



Antrim County Fair Board

Officers

Crystal Swain, President (2018)
Teresa Cole, Vice President (2018)
Mike Bertram, Treasurer (2019)
Lisa Riegler, Secretary (2019)

Trustees

Lillian Bartholomew (LHM)
Carol Land
Rick Land
Jennifer Rhodes (2018)
Mike Sizen (2017)
Jim Veenstra (LHM)
Inga Waldrep (2017)

LHM=Lifetime Honorary Member

2017 Youth Trustees

Riley Fillmore
Sarah Swain

Ex-Officio Members

MSUE 4-H Program Coordinator

Brenda Ricksgers
Antrim County Commissioner

2017 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
Activity Tent • Bingo • Cake Walk
Ice Cream Social • Poultry Show
Live Music

FRIDAY

VETERAN'S APPRECIATION
Veteran's Tribute
Large Livestock Judging • Rabbit Show
Bingo • Activity/Education Tent
4-H Market Livestock Auction

SATURDAY

FAMILY HERITAGE DAY
5K Run/Walk
Pancake Breakfast • Kids Games
Beef Restaurant Cook-Off
Lego Build & Race • Dog Show
Silent Auction • Horse Pull
Movie Night

SUNDAY

WORSHIP DAY
Exhibits Close

View and print our complete fair book,
schedule, entry forms and event flyers from
our website:

www.AntrimCountyFair.com

Antrim County Fair

Homemade or Homegrown
Since 1979



August 10-12, 2017
Craven Park, Bellaire

P.O. Box 427, Bellaire, MI 49615

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 4-H programs in the county, anyone can exhibit at the Antrim County Fair. Many of the families involved are 4-H 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 4-H participation are the judging and sale of livestock in the 4-H 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 Horse Pull, Horse Show, and Dog Show. The Silent Auction, Restaurant Cook-Off, and other events provide additional revenue.

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

The Fair Board is continually planning for the long-term future of the fair, prioritizing facility and maintenance

improvements for the future, and the identifying fund-raising and grant-writing efforts required to fund these goals.

While the 4-H 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.

Over the past several years, the improvements have included cleaning trees, adding water lines, and the improvement of overall electrical service to the fairgrounds. The arena expansion which started in 2016 continues in 2017 to provide the space which will

attract more equine events to the fair and for use of the fairgrounds outside of Fair Week.

Improvements to the Large Animal Barn are next on the agenda. The Fair Board is raising money to replace the roof, add permanent stanchions for cattle, and create a walkway and equipment storage area for exhibitors.

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 pigs, 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.

The 5K Run/Walk has been enormously successful in attracting new faces and funding to our fair.

The 2017 schedule is filled with dozens of things to entice young families, including the return of the Lego Build and Race, live music, and a Beef Cook-Off featuring area restaurants. 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.





ANTRIM COUNTY FAIR

It was another great year at the 2016 Antrim County Fair!!

New for fundraising was the pork and side cook-off on Saturday evening. It proved to be extremely successful and plans are to make this an annual event with a different food theme each year.

The concession stand, which includes the pancake breakfast, ice cream social and the all new movie night popcorn sales, continues to be very popular. Participation in the 5K continues to increase, making it an event that is drawing visitors into Antrim County from other areas. The silent auction, held all 3 fair days, generates major excitement amongst the loyal bidders.

The fair board strives to raise funds to meet the increasing financial needs of maintaining and improving our county fair. Future building and grounds improvements are being considered in order to better meet the needs of this growing event and to address ongoing bio-security concerns.

We have numerous popular activities and demonstrations throughout fair days. Some of the most popular are:

- Horse Show and Horse Pull
- 4-H Livestock Show and Auction
- Still exhibits
- Bingo
- Kids games
- Various demonstrations
- Fire Departments – Smoke House and Jaws of Life
- Covered wagon rides
- Dog Show
- Lego Build a Car and Race
- Movie Night
- Live Music

We are grateful for the support of our community that helps provide the opportunity for the residents to participate in many fun and educational activities. We also depend on a large team of volunteers to make this possible. We would also like to thank the Board of Commissioners for their continued support; because of their support we are able to host this great event each year.

Please join us August 10-12th at the Fairgrounds on Stover Road.

Sincerely,

Antrim County Fair Board

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