

Greene County Agricultural Society, Inc.

Annual Report

Dated: April 1, 2016

Prepared by Vice President Andrea Macko



Greene County Agricultural Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 84 ~ Greenville, NY 12083
www.thegreencountyouthfair.com

Our Mission

The Greene County Agricultural Society, Inc. is responsible for organizing the annual Youth Fair and furthering agricultural education within the community.

What We Do

Held for four days each July, the Greene County Youth Fair is one of the last free fairs in the U.S. The fair honors the accomplishments of local youth who will keep our agricultural legacy alive for years to come.

We are part of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, whose goal is to promote agriculture, horticulture and domestic arts. All members of the Greene County Agricultural Society are volunteers and no one receives a paycheck.

The Greene County Agricultural Society meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Greenville Public Library Community Room. Meetings are open to the public.

2016 Directors

President Tara Licata • Vice President Andrea Macko

Treasurer Janet Partridge • Secretary Patty Ross

Directors: Carl Kohrs, Alice Zabel, Donna VanOrden, Cindy Shanley, Wayne Myhre
Rebecca Johnk, Fawn Landry, Kathy Schlenker, Lynette Terrell, Keith Terrell
Diane Lewis, Linda Tripp, Terry McGee-Ward, Alex Johnk



Why Ag Education?

Agriculture is one of New York State's top industries. In fact, New York's farm economy generates more than \$4 billion each year.

As our population continues to shift to a more urban and technology-based demographic, it is the responsibility of Agricultural Societies to educate the public on the importance of food production and its future.

Many families come to the fair for the music, rides, fireworks and, of course, the food, and leave with a newfound knowledge of agriculture. Fairs and livestock shows are the original flagship for agriculture promotion in our society, and events like the Greene County Youth Fair help the children of today become the experts of tomorrow.

Fair kids go on to become not only farmers, but pursue careers in veterinary medicine, engineering, teaching, public service and many other areas. Equally as important, because agriculture is one of our state's top industries, young adults have the opportunity to pursue these types of careers without being forced to leave New York State.



Quick Facts:

Greene County, Youth and New York's Farm Economy

- Of Greene County's roughly 48,000 residents, approximately 17 percent (8,160) are under the age of 18.¹
- Greene County has a median household income of \$49,864.¹
- Approximately 11 percent of Greene County residents live below the poverty level.¹
- 37.5 percent of Greene County children qualify for free or reduced-price meals in their school district.²
- In 2015 approximately 125 local youth exhibited at the Greene County Youth Fair. This was down from approximately 160 local youth in 2014 due to the New York State ban on poultry (see page 7).
- An estimated 20,000 people attend the Greene County Youth Fair each year.
- New York is a leading agricultural state, worth \$4.42 billion in 2008. Below is the latest data available, provided by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

New York's National Ranking in 2008

- 1st-- cabbage and cottage cheese production
- 2nd-- apples, maple and sour cream production
- 3rd-- milk, grape, corn silage and cauliflower production
- 4th-- pear, pumpkin, tart cherries, sweet corn, snap beans and squash production

Value of New York Farm Products

Cash receipts by commodity in 2008 was:

- Livestock--\$2.4 billion (dairy, cattle, hogs, poultry, etc.)
- Field Crops--\$961 million (hay, soybeans, wheat, etc.)
- Vegetables--\$468 million (cabbage, sweet corn, onions, etc.)
- Fruit--\$346 million (apples, grapes, strawberries, etc.)
- Other--\$225 million (floriculture, Christmas trees, maple, etc.)

New York's Top Agricultural Commodities

- Dairy Products (\$2.3 billion)
- Grain & Silage Corn(\$748 million)
- Hay(\$363 million)
- Apples(\$261 million)

New York's Farm Economy

- Employee compensation --\$427 million
- Energy costs --\$343 million
- Property taxes --\$236 million
- Maintenance & repairs --\$188 million
- Marketing & transportation --\$133 million

¹ U.S. Census Bureau

² Council on Children and Families, Kids' Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse

History of the Greene County Youth Fair

Alfred Partridge, leader of the Ashland Blue Ribbon 4-H Club, organized a 4-H Club Fair at the Sutton Hollow School in Ashland in 1949 to give his club members an opportunity to display their projects before family, friends and the community. From this small beginning, the youth fair has developed into the showcase it is today.

Alfred's club held its second fair in 1950 at the Sutton Hollow School. The next year, the fair was in Jewett and other 4-H Club members in the area joined in.

From 1952-1956, the 4-H Club Fair, as it was then known, was held at the VFW Hall on Route 23 near Windham.

In 1954 the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets recognized the fair as an agricultural fair and donated \$5,000 annually to be given in premium money to the exhibitors. Another \$500 was appropriated by the Greene County Board of Supervisors. By this time, the fair was officially called the Greene County Youth Fair and open to all youth who lived or attended school in Greene County.

By 1957 the fair had expanded to two dairy tents, a poultry and rabbit tent, and a sheep and goat tent. A new home was found at the Durham Central School, currently the Durham Elementary School, on Route 145. In addition to the tent space outside, there was ample space in the school for food and clothing exhibits, vegetables, flowers, entomology, arts and crafts.

During the late 1960s, a trade tent was added by the local merchants, as was a horse show, and the fair became a three-day event.

The Greene County Youth Fair stayed at the Durham School for 38 years, with the exception of 1973 when, due to alterations at the school, the fair was held at the Durham Town Building on Route 81.

In the fall of 1995 a committee was formed to find a new home for the fair, which by that time was in its 41st year. The Town of Cairo was more than willing to offer the use of Angelo Canna Town Park as a location centrally located in the county, and a new chapter in the fair's history began.

The fair was extended to a four-day event in 2001 and that same year Senator John Bonacic helped obtain a grant for a new public address system at the fair.

In 2002 the youth fair had a new attraction. An agricultural tent, bustling with activities to educate and entertain visitors of all ages. Part of the tent was filled with youth displays and agriculture, as well as forestry and conservation displays for adults.

In 2003 the Greene County Agricultural Society was incorporated for the purpose of running the fair.

It is impossible to know how many young people have been involved in exhibiting and participating in the Greene County Youth Fair over the years. There are statistics indicating more than 2,000 exhibits had been made numerous years.

So, Alfred Partridge's dream of a youth fair dedicated to the talents and interests of all of the youth of Greene County has come true. He worked many years for this project, but he would be the first to acknowledge all of the willing people who worked side-by-side with him. The list is endless.

Today, the fair attracts more than 20,000 people and is one of the only fairs in New York State to offer free admission and entertainment. The Greene County Youth Fair remains a celebration of the talents of local youth, enabling them to strive for higher goals and receive support from family, friends and their community.



Today's Greene County Youth Fair

A priority of the Greene County Agricultural Society has been and always will be to keep admission to the Greene County Youth Fair free for all ages.

Today's Youth Fair offers a wide variety of entertainment, attractions, music, rides, food, vendors, fireworks, firematic and police displays, a talent show, pie eating contest, classic car show and so much more. Of course, the focus of the fair will always be agriculture, but as society – and kid's interests – change, we need to get creative about how we attract them to the fair and ultimately expose them to agriculture.

The 2016 fair, scheduled for July 28-31 at Cairo's Angelo Canna Town Park, will offer a wide variety of entertainment and educational exhibits, including lumberjack demonstrations, magic shows, singing and dancing troubadours, Western horse shows, exotic animals and more.

The Greene County Agricultural Society's

2015 Greene County Youth Fair

Daily Oxen Demos, Pony Rides, Face Painting, Agricultural Exhibits, Police & Fire Booths, Farm Equipment and Much More!

Thursday, July 23

9am Fair Opens
 9:30am Opening Ceremony
 10am Buffalo Barfield
 11am Horsing Around
 11am Magic Matt Episcopo
 12pm Vic & Sticks
 12:30pm Buffalo Barfield
 1pm Dairy Goat Show
 1pm Magic Matt Episcopo
 2pm Vic & Sticks
 3pm Horsing Around
 3pm Buffalo Barfield
 3pm Magic Matt Episcopo
 4-7pm WRIP 97.9 FM
 Broadcasts LIVE
4pm Stewart's Ice Cream Social
 4pm Vic & Sticks
 4:30pm Dog Show
 5pm Horsing Around
 5:30pm Buffalo Barfield
6-9pm Karaoke Craig
 6pm Swine Show
 8pm Buffalo Barfield

Friday, July 24

9am Fair Opens
 9:30am Dairy Show
 10am Buffalo Barfield
 10am Magic Matt Episcopo
 11am Horsing Around
 11am Vic & Sticks
 12pm Magic Matt Episcopo
 12:30pm Buffalo Barfield
 1pm Rabbit Show
 1pm Vic & Sticks
 2pm Magic Matt Episcopo
 3pm Horsing Around
 3pm Buffalo Barfield
 3pm Vic & Sticks
 4pm Magic Matt Episcopo
4-7pm BROOKS BBQ
5-8 pm Classic Car Show
 5pm Beef Show
 5:30pm Buffalo Barfield
6-9pm 90 Proof LIVE
Performing Rockin' Country
 7pm Horsing Around
 8pm Buffalo Barfield

Saturday, July 25

9am Fair Opens
Antique Tractor Pull - ALL DAY
 9am Horse Show
10am Jaws of Life Demo
Presented by Cairo Fire Department
 10:30am Vic & Sticks
 10:30am 4-H Public Presentations
 11am Horsing Around
 11:30am Magic Matt Episcopo
 12:30pm Vic & Sticks
 1pm Pack Goat Show
 1:30pm Magic Matt Episcopo
1pm K9 Demonstration
Presented by Greene County Sheriff's Office
 1:30pm Horsing Around
 1:30pm 4-H Fashion Show
 2:30pm Vic & Sticks
 2pm Meat Goat Show
 3:30pm Magic Matt Episcopo
 3pm Sheep Show
 3:30pm Horsing Around
 4:30pm Vic & Sticks
 5:30pm Buffalo Barfield
6-9pm Wyld Blu LIVE
Performing Blues and Rock n' Roll
Presented by the Nat'l Bank of Coxsackie and Cairo Chamber of Commerce
 6pm Draft Horse Demonstration
 7:30pm Master Showmanship
 8pm Horsing Around
 8pm Buffalo Barfield
9:15pm FIREWORKS

Sunday, July 26

10am Fair Opens
Garden Tractor Pull - ALL DAY
 10am Talent Show
 10am Vic & Sticks
 11am Horsing Around
 11am Magic Matt Episcopo
 12pm Vic & Sticks
 1pm Pie Eating Contest
 1pm Horsing Around
 1pm Magic Matt Episcopo
 2pm Best in Show Awards
 2:30pm Herdsman Awards
 3pm Closing Ceremony
 See you in 2016!



2015 Greene County Youth Fair schedule of events

Today's Greene County Youth Fair



The 2015 Avian Flu Outbreak

In May of 2015, just two months before the Greene County Youth Fair, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets issued an order banning all live fowl competitions at all county fairs in New York. The order was the direct result of the continuing spread of strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Midwest.

The ban covered all breeds of fowl, including chickens, pigeons, turkeys, pheasants, guinea fowl, bantam poultry, geese and ducks.

The ban extends to all chartered county fairs and youth fairs in New York State. There are 45 county fairs and six chartered youth shows for the fair season that runs from June through October.

For Greene County, this meant that a number of young people could not show their live birds at the fair. Generally, youth who show poultry, as opposed to larger livestock, are of a younger age. Not wanting to discourage these younger children from participating, the Agricultural Society made other arrangements so that youth who ordinarily show poultry were able to show faux birds and present educational exhibits on Avian influenza.

Avian influenza outbreaks are not uncommon, but the 2015 outbreak was particularly deadly to birds.

The 2015 outbreak was concentrated in two strains of influenza — H5N2 and H5N8. Influenza has been found on more than 170 farms in 20 states in the West, Midwest, and South and 2 Canadian provinces. More than 35 million birds died or were euthanized as a result of what officials called the largest avian influenza outbreak in U.S. history.

While the strains of avian influenza that circulated in the Midwest were extraordinarily deadly to birds, experts stress that the H5N2 and H5N8 strains are not a threat to humans.

Robert D. Simpson, President of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs said, “I know there will be poultry exhibitors that will be disappointed they will not be able to attend their fair but animal health is always our top priority and we must trust the experts’ effort to insure the safety of all of our exhibitor's birds.”



As per New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, live poultry will be allowed at county and youth fairs for the 2016 season. This decision is subject to change should there be concern over a future flu outbreak.

How is the Fair Funded?

In 2015 the cost to run the fair was \$67,145. This represents all costs associated with the fair, including entertainment, insurance, tents, marketing materials and premiums.

The fair is run completely by volunteers and no one receives a salary or stipend. Funding comes primarily from donations, as well as proceeds from fundraisers and vendor fees.

In addition, the Greene County Legislature allocates funds toward the operation of the fair and has done so at the following levels:

2007 - \$36,993
 2008 - \$32,960
 2009 - \$35,362
 2010 - \$29,498
 2011 - \$26,549
 2012 - \$24,284
 2013 - \$24,284
 2014 - \$24,284
 2015 - \$24,284 + A generous one-time contribution of \$25,000

Budget

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Income				
County Appropriations	\$24,284	\$24,284	\$24,284 *	\$24,284
NYS Ag & Markets	\$6,637	\$6,734	\$9,874	\$8,000
Vendor Fees & Rides	\$11,510	\$11,938	\$10,635	\$12,000
Donations & Fundraisers	\$32,748	\$19,213	\$23,529	\$25,000
TOTAL INCOME:	\$75,180	\$62,169	\$68,286	\$69,284
Expenditures				
General Expenses	\$2,459	\$1,860	\$3,835	\$2,500
Premiums	\$8,880	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Ribbons/Trophies	\$3,228	\$4,160	\$2,340	\$3,000
Insurance	\$3,740	\$3,853	\$4,044	\$4,000
Tent Rentals	\$20,798	\$18,076	\$17,716	\$21,000
Equipment Rentals	\$1,260	<i>(See Livestock Supplies)</i>	<i>(See Livestock Supplies)</i>	<i>(See Livestock Supplies)</i>
Printing/Mailing	\$1,323	\$2,330	\$1,412	\$2,000
Publicity	\$4,069	\$1,943	\$2,769	\$7,000
Livestock Judges	\$1,425	\$1,075	\$1,600	\$1,500
Entertainment	\$25,600	\$28,875	\$16,875	\$20,000
Livestock/Equip. Supplies	\$3,262	\$6,516	\$8,554	\$4,100
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$75,964	\$75,688	\$67,145	\$73,100

Reserve Balance as of April 1, 2016 - \$43,528

**Note: 2015 County Appropriations do not include a one-time contribution of \$25,000, which has been allocated for future investments into the fair.*

The Future of the Greene County Youth Fair

It has been said, quite simply, “If you ate today, thank a farmer.”

Unquestionably, the agricultural industry has changed enormously from the time our nation was founded. Technology, population shifts, nutritional awareness and even social change such as the industrial revolution has played an enormous role in how food is produced today. And it will continue to change.

By 2050 – only 34 short years away – the agricultural sector is going to face enormous challenges in order to feed the 9.6 billion people that the United Nations predicts will inhabit the planet. Feeding this many people will require a food production increase of 70 percent. Who will be the farmers, scientists and agrobusiness leaders working to ensure the world is fed three decades from now? The youth of today.

This means that organizations like the Greene County Agricultural Society need to continue its mission to educate and encourage local children and teens to be involved in agriculture. We are fortunate to have locally involved partners in this mission, such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America. But we must constantly continue to find new, creative and unique ways to attract youth and families – and generate funds to do so.

Going forward, the Agricultural Society recognizes that one of the keys to generating new ideas is to encourage participation from new people. Our meetings are open to the public and we welcome new members.

Any questions may be directed to President Tara Licata at 518-337-6427 or Vice President Andrea Macko at 518-966-4034.

The 2016 fair is July 28-31 at Angelo Canna Town Park in Cairo. See you at the fair!

