the fair. Some will be new to our fair and some have years – even decades of experience. They range in age from one year old to mature adults. Our participants are often also volunteers, helping to staff the welcome booth, oversee the exhibit hall and animal barns, supervise games, and prepare the grounds for the Fair.

The Fair Board proudly boasts that this event is free to the public. There is no fee for parking or admission. The games planned for children are free to play. Only a few events, such as the popular Cake Walk, require a small purchase, just 25 cents to play for a chance to win donated baked goods. The Saturday Pancake Breakfast is by donation. Purchasing food is the primary expense of attending the fair - and is completely optional.

While the Fair is often associated with 4H programs in the county, anyone can exhibit at the Antrim County Fair. Many of the families involved are 4H families, it's true, however, there are also many individuals who choose to display items in the exhibit hall or showcase their skills with pets, livestock, and horses. The only classes or events which require 4H participation are the judging and sale of livestock in the 4H Livestock Auction.



Our Funding

The Fair would not be possible as it exists today without the strong annual support of the Antrim County Board of Commissioners. It is through the generous appropriation of these funds that we are able to provide free admission, entertainment and maintenance for the Fair and Fairgrounds.

In addition to these funds, the Fair Board sells ads in its annual Fair Book, a limited number of banners to be displayed on the grounds during Fair Week, and the opportunity to sponsor special events, such as the 5K Run/Walk.

The Fair Board also annually receives numerous generous donations of money, prizes, food and even propane!

A committee of the Fair Board is currently planning for the long-term future of the fair, outlining what facility and maintenance improvements will have priority in the near future, and what fund-raising and grant-writing efforts would be required to fund these goals.

The Fair Board is working with a grant writing specialist, who already has successfully secured grants to assist with electrical and concession improvements, and more grant applications are under way.

While the 4H Livestock Auction is a fund-raiser as well, those proceeds benefit the MSU Extension office 4-H programs and helps offset the expenses associated with marketing the animals and providing trophies and ribbons for market livestock projects.

Grounds Improvements

The Fair Board has used its limited resources to continue to make improvements to the Fairgrounds. Over the years, it has been important to the Fair Board that the buildings be painted, the grounds be kept clean during Fair Week, and the food booths and bath house are clean and in working order for guests of the Fair.

While many improvements, from clearing trees to adding water lines have been achieved in recent years, the Fair Board's main focus remains improvement of overall electrical service to the fairgrounds.



With improved electrical service to the grounds, the Fair Board will be able to continue to enhance concession stand operations, and, over the long term, offer electrical service for vendors and for entertainment, all of which will help build revenue for the fair.

The Future of the Fair

The Antrim County Fair is unlike any other. It truly captures the spirit of days gone by. Although exhibitors are as connected to social media as any group of youths, the emphasis during Fair Week is on their rabbits and chickens and family activities.

The goal of the Fair Board each year is to grow the fair, to fill the barns, while utilizing the Fairgrounds to its maximum potential. The Fair Board feels there is still room to grow at the current site with some modest changes and improvements. It is only possible with your continued support.

The Fair Board is actively engaged in inviting more people to participate in the fair as exhibitors. The Fair Board also is making additional efforts to reach out to the community for support, and encouraging many more people to come and experience the Fair. While several hundred people walk the grounds during fair week each year, the Fair Board feels that the local community could be a much stronger presence.



In 2014 the 5K Run/Walk was enormously successful in attracting new faces to our fair.

The 2015 schedule

is filled with dozens of things to entice young families. And promotions for the Fair are an area of focus that is continuing to grow.

We appreciate your support, and the support of our many volunteers, to continue offering this traditional family event.