



ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR Days

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 August 8, 2015

Tuesday, August 11th - Sunday, August 16th



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Ashtabula County Fair set to begin

Now in its 169th year, fair starts six-day run

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Now in its 169th year, the Ashtabula County Fair is packed with entertainment, food, carnival rides and activities designed to please the young and old during its six-day run, which begins Tuesday.

While the fair is known as a place for the agricultural community to show their goods and talents, there are many more things to enjoy, such as motocross, bull riding, tractor pulls, contests for children and meet-and-greets with country recording artists.

Tuesday and Thursday are Senior Citizens Days, ages 62 and older get in for \$1 all day. Regular admission is \$8, children ages 4 and younger get in free every day. Rides are free with a daily admission ticket, but with any passes or special admission, rides are \$4.

One of the most popular days — Kid's Day — is set for all day Wednesday. Children ages 14 and younger get in free that day and they can buy an all-day ride pass for \$4.

The special events for children include finding pennies



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

THE MIDWAY at the 2014 Ashtabula County Fair is a popular place to be during the historic fair in Jefferson.

in a pile of sawdust, a drawing contest, a pizza-eating contest, bubble gum blowing contest and watermelon eating contest. To top it off, there will be a drawing at 6 p.m. and six children will win new bicycles.

Popular for many, many years, harness racing returns at 11 a.m. Thursday on the oval, half-mile track in front of the grandstand. Race fans can cheer on their favorite, northeast Ohio sulkies.

Come nighttime, the country music fans will be treated to a concert featuring Old Dominion from Nashville,

Tenn. Tickets are \$7 in addition to fair admission.

Friday is Veterans Appreciation Day, when veterans get in for \$1 all day with identification. A special salute to veterans will take place 5 p.m. at the grandstand.

At 7:30 p.m., fairgoers will have the opportunity to see a real rodeo with bull riding and barrel racing. Tickets are \$4 in addition to fair admission.

Saturday features the market animal sale at 1 p.m., as well as a demolition derby at 7:30 p.m.

New this year is a miniature horse pull at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in front of the grandstand. The horses must be a minimum of 32 inches and maximum of 38 inches.

Sunday is a day of truck and tractor pulls, as well as a horse costume contest. Admission to the grandstand to see the tractor and truck shows is only \$2 in addition to the \$8 fair admission.

In addition to all these special contests and events, 4-H'ers and Future Farmers of America will be showing their horses, pigs, sheep,

goats, steers, dairy cows, alpacas and rabbits every day at the fair. Check the schedule for specifics.

Folks who enjoy perusing the poultry will be disappointed that the Ohio Department of Agriculture has canceled all live bird exhibitions at county fairs this year, including the Ashtabula County Fair, to protect the state's \$2.3 billion poultry industry from the avian flu outbreak. That includes the ever-popular rooster crowing contest.

Wild or domesticated fowl can carry and spread the dis-

ease, ODA officials said in a statement. The virus isn't dangerous to humans and fair officials say they will work around the ban with special activities.

Don't forget to stop by the buildings on the east side of the fairgrounds, including the historic Flora Building, to see the canned goods, flowers, honey, crafts, needlepoint, baked goods and vegetables and fruits the locals produced this year. The items are judged Monday night and winners announced Wednesday.

Demolition Derby fans will be happy to hear there are two nights of smash 'em and crash 'em action — Wednesday and Saturday.

This year, more than ever, there are free shows every day in the Barnard Entertainment Center and just outside the Floral Building. Swifty Swine, Barnyard Review, the Flying Pages and Jungle Terry will delight all ages.

Swifty the Clown will be up and down the midway and under the grandstand throughout the week, making his balloon creations for children.

The fair closes at 10 p.m. Sunday.

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ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY AUGUST 11

Sponsor of the Day
Carington Park

Senior Citizens Day
for ages 62 and over
— \$1 admission
to grounds all day

9 a.m.
Flag raising
Junior Fair Saddle
Horse/ Jumping
and Dressage
Dairy Steer Show
Dairy Beef
Feeder Show
Junior Fair
Poultry Show

11 a.m.
Bicycle Decorating
and Races
Junior Fair
Saddle Horse
Flag Ceremony
and Crowning
of Equine Royalty

Noon
Junior Fair
Saddle Horse
Project Judging
Showmanship

1 p.m.
Ashtabula County
Commissioners
meeting
Junior Fair
Dairy Clipping
Contest
Frog Jumping
Contest

2 p.m.
Junior Fair
Sheep Show

2:30 p.m.
Junior Fair
Alpaca and Llama
Show

4 p.m.
Draft Horse
Driving Competition

5:30 p.m.
Royal Court Contest
and Youth Parade

7 p.m.
Motocross
4-H Sewing, Food,
Nutrition and
General Projects
Awards

7:30 p.m.
4-H Style Review

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12

Sponsor of the Day

The Star Beacon

Kid's Day

Children 14 and
younger admitted
free to grounds all
day. All day
ride pass: \$4.

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Kids may
register for bike

drawing at the
tent by Racehorse
Barn No. 14

9 a.m.
Junior Fair
Saddle Horse
Project Judging,
Riding
Draft Horse
Halter Classes
Junior Fair All Dairy
Judging by Breed
Junior Fair
Dairy Showmanship
Avian Bowl

10 a.m.
Find Pennies
in Sawdust
Kids
Drawing Contest
(entries)

12:30 p.m.
Pizza eating contest

1 p.m.

Kids Drawing
Contest (awards)

2 p.m.
Bubble Gum Contest

4 p.m.
Watermelon
Eating Contest

4 p.m.
Junior Fair Swine
Weight Classes
4-H Science,
Technology,
Engineering and
Math projects
demonstrations

6 p.m.
Junior Fair
Rabbit and Cavy
Showmanship
Drawing for
six bicycles

7:30 p.m.
Demolition Derby

THURSDAY AUGUST 13

Sponsor of the Day

Gazette Newspapers
Senior Citizens Day
62 years and
older \$1 admission
to grounds all day

9 a.m.
Junior Fair Saddle
Horse Judging /
Gaming Trail

10 a.m.
Draft Horse Farm
Team Hitch Class
and Log Pull
Junior Fair Goat
Show/Harness and
Pack Goat
Open Class
Beef Show

11 a.m.
Harness Racing

Continued on Page 4



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ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1 p.m.

Junior Fair Beef
Breeding Show

2 p.m.

Water Balloon Toss
Junior Fair
Beef Feeder
Showmanship and
Weight Class

3 p.m.

Extreme Cowboy
Competition

4 p.m.

Junior Fair Beef
Showmanship
Junior Fair Miniature
Horse Show
4-H Natural
Resources Project
Demonstrations

6 p.m.

Junior Fair
Steer Show
Junior Fair Rabbit
and Cavy Show

7 p.m.

Parent/Advisor
Horse Show

8:30 p.m.

Old Dominion
concert

FRIDAY

AUGUST 14

Sponsor of the Day
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Cooling
Veterans
Appreciation Day
Veterans \$1
admission all day
with proper

identification

9 a.m.

Junior Fair Saddle
Horse Pleasure
Show

9:30 a.m.

Dairy Pee Wee
Show

10 a.m.

Dairy
All Breeds
Open Class Show

1 p.m.

Small animal
costume contest

3 p.m.

Junior Fair Swine
Showmanship
Hog Pee Wee Show

4 p.m.

4-H Creative/Leisure
Arts, Clothing

and Foods Project
Demonstrations

4:30 p.m.

Draft Horse Hitch
Class #1-10

5 p.m.

Salute to Veterans
910th Airlift Wing
Honor Guard

7:30 p.m.

A-Bar Rodeo
Bull Riding and
Barrel Racing

SATURDAY

AUGUST 15

Sponsor of the Day
Milano Monuments
in Geneva

9 a.m.

Junior Fair Saddle
Fun Horse/Gaming
Show

Pie and Baking
Contest Entries

10 a.m.

Open Class
Goat Show

11 a.m.

Pie and Baking
Contest Auction
Draft Horse Pull

1 p.m.

Market Livestock
Sale

2 p.m.

Basketball
Free-Throw
Contest

2:30 p.m.

Mini Horse Pull

4 p.m.

Junior Fair
Dog Awards

4:30 p.m.

Draft Horse Hitch
Classes # 11-20

6:30 p.m.

Power Wheels

Derby

7:30 p.m.

Demolition Derby

SUNDAY

AUGUST 16

Sponsor of the Day
Ashtabula County
Nursing and Rehab
Center

10 a.m.

Truck Show

11 a.m.

Stock Tractor/Stock
4x4 Pull
MAC Awards

Noon

Junior Fair Saddle
Horse Awards
Ceremony
Agriculture
Adventure
Scavenger Hunt

1 p.m.

Buckeye State
Sanctioned Pedal
Tractor Pullers
Registration

2 p.m.

Garden Tractor Pull
Buckeye State
Sanctioned Pedal
Tractor Pull
Junior Fair Super
Showman Contest
Junior Fair Horse
Costume Contest

3 p.m.

Cloverbud Stick
Horse Show

6 p.m.

Modified
Tractor/4x4's,
Super Stock 4x4's
and Semi Pulls

10 p.m.

Fair Closes



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A FIRE AT THE DEMO DERBY, PONY RIDES, ROMANCE AND GOOD MUSIC

*Readers
share their
favorite fair
memories*

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com



SHELLEY TERRY / Star Beacon

MICHELLE REDMON ALLEGA holds a photo of the car she drove in 1998 in the Ashtabula County Fair's Demolition Derby. Allega's car caught on fire, but she still managed to win the heat and create fond memories.

Michele Redmon Allega smiles as she recalls driving a Lincoln Town Car in the demolition derby at the Ashtabula County Fair.

The year was 1998 and she was behind the wheel of No. 408, a red-and-white, full-size luxury sedan that wasn't so luxurious any more.

"I was the only woman and I had the best looking car," said the 46-year-old Lenox Township resident. "It's something I wanted to do my whole life — so I did it four times."

This year's fair boasts two nights of crash 'em- smash 'em thrills for Demolition Derby fans, but Megan Allega Justice, 22, of Jefferson, remembers her mother's derby debut in 1998, when her car caught on fire.

"The fire was at her feet; she was stomping her feet trying to stomp out the fire," Justice said. "My uncle Mike jumped over people (in the grandstand) to get down to the track. ... My dad was yelling for them to stop the derby. It was pretty cool."

Despite a hot time, Allega won the heat, which allowed her to compete in the feature. She didn't win, but she treasures the memory.

In addition to her mother's derby days, Justice smiles when she thinks about riding the Roll'n B Pony Rides with her father walking beside her. "It was fun when Dad came

to the fair," she said.

Those pony rides sparked a love for riding horses, and

when Justice was a teenager, she showed her horse,

See **SHARES**, Page 6

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Shares

From Page 5

Dakota, at the fair. Justice took home second prize.

When it comes to the county fair, music is on Middlefield resident Lois Turner's mind.

The 45-year-old loved watching Boxcar Willie perform "way back in the day," she said. "I also liked it when we did a parade with our draft horses."

Turner's mother, the late Sue Strang Fink, showed draft horses at the fair.

"I loved that," she said. "I miss my mom so much."

Jefferson native Michael Hawkins, 62, fondly remembers the day he got \$1 to spend on the first day of the fair. Hawkins, who now lives in Conneaut, said that was a lot of money for a kid in 1963.

Sue Mizer, 62, of Roaming Shores, recalls "meeting up with friends that we haven't seen since the last day of school."

Mizer chuckles, then adds: "Of course, that was a long, long time ago when I could eat and ride the rides that spun around."

Dean Dumperth, 58, of Jefferson laughs when he talks about his favorite memory — a joke played on him over the public address system.

"They called my name and said, 'You're wanted in the pig barn,'" he said.

Riding the carnival rides always was a thrill for Joyann Lytle Alicea, 58, of Ashtabula.

"I remember trying to beat our record of getting that swinging cage over," she said.

Alicea also fondly remembers her late father taking her to the fair.

Jefferson resident Jodi

Childs Takacs, 56, remembers her parents taking her to the Jefferson Grange to eat dinner.

Lenox Township native, Harry Carter, 58, said his favorite memory of the fair goes back to the 1960s, when he and his older sister, Betsy, nagged their mother to take them to the fair one more time.

"We had probably gone several times already, but we wanted to go again," he said. "Mom didn't want to go and said we could go if (her mother-in-law) our grandmother went too, thinking it was a safe bet Granny wouldn't want to go."

Carter said his grandmother quickly figured out that if she went, it would spite her daughter-in-law.

"So, of course, Granny wanted to go," he said. "As I recall, we all ended up having a good time."

Jefferson native Laura Talcott Grippi, 38, points out that a favorite fair memory doesn't have to be from 50 years ago. She treasures last year's fair, when she and her brothers, Errol and Pat, all took their children to the fair



Submitted photo

MEGAN ALLEGA Justice shows her horse at the Ashtabula County Fair.

together.

She also recalled a fair-week-long crush on a boy from Andover and when she and Kirsten Fulwiler Boczar wanted to see how many times they could flip upside down in a row on the rides.

"So much fun," she said.

Pierpont resident, Josh Woodard, 27, said his favorite memory is being crowned

fair king in 2006 and meeting new friends in 4-H.

"I also got to bond with my dad while being involved in 4-H," he said.

Bethany Kolman, 26, of Geneva, always looks forward to the seeing the horse shows, touring the animal barns and eating funnel cakes. This year, she will share the fun with

her 7-month-old daughter, Kyndra.

Lindsey Covell, 24, of Jefferson, said she met her fiancé at the cow barn.

"That has to be my favorite memory of the fair, but I look forward to the fresh strawberry milkshakes, the steer show and the truck pulls," she said. "In no particular order."

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Market Animal Sale



2014

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169th Anniversary

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Animal Sale**

ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE



ORDER OF SALE:

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MARKET RABBITS, MARKET GOATS,
MARKET TURKEYS, HOGS, DAIRY BEEF
FEEDERS, STEERS, DAIRY STEERS,
BEEF FEEDERS AND LAMBS. CARCASS
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169th Anniversary

ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE

Market
Animal Sale



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Beef Feeders
Mackenzie Katnik
Buyer - Katnik Farms

RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
& BEST OF SHOW
Beef Feeders
Brandon Teter
Buyer - Katnik Farms

BEST OF SHOW



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Beef Feeders
Austin Schilling
Buyer - Joe Katnik

RESERVE BEST OF SHOW



BEST OF SHOW
Beef Carcass
Lucas Steen
Buyer - Kim & Nancy Molnar

CARCASS



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Beef Carcass
Jimmy Kunka
Buyer - Valley Feed Mill



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Dairy Steers
Sydney Millard
Buyer - Andover Bank



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &
BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Steers
Nicole Mann
Buyer - Pat Holden



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Steers
Deanna Comp
Buyer - Law Office of Katherine Riedel



GRAND CHAMPION &
BEST OF SHOW
Market Steers
Avery March
Buyer - Lisko Amusements



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &
RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Steers
Cody Kanicki
Buyer - Mike Ellsworth Construction



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Dairy Beef Feeders
Alison Graves
Buyer - Colebrook Elevator



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &
RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Beef Feeders
Jessica Krulic
Buyer - Bortnick Tractor Sales



BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Beef Feeders
Katie Stakes
Buyer - Buckeye Builders



BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Beef Carcass
Jake Holden
Buyer - Walter & Michal Barnes



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Beef Carcass
Deanna Comp
Buyer - Snyder's Collision Center



BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Cow Cheese Basket
Teresa Polchin
Buyer - Shady Springs Farms



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &
RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Ducks
Alexa Lambert
Buyer - Carl R. Gruey



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &
BEST OF SHOW
Market Ducks
Analese Marrison
Buyer - Marrison Old Tractors



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
& RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Meat Rabbits
Rebecca Dillon
Buyer - Lynn Gruber



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Meat Rabbits
Aubry Baker
Buyer - REO Trucking



BEST OF SHOW
Meat Rabbits
Tyler Bouck
Buyer - Amjet Corp



169th Anniversary

ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE

Market
Animal Sale



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR

RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR

BEST OF SHOW

RESERVE BEST OF SHOW

CARCASS



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Market Hogs
Taylor Edelman
Buyer - Thorn's Bilo Supermarket



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Market Hogs
Chris Fuddy
Buyer - Jeff & Marsh Horne



BEST OF SHOW
Market Hogs
Matthew Mazzaro
Buyer - Mike Ellsworth Construction



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Hogs
Madisyn Gabriel
Buyer - Ashtabula County Farm Bureau
Ashtabula County Soil & Water Dist.



BEST OF SHOW
Hog Carcass
Tyler Ellsworth
Buyer - JD's Pit Stop



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Hog Carcass
Cassady Kingdom
Buyer - Art Gruskiewicz



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Market Turkeys
Lindsey Varquette
Buyer - Ashtabula County Recorder



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Market Turkeys
Stuart Struna
Buyer - Marianne Sezon & Richard Dana



BEST OF SHOW
Market Turkeys
Mason Hane
Buyer - Cunningham Farm Drainage



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Turkeys
Logan Giddings
Buyer - Bill and Donna Stone



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW
Market Goats
Joel Michelson
Buyer - Mike & Bobbie Tramte II



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Market Goats
Elisha Michelson
Buyer - Johnson's Farm



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Goats
Garhett Smith
Buyer - George Smith



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW
Market Chickens
Logan Platt
Buyer - Lachey Snowplowing & Trucking



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW
Market Chickens
Michael Miller
Buyer - BP Enterprise



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW
Market Lamb
John Jackam
Buyer - Madison Electric



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Market Lamb
Mason Taylor
Buyer - Allega Companies



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Lamb
Daniel Jackam
Buyer - Oink Moo Cluck Farms LLC



BEST OF SHOW
Lamb Carcass
Cora Riggelman
Buyer - Ashtabula County Farm Bureau &
Ashtabula County Soil & Water



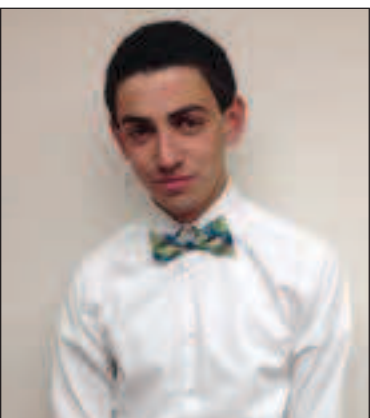
RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Lamb Carcass
Stacey Lute
Buyer - Cope Farm Equipment



BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Goat Cheese Basket
Michaela Darby
Buyer - James H. Brown

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Pierpont Mix-n-Match
PACS 4-H Club
Bart and Kelly Kanicki



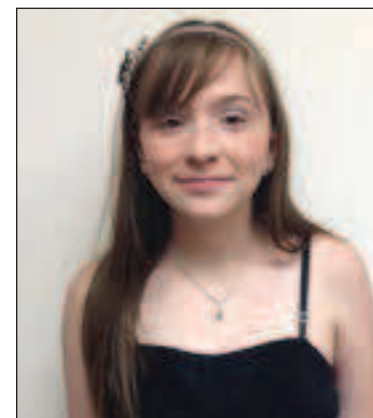
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Bits-n-tales, Milkshakes, FFA
John and Patty Semai



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Dusty Riders 4-H Club
Kyle and Elaine Barnum



RACHEL CARCELL
Age: 16 Geneva
Saybrook Raiders
Tony and Karen Carcell



ALEXANDRA DALTON
Age: 16 Andover
Milkshakes
Russell and Jennifer Dalton



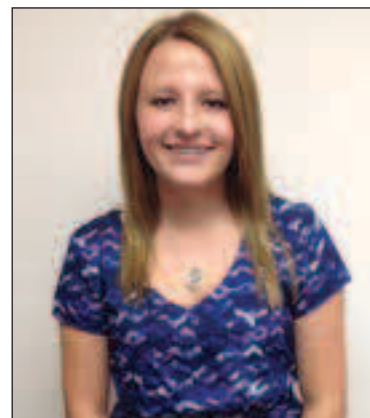
HOLLIE DALTON
Age: 15 Ashtabula
Barns and Buttons 4-H Club
Mark and Bobbi Dalton



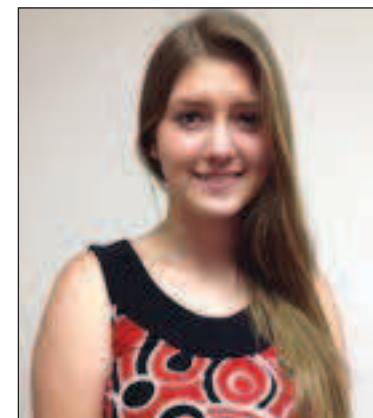
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Barns and Buttons 4-H Club
John and Ann Marie Darby



AMBER FREDRICK
Age: 15 Williamsfield
Pymatuning Valley FFA
Keith and Laurie Frederick



ALEXIS MEANEY
Age: 15 Jefferson
Runnin' Free 4-H Club
Bradley and Angela Meaney



NATASHA SOBIE
Age: 16 Hartsgrove, Ohio
Dusty Riders 4-H club
Frank and Nancy Sobie



ALEXIS STEIN
Age: 16 Ashtabula
Barns and Buttons,
Sheffield Target Masters
Daniel and Kimberly Stein



COURTNEY TAYLOR
Age: 17 Jefferson
Peanut Gallery,
Jelly Beans and Jumpers
Kathleen and Michael Taylor



KORTNEY SQUIBBS
Age: 18 Orwell
Hoppin' Hoofers 4-H Club
Barbara and Duane Squibbs



TAYLOR WARD
Age: 16 Geneva
Prime Bovine 4-H Club
Rebecca Wortman

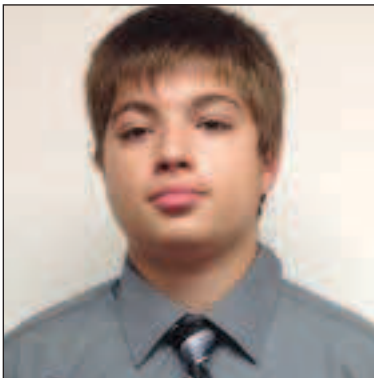
PRINCE CANDIDATE



JAKE BUTLER
Age: 14 Jefferson
Denmark Pioneers
Jim and Seanna Butler

ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR 2015 ROYAL COURT CANDIDATES

PRINCE CANDIDATE



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Saybrook Raiders and the
Peanut Gallery 4-H Clubs
Princess and Richard Tart Jr.

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Little Rebels 4-H Club



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KATELYN CHRISTO

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Denmark Pioneers
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Tom Christo Sr.



ELIZABETH DALY

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Jelly Beans and Jumpers and
Girl Scout Troop 848
Heather Burlingame



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Barns and Buttons 4-H Club
John and Ann Marie Darby



GINA HILL

Age: 14 Jefferson
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Joe and Theda Hill



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Age: 14 Ashtabula
Zoo Crew 4-H Club
Doug and Sharon Jones



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Age: 14 Orwell
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SHARON MILLARD

Age: 13 Pierpont
Country Bumpkin 4-H Club
Robert and Annette Millard



CORA RIGGELMAN

Age: 12 Jefferson
Little Rebels 4-H Club
Will and Cheryl Riggelman



SHELBY SCHWOTZER

Age: 13 Kingsville
Sheffield Target Masters
Rebecca and Ryan Schwotzer



DANIYELE SHREVE

Age: 14 Orwell,
Rhythm Riders
Paul and Dawn Shreve



SHEILYN WAGNER

Age: 12 Jefferson
Denmark Pioneers
Cathie Van Cise, Bill Wagner



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

AVERY MARCH (right) of Plymouth Township shows his 1,400 pound steer during the 2014 Ashtabula County Market Animal Show in Jefferson. He won the grand champion and best of show awards.

Market animal sale helps youth

By **WARREN DILLAWAY**
Staff Writer

warren@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The culmination of months and months of work will occur Aug. 15 with the Ashtabula County Fair Market Animal Sale.

“Last year, we had 305 projects go through the sale and I expect it will be the same this year,” said Ashtabula County Extension Office 4-H Education Coordinator Jenna Hoyt.

Hoyt said the sale is important to many of the participants who work all

year long and learn whether they will make a profit or not.

“For many (students) it is seed money for college or post secondary education,” she said.

Other students buy their first car or other major purchases with the proceeds from the sale of their animal after working for months and months feeding, grooming and preparing the animals to show, Hoyt said.

With nation-wide concern about disease and a federal mandate prohibiting commingling of birds, no poultry projects will be on site at the fair.

All turkey projects will be slaughtered Aug. 3 and participants will be allowed to show pictures of their entries and sell them during the sale, Hoyt said. They will be made available for pick-up. Chicken and duck projects will not be sold this year.

Hoyt said the pig entries are sky high this year.

“I think the cost of beef was way up so a lot of families had trouble paying \$8 a pound for a beef project, so they decided to raise pigs,” she said.

The sale begins at 1 p.m. Saturday and usually continues until 9 p.m., Hoyt said.

Last year, 189 different buyers purchased projects with a record total of \$306,000 in sales.

Officials that coordinate the market animal sale have been meeting once per month, and sub-committees are meeting regularly as well, Hoyt said. Deb Platt, is the sales manager; Rob Jackam, office sales manager and Bart Kanicki is the overall market animal coordinator.

The auctioneers are being coordinated as well, Hoyt said.

“I think we are looking at four or five,” she said.

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SHELLEY TERRY / Star Beacon

KELDEN MARTINEZ, 4, gets a toad in his face in the midst of hunting for a big frog for the Ashtabula County Fair's frog jump.

Fair Board looking for large leapers for frog jump

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
StaffWriter
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — When Mark Twain wrote, “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” in 1865, he probably didn’t think the story would jump start a popular contest at the Ashtabula County Fair.

This year, like many of those in the past, \$5 will be paid to the participant whose frog jumps the farthest, beginning at 1 p.m. Tuesday in front of the grandstand. Second place will be awarded \$3, third place receives \$2, and 50-cents will be awarded each contestant who enters the contest.

Contestants must be 18 years old or younger, according to the fair board’s rules.

Delaney and Kyre Martinez of Greene County always bring two “whoppers” to the fair, providing thrills and chills for the large crowd, said their grandmother, Lynne Morrow, of Wayne Township, a big fan of frog jumping.

Delaney, who’s now 6, and Kyre, 7, are readying for this year’s contest.

“This year, they have been catching small frogs in the ditch by their house and transferring them to my pond, also known as the Ninja Pond, so they can grow to be competitors at the fair,” Morrow

said. “(Their little brother) Kelden thinks toads and frogs are one of the same so a few toads have made it to the ‘Ninja Pond.’”

This summer’s heavy rains have attracted hundreds of frogs to their pond, she said.

“We have had the amphibians on a special diet and exercise program to achieve maximum jumping,” she said. “Let the contest begin.”

Honorary Fair Board member Everett Helfer served as master of ceremonies for the frog jump for many, many years.

He recommends transporting frogs in a “suitable container,” such as a bucket with wet grass and a little water, until jumping time.

“If they get too hot, they

don’t jump,” Helfer said. “Keep them wet and cool.”

Frogs will start their jumps from a designated starting spot and be judged for the total distance covered in three consecutive jumps, according to the fair board’s rules.

Decisions of the judge will be final.

If a frog is particularly stubborn, owners may nudge it to start its first jump. The owner may not touch the frog at any time thereafter until jumping is completed.

Warning: Any frog found to have been artificially stimulated will be disqualified.

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11 a.m., at the grandstand

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Registration at 2 p.m.

6 p.m., at the grandstand: Modified Tractor and 4x4s, Super Stock 4x4s and Semi-Truck Pulls:

\$2 admission to grandstand, race track and pit area

Smoke, spinning wheels and dirt — time for the tractor pull

By **JUSTIN DENNIS**

Staff Writer

jdennis@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Start your souped-up engines — the Sunday climax of the Ashtabula County Fair promises to pack loads of horsepower in one arena.

Organizers said not much has changed since previous years' tractor and semi-truck pulls, happening Aug. 16 at the grandstand. But, if it ain't broke, don't fix it — unless you're referring to a competing truck's blown transmission.

"You'll see a lot of smoke, a lot of wheels spinning and a lot of dirt," said pull show superintendent Bob

Spellman.

He said his committee starts preparing for each year's 4x4 pull shows around November the previous year, signing contracts in early winter with the traveling torque club Northwestern Pennsylvania Truck and Tractor Pullers.

"In the morning, it's all local stuff — farm tractors, local boys — and the afternoon is when they bring in the high-powered stuff," Spellman said. "They come from Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia. Some might even be around Indiana — who knows who's going to be there."

Year to year, the afternoon and evening pulls pack the



BEN MILLER of Wayne Township competes in a past tractor pull at the Ashtabula County Fair.

grandstand seats, he said.

The feat is the same: get some traction, rev up and pull a semi frame-mounted weight transfer sled as far as possible before the truck gives up. More weight is added to the sled as the show climbs up the weight classes, culminating in the heavy hitters during the main event at 6 p.m. at the grandstand.

"If you get into high-powered pulling stuff, (pullers)

spend a lot of money and a lot of time building horsepower, torque, putting transmissions and axles together in ratios so, hopefully, it will do what they want it to do without it breaking," Spellman said.

"Sometimes, if they get a break, they have a chance to come back and redo it," he said. "Nine times out of 10, that doesn't happen — once you break, you break, and you're done."

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No birds — no problem at the Ashtabula County Fair

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — On any other year, the Ashtabula County Fair would be filled with more than 100 poultry exhibits. Unfortunately, the Ohio Department of Agriculture restrictions tied to an outbreak of avian influenza canceled this year's bird shows.

But that doesn't mean chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys won't get any attention.

Fair officials are planning a photo contest, where 4-H youth can show off their project with a picture, and an Avian Bowl Quiz Challenge, where youth will be invited to form teams and compete against each other on their knowledge of the avian 4-H projects, said Jenna Hoyt, the Ohio State University 4-H education specialist in Ashtabula County.

The photos will be displayed in the poultry barn and fair-goers will have the



Submitted Photo

CASEY HALL, 18, of Lenox Township, holds her poultry project, a mottled Belgian Bearded d'Uccle Bantam named Oreo. She's a member of the Hoppin Hoofers 4-H Club.

opportunity to vote for their favorite and awards will be given out.

In the Avian Bowl, participants will be divided into

age groups and compete at 9 a.m. Wednesday in the MAC Arena. The public is urged to attend and cheer on their favorite team.

Hoyt said she's excited about the new opportunities and events for the 4-H youth this year.

In a statement, she said agricultural and food animal production involves both rewards and risks. Weather and disease are factors that can, and do, negatively affect production.

"Avian influenza is one such disease," she said.

The fair board and OSU Extension Office officials know the ban is an important precautionary measure to help protect Ohio's sizable poultry production industry, as well as the many backyard flocks, she said.

Hoyt said she wants to turn this situation into a positive learning experience.

"Part of the overall 4-H experience is providing positive and supportive environments and experiences in which youth learn from the thrill of success," she said. "Equally important, youth members also learn to cope with the sting of disappointment."

Legendary announcer will be behind the microphone Friday calling the harness races

JEFFERSON — The iconic voice of horse race caller Roger Huston will delight harness racing fans Friday at the Ashtabula County Fair.

Huston, 72, has called more than 167,000 races in his announcing career. If you ask how the fair board got him to add the fair to his already packed schedule, the answer may surprise you.

"I called and asked him and he said he would like to do it," said Sue Stockwell, fair board member, who knows Huston through the harness racing circuit. "He's world renown and it's an honor to have him."

Huston will call 15 to 17 races Friday — much

more than usual — because there are a lot of two-year-old horses ready to race this year, Stockwell said.

A Xenia, Ohio native, Huston went to college to be a teacher, but a love of statistics led to his career in announcing, according to his Facebook page.

Stockwell called Huston "amazing" and marvels at his record-keeping skills.

He started announcing in 1960 at five Ohio county fairs and today he has called races at 128 tracks, including Northfield Park, and eight foreign countries.

Huston, who could not be reached for comment, makes his home in Canonsburg, Pa.

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Submitted photos

SAYBROOK RAIDERS 4-H Club is celebrating 30 years.

Saybrook Raiders celebrates 30 years

SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP
— The Saybrook Raiders 4-H Club, established in 1985 by Gerald and Pat Colucci of Saybrook Township, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

In the beginning, members raised rabbits, but it soon grew into a club where members took on a variety of small animal projects.

After the Colucci's left the club, Marcella Piper began helping her son, G. Joseph. Piper's daughter, Brandy Hanusosky, was a charter member of the club and became an advisor in 1994, along with her father,

Richard.

Today, the club boasts eight advisors and 34 members, including 10 Cloverbuds (ages 5 to 8). Two of advisors, Princess Taft and Wendy Maunus, were once members of the club themselves, and now they're passing down the tradition to their children.

The other advisors are Stephanie Marous, Laura Koeth and Becky Hooper.

The members are active in several community service projects and have been an Honor Club for several years.

"Our 4-H members invite

you to visit their club booth and look for their projects at the fair," Hanusosky said. "We meet year-round to help the kids prepare their projects for judging and to show at the fair."

Meetings are at the Harbor Topky Library in the Ashtabula Harbor in the fall and winter and at the Saybrook Grange Hall during the summer.

Children ages 5 to 19 are welcome to join the Saybrook Raiders or the Cloverbud 4-H program. Call advisor Marcella Piper at 812-0986 for additional information.



NO OUTLINE SUPPLIED

Rock Creek resident shows her love of the fair with decorations

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

ROCK CREEK — Evelyn Bluhm of Rock Creek, always decorates her yard for the holidays, local festivals and fairs.

With the Ashtabula County Fair right around the corner, she's decorating her front yard with animals, vegetables, flowers and popcorn boxes.

Bridge repairs have stopped traffic from going by her house this year, but it hasn't stopped her from

decorating.

"It's cute. She's a crafty one," said her daughter, Laura Thompson, who's also from Rock Creek.

Thompson said Bluhm always goes to the fair.

"She had us kids in 4-H when we were young," she said. "She especially loves contests."

One year, Bluhm entered her rooster in the crowing contest but he didn't crow one time until she took him back home.

"Then he wouldn't stop crowing," Thompson said.

Bluhm faithfully takes her

children and grandchildren on Kid's Day and enters them in the contests, such as bubble gum blowing and finding pennies in the sawdust.

Reveling in the competition, she enters vegetables and flowers from her gardens.

"Mom really loves the fair and wonders why so few locals participate in all the contests and activities," Bluhm said. "I tell you, she's a big kid at heart. I love my mom. She's a gem."





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Log cabin celebrating 100th anniversary

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — A celebration of the Ashtabula County Fair log cabin's 100th anniversary will be Aug. 16.

The log cabin was built in 1915 from logs donated by county residents in memory of local pioneers who were born in a log cabin. Labor was provided by the fair board. The stone forming the base of the fireplace came from area farms.

At the fair 100 years ago, more than 12,000 people

attended the log cabin's dedication.

E.L. Lampson of Jefferson spoke to the crowd, citing early historical anecdotes, according to the 2015 fair book.

M.A. Austin, president of the fair board, said the log cabin belonged to the people of Ashtabula County and that it should be used to store and preserve historical articles and records of the early settlers.

Everett Helfer, honorary fair board director, has worked for several years to fulfill that mission. Visitors will find several historical

records, documents and antique items inside the cabin this year.

Commemorative pins and ceramic cups will be available for purchase.

Ashtabula resident, John W. King, who portrays Abraham Lincoln, will stop by the cabin throughout fair week and give a brief history of Lincoln's life from the log cabin to the White House.

A retired teacher, King educates and entertains his audience, bringing Lincoln to life for students, historical groups, churches and clubs, Helfer said.



SHELLEY TERRY / Star Beacon

THE LOG CABIN at the Ashtabula County Fair is celebrating 100 years.



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Photo Credit: DAVID MCCLISTER

OLD DOMINION, a country rock band from Nashville, will delight fans Thursday night at the Ashtabula County Fair.

Old Dominion scheduled to rock Thursday night

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Old Dominion, a country rock band from Nashville,

will be performing at the Ashtabula County Fair on Thursday night.

Band members are lead singer Matthew Ramsey, Trevor Rosen on bass guitar and keyboard, Whit Sellers on drums, Geoff Sprung on bass, and Brad Tursi on lead guitar. Their hit songs include “Shut Me Up” and “Break up with Him.”

They have “played all over Ohio” this summer with country artist Kenny Chesney’s The Big Revival Tour, but Ramsey said he doesn’t believe they’ve been as far north as Ashtabula County. He’s looking forward to coming to the fair.

“The (Chesney tour) is great; it’s a blast, but fairs are always fun, lots of people and we play a longer set,” Ramsey said during a recent phone interview. “It’s a good value for people and a good way for us to get our songs out.”

The five 30-something members of Old Dominion started their careers writing songs for Keith Urban, Jake Owen, Luke Bryan and The Band Perry, and opening for Trace Adkins, Brett Eldridge and Jake Owen. Their sound blends country lyrics and rock instrumentation.

“We’ve been writing songs and performing for a long time,” Ramsey said.

“Only recently have we gotten this much attention as a band.”

Fans taking notice of the group is the direct result of their hit single, “Break up with Him,” written by all five band members on a cross-country bus trip. They also came up with an idea for the video based on the movie, “Back to the Future.”

“It’s a spoof,” he said. “We all loved the movie and it seemed right.”

Last spring, “Break Up With Him” was No. 1 for six weeks on SiriusXM’s “The Highway.”

“We can feel our fan base grow at every show,” Ramsey said. “We are

having fun trying out some new material on them.”

The band, named after four out of five members’ home state of Virginia, has since played at sold-out shows in Chicago and New York.

“One by one we moved (from Virginia) to Nashville to pursue song writing,” he said. “Then we met Trevor (Rosen) and our songs got more attention.”

Check out Old Dominion when the band performs in front of the grandstand at 8:30 p.m. Thursday. Seating will be first come, first serve. Tickets are \$7 per person and are on sale at the fair secretary’s office under the grandstand.

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• The Spider and the Tilt-A-Whirl were “wild” rides.

• Pete the 10-foot-tall clown entertained children with balloon animals.

• In the early 1960s, when the price to ride a ride was 10-cents?

• You packed a picnic lunch to take to the fairgrounds?

• Dustin Fay’s rooster, Bugle Beak, won the rooster crowing contest. Fay hailed from Jefferson.

• Someone painted the goats orange?

• Agricultural Agent Lanny Anderson was every 4-H’ers idea of a great adult? Whether at the fair or Camp Whitewood, he was always a fun role model.

• Kitty Tobie of Lenox Township manned the



SHELLEY TERRY

east-end ticket booth.

• The Kolehmainen family of Jefferson ran the west-end ticket booth.

• Square dances took place in the show barn.

• Little Jimmy Dickens performed?

• When they had ladies mud wrestling?

• When men competed in feats of strength?

• When the arcade featured pin ball machines?

• Nadine Moroski worked a bake sale 60 years ago at the fair to help Happy Hearts School.

• The late Lester Marrison was a beloved 4-H advisor.

• The Robinson Family put on a free concert.

• Motorcycle builder Jesse James, of West Coast Choppers, appeared at the fair to promote his clothing line.

• A pig escaped from one unlucky 4-H’er and ran down the midway.

• Showing animals, rid-

ing rides and staying up late every night? It took you two days to recuperate from the fair!

• 4-H’ers had to parade their steers in front of the grandstand?

• The fair wasn’t the fair without a snow cone and cotton candy.

• The Psychedelic Shack? It smelled like incense and featured loud acid-rock music, black lighting, glow in the dark peace signs and strobe lights.

• When you could pay a 25-cents to see a side show featuring a beard-

ed lady? A two-headed turtle? A headless chicken? A “real” Egyptian mummy?

• Gas to drive to the fair cost 25 cents a gallon.

Gee, if we could only go back to the “good old days.”

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Ashtabula County Fair offers something for everyone

By **DAVE DeLUCA**

Staff Writer

ddeluca@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Ashtabula County Fair rolls out the red carpet for many groups during its six-day run.

The magic of the fair is for the young and the young at heart, so on Tuesday and Thursday, area senior citizens have a chance to enjoy the fair at a cost of \$1 each day, said Kathy Murray of the Ashtabula County Fair Board Office in Jefferson.

Murray said some senior citizen groups enter some of the fair competitions as a group.

Transportation to the fair is not organized by the fair,

though some senior centers might provide transportation.

• Kid's Day at the Ashtabula County Fair is on Wednesday this year.

Children 14 and under get free admission to the grounds all day, and there's plenty for them to do. Kids can get an all day ride pass for \$4.

Regular events take place on Kids' Day, but each one has a youth-oriented twist.

There's a find pennies in the sawdust contest at Expo Center at 10 a.m. Also from 10-11 a.m. there's a kids' drawing contest, followed by a pizza eating contest at 12:30 p.m. and awards for the drawing contest at 1 p.m.

At 2 p.m. there's a bubble

gum contest at Barnard Entertainment Center, and at 4 p.m. there's a watermelon eating contest at the Grandstand.

Also at 6 p.m. there's a drawing for six bicycles at the Barnard Entertainment Center. Kids can register for the bike drawing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the tent by Racehorse Barn No. 14.

More kids' entertainment is in the offing for Wednesday, as Swifty the Clown strolls the midway the entire day. Jungle Terry will be doing three of his famous wild animal shows at the Barnard Entertainment Center.

The Flying Pages will be doing three shows by the Floral Building. Swifty Swine will be doing three shows on the Back Midway and there will be three shows there from the Barnyard Review. With characters in animal costumes, this is one of the most popular shows with children.

• Military veterans will receive special recognition on the ground and in the air during Thursday's Veterans Appreciation Day activities.

All veterans who provide discharge papers or a Veterans Administration identification card or veterans organization membership card will receive \$1 admission to the fair.

Also, a fly-over featuring vintage aircraft, part of a salute to veterans, will be 5 p.m. at the grandstand.

A veterans' booth can be found in the commercial building.



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ASHTABULA COUNTY Fair participants Abigail Butcher, 9, of Madison (left) and Camdyn Whinnie, 8, Geneva, pose with their mini horses.



FAIR PARTICIPANT Lydia Randolph, 13, drives with her father.

Horse fun goes beyond the stables at fair

By **PAULA KELLY**
For the Star Beacon

JEFFERSON — For any horse lover, the Ashtabula County Fair is the place to be next week.

During the fair, there are many different horses on display and horse events for 4-H'ers, including miniature horses, the horse shows and equine royalty, to name a few.

This year 22 miniature horses, often referred to, as "minis" will be coming to the fair. For any young horse lover, miniature horses are the way to go because they serve as a huge confidence builder for small children, said Bernie Kranauer, president of Ashtabula Saddle Horse

Committee.

"They're not so afraid or intimidated by that big horse standing next to them," she said.

Miniature horses are between 34-38 inches. Some events featuring minis include showmanship, obstacle courses and a costume class where the children get to dress themselves and their horse in matching costumes. This year a miniature donkey named "Shrek" will also be on display.

The horse show is open to riders' ages 8-18, as long as they're enrolled in a 4-H club.

During the show, the riders compete and are judged in a knowledge competition as well as a riding competition. Every year when

they're actually judged in their class there's a whole rulebook of different things they must learn and follow, said Audrey Felicijan, Ashtabula Saddle Horse Committee vice president. "It's not just accomplished the day of the fair, that's practiced all summer long," she said.

Judges pick one top rider from each of six different age groups.

Equine royalty is a four-part contest to choose the best young woman or man to represent horses and what 4-H stands for.

During this competition, the participants have to write an essay, ride or show their horse, take a written test and interview with three judges not associated

with their horse group. The winner of the combined score from all the sections is crowned and represents horses and 4-H for the year. This year there are 15 contestants with a junior and senior crowned equine royalty, and they'll take part in parades and events throughout the year.

Horse kids as well as mini kids have to keep record books detailing when their horses have to get shots, how much hay they eat and how much money is spent on their horse. Officials say this way the 4-H'ers really know how much time and money goes into this project — it's not just a summer hobby it's an all-year round lifestyle.

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