

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER, INC

NEWSLETTER

“Sew it, Grow it, Show it”

August 10-18, 2012

September 2011

2011 Fair Report

With approximately 220,000 patrons in attendance, the 63rd Annual Fair was a great success with wonderful, “Udderly Terrific” memories for all who participated. The Ag Education Committee organized a group of 20 volunteers to present barn tours for more than 150 patrons during the Fair. Instruction was provided in both English and Spanish and offered a great opportunity to teach Fairgoers about farm animals and the role of agriculture in our daily lives.

‘The Fair’s Got Talent’ competition blew audiences away with amazing displays of entertainment. Get ready now for the 2012 competition which will be – ‘Fair Idol.’ The brand new Lawnmower Racing competition brought opening night to a speedy triumph with many fast racers, but that wasn’t the only excitement for our Grandstand. The crowd went wild for the first ever back flip done by a Monster Truck in the state of Maryland, and a double night of the Demolition Derby brought some smashing good times!

The Birthing Center was graced with 3 newborn calves and Old MacDonald’s Barn had a baby camel on display for the first time ever at our fair! The Alice in Wonderland stage performance was a huge hit in the Kid Zone, along with the themed games.

Congratulations to Michael Buscemi and Kelsey Watkins for being crowned Fair King & Queen this year!

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the Fair such a spectacular event and a great success.

Strategic Planning

The long range strategic planning process

regarding the Fairgrounds property has progressed substantially since this time last year. Our committee has finalized the paperwork and submitted it to the City of Gaithersburg to request Mixed Use Development (MXD) zoning for our 62 acres of land. It is important to note that a change in zoning will not affect the way that we run our Fair and rent our grounds during the off-season. The benefit of obtaining MXD designation is to provide a plan for the future and increase the value of our property should there be an opportunity to improve our business operations by moving to a new location. It is important to note we are committed to maintaining and improving the Fairgrounds as we prepare for the 2012 Fair and beyond. Our Board of Directors has said that no move will be considered unless it is in the best interest of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc.

Junior Board of Directors

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center Junior Board of Directors is accepting applications for perspective board members. This is a highly involved youth volunteer group that is focused on learning about Fair operations while gaining hands on experience in Fair management through various projects such as the Parade and Senior Day Tram. Applicants must be between 16 and 22 years old and current or past 4-H members, FFA members, or registered Fair volunteers. The Junior Board meets every other month during the school year and monthly in the summer to prepare for Fair events. To learn more or to request an application, please contact the Montgomery County Agricultural Center at 301-926-3100 x205. Applications must be received at the Fair office no later than 4:00 PM on October 21, 2011.

Catalog Changes

The first round of catalog changes is due in the office by November 1, 2011. Please remember that ALL class and department changes will affect ShoWorks, our computerized entry software, and must be sent to Marnie at Marnie@mcagFair.com and also to Cathy at cshepard@mcagFair.com. This will help to ensure continuity and consistency between the printed catalog, online catalog, and over 20,000 entries that are processed through ShoWorks prior to the Fair opening. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and will reduce the possibility of conflicting or inaccurate information.

Membership Information

Our Membership committee is continuously working to make sure the membership database is accurate. If you have questions or changes regarding new additions to your family, your address, member hours, transfer of hours, or other membership related concerns, please send an e-mail to Membership@mcagFair.com.

Annual Meeting 2012

Mark your calendar now for the Wednesday, March 7, 2012 Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc. Annual Meeting.

Dinner and socializing will begin at 6:00 PM with the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM. This meeting provides us with the opportunity to elect new members to our Board of Directors, present scholarship awards, recognize new Honorary Members and discuss items that are of interest to the Ag Center. If travel conditions are questionable due to the weather, go to www.mcagfair.com or call the Fair office at 301-926-3100 for details. If the meeting is postponed, it will be held the following day, March 8, at the same time. In the case of an additional cancellation, visit the website or call the office for more details.

2011 Calendar of Events

These are the events currently scheduled on the grounds. Please visit www.mcagfair.com for updates.

October

1 – 2	Johnson's Antique Show
8	Baby Bazaar & Flea Market
14 – 16	Sugarloaf Craft Festival

November

2 – 7	Circus Fusion
6	Golden Spike Train Show
18 – 20	Sugarloaf Craft Festival

December

3 – 4	Antique Doll Show
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