

LaGrange County



4-H NEWS!

Important Dates:

September

- 2: Labor Day - Extension Office Closed
- 5: Livestock Committee Meeting - 6:00 - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 10: Fair Association Meeting - 7 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 19: Fair Association Annual Meeting - 7 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building

October

- 1: 4-H Online Opens
- 3: Volunteer 4-H Online Training/Meeting - 6:00 - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 14: Columbus Day - Extension Office Closed
- 24: Enrollment Night - 6:00 pm - Fairgrounds - Community Building

November

- 5: General Election Day - Extension Office Closed
- 11: Veteran's Day - Extension Office Closed
- 21: New Club/Project Leader Training - 6:00 - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 28 & 29: Thanksgiving Break - Extension Office Closed
- 29: ALL Livestock Rule Changes Due to the Extension Office

December

- 16: FairEntry Training for Volunteers - 6:00 - Fairgrounds - Community Building
- 24 & 25 - Christmas Break - Extension Office Closed



And other Important Information!

Livestock Committee Meeting
September 5, 2024
6:00 pm
Fairgrounds

- 2024 Fair Recap
- Review Livestock Rules
- Elect Superintendents for 2025



Want to know how you or our friends did at the fair?

Results are available at:

LaGrange County

<https://fairentree.com/Fair/Results/19559>

State Fair

<https://fairentree.com/Fair/Results/19523>



Did you show any livestock or receive
a Grand or Reserve on a static project?

You can get a free digital copy
of these pictures at
<https://blessingsx2.shootproof.com/>



**4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT
FOR THE
2025 LAGRANGE COUNTY FAIR
OPENS
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

VOLUNTEER MEETING & TRAINING



October 3, 2024

6:00 pm

Fairgrounds

Please plan to attend:

We will be doing our 4-H Online Training and
having a 2024 LaGrange County Fair recap discussion.

**ENROLL
NOW**

Enrollment Night
Thursday, October 24, 2024
6:00 pm
Community Building, Fairgrounds

Want to know about 4-H? Need help getting enrolled into 4-H Online?

We can help!

Come join us to learn more about 4-H and let us help you get enrolled!

Static

Aerospace - Paul Kapp
Ag Tractor - David Perkins
Arts & Crafts - Crystal Leu & Caitlin Tracey
ATV - Travis Zook & Beth Hostetler
Beekeeping - Vacant
Cake Decorating - Hailey Wistler?
Cat - Katherine Park
Child Development - Vacant
Collections - Vacant
Computer - Vacant
Consumer Clothing - Jennifer Young
Creative Writing & Reading - Theresa Noll
Crops & Genealogy - Bryan McCoy
Demonstrations, Public Speaking - Kurt Stump
Dog - Sharrita Carpenter
Electric - Vacant
Entomology - vacant
Fashion Revue, Sewing - Jennifer Young
Floriculture - Vacant
Foods - Brenda Avery
Forestry - Vacant
Garden & Potato - Vacant
Geology - Vacant
Gift Wrapping - Vacant
Home Environment - Vacant
Horseless Horse - Connie Mireley
Lawn & Garden Tractor - Vacant
Microwave - Vacant
Photography - Vacant
Recycling - Kathy Hopper
Scrapbook - Vacant
Shooting Sports - Dennis Kratz &
Russel & Shay Owsley
Sport Fishing - Vacant
Sports - Vacant
Weather & Climate - Brent Gilliland
Wildlife - Vacant
Woodworking - Audrianna Sturm

Livestock Committees

Beef

Curtis Sherman Dr. Alex Hegg
Bret Howe Chad Neff
Brain Gilliland Erin Sherman

Dairy

Theresa Noll Abby Lewis
Glenn Noll Mitch Perkins
Brittany Eash Kevin Eash

Dairy Beef

Roy Howe Dereck Young
Mark Howe Aaron Smith
Travis Zook Toby Hayward

Dairy Goat

Jeff Anders Vicky Martin
Robin Byler Cecilia Nuzum
Nate Mauck Kimberly Yoder

Meat Goat

Glen Miller Sheri Miller
Tanner Miller Catrina Miller

Poultry

Joe Cassell Kenneth Myers
Adam Young Krystel Bassett
Misty Miller Melissa Raber

Rabbit

Paige Courtright Becky Courtright
Lydia Allen Adam Allen
Joshua Phillips Pam Keeslar

Sheep

Erin Sherman Angie Neff
Jerald Mishler Brandon Mauck
Kyle Gage Brandt Norberg

Swine

Todd Bontreger Paul Coffman
Mylana Fought Jim Mireley
Kyle Sherman Brandon Howe

Do you see a project you'd like to help with?
We'd love to have you join our team of volunteers!

10th Annual LaGrange County 4-H Fair Book 1963
July 30 - Aug 2



Ralph Sprague, the first president and leader of the LaGrange County 4-H Club Association, Inc., for nine years.

The 1963 4-H Club Fair will be the first Fair not personally supervised by Ralph Sprague. Sprague was elected president at the first meeting of the corporation, a position he held with confidence of the entire Board until he resigned at the last re-organization meeting last December. He spent many hours in direct supervision and planning of the present facilities.

His policy was to build a 4-H Fair of which the entire county could be proud. Secondly, the facilities were to be available for use by other organizations of the community for worthwhile events.

Sprague's accomplishments can best be appreciated by reading the short history of the 4-H Fair to date.

HISTORY OF THE 4-H FAIR

The present LaGrange County 4-H Fair had its beginning with a discussion among several members during the 1953 Corn School. Following this discussion there were several meetings of club leaders, parents of club members, interested people and the extension executive committee.

On September 21, a resolution was passed that the 4-H exhibit be known as the 4-H Fair, Incorporated, and that it be located on a piece of ground not less than 20 acres, near the center of the county.

A committee was appointed consisting of the county extension agent, Harry Sanders and Edgar Franklin to draw up a constitution and by-laws.

Fred Weiland, Ralph Sprague and the agent selected the present site on October 22 over several other prospective sites. Incorporation papers were drawn up on October 22 with Attorney Gerald Fisher assisting. The charter was returned from the Secretary of State October 30. Negotiations for the present site were made on November 2. A sale contract was signed November 4.

On Tuesday, November 3, the entire Board of Directors inspected the proposed site and assembled back at the extension office. While the Directors were talking about several different properties, Robert Sell, realty agent, walked in and said the deal was complete.

The Directors met to authorize a \$5,000 note to pay for the grounds. When they met, the Farmers State Bank made the first contribution of \$1,000. The Home Grain Company had previously pledged \$500.

The opportune time of the Farmers State Bank pledge and a previous pledge by Ralph Sprague that he would furnish the money for a down payment to close the real estate contract sparked the Directors to push forward.

The original incorporators were: Russell Howe, Claude Surfus, Fred Weiland, Retha Bovee, Harry Sanders, Frank Stukey, Henry Rehm and Extension Agent R. L. Case.

The incorporators named the first Board of Directors as follows: Wiler Weaver, VanBuren; Fred Weiland, Lima; Frank Stukey, Greenfield; Edward Wolfe, Newbury; O. I. Christner, Clay; Claude Surfus, Bloomfield; B. D. Lewis, Springfield; Forrest Ream, Eden; Edgar Franklin, Clearspring; Scott McKibben, Johnson; Kenneth Perkins, Milford. Ex-officio members: William Swank, Farm Bureau; Mrs. Walter Shultz, Home Demonstration Association; Howard Yoder, County Superintendent; Robert Lee, Jr., County Club Leaders; R. A. Kelly, County Commissioners; Clarence Eaton, County Council; Henry Rehm, chairman of Extension Committee; R. L. Case and Ruth McClear, Extension Agents.

This Board served until the first annual meeting of the Association December 5, 1953 with 39 people in attendance. At this meeting 20 Directors were elected as follows: At large, William Curtis, Elman Fought and Irvin Shultz to one-year terms; Retha Bovee, R. A. Kelly and Henry Rehm to two-year terms; and Floyd Perkins, Harry Sanders and Ralph Sprague to three-year terms. Township directors were: Wiler Weaver, VanBuren; Freddie Weiland, Lima; Winford Lewis, Greenfield; E. A. Wolfe, Newbury; O. I. Christner, Clay; Raphael Beaty, Bloomfield; B. D. Lewis, Springfield; Forrest Ream, Eden; Edgar Franklin, Clearspring; Robert Reed, Johnson, and Kenneth Perkins, Milford. The officers were: President, Ralph Sprague; vice president, B. D. Lewis; secretary-treasurer, Floyd Perkins, and directors, Mrs. Harold Bovee and Harry Sanders.

In November of 1953, Soil Conservationist Glendon Sears and Cletus Gillman, soil conservation engineer, prepared a topographic map of the Association grounds. In the same month H. W. Gilbert, landscape specialist from Purdue University, surveyed the site and drew up a building plan.

1954 was a very busy year. One of the first jobs was to make a drive for funds. Ralph Kelly was named finance committee chairman. He appointed drive directors for each township, as follows: Wiler Weaver, VanBuren; Freddie Weiland, Lima; James Bowen, vocational agricultural teacher, Greenfield; Gordon Smith, Newbury; O. I. Christner, Clay; Raphael Beaty, Bloomfield; B. D. Lewis, Springfield; Forrest Ream, Eden; Elman Fought, Clearspring; Robert Reed, Johnson; Leland Wolheter and Basil VanWagner, South Milford; Russell Howe, Stroh.

A thermometer was placed on the southwest corner of the Court House lawn on which was recorded the results of the drive as funds came in.

The industrial building, 40x200 and the rest rooms, 14x36, were built the first year. Water was piped to the grounds and to the separate buildings. Electric lines and lights were installed. The LaGrange County Farm Bureau built the beef calf barn, 30x190, for an approximate cost of \$2,500. The first annual report showed an expenditure of \$20,575 for capital outlay in 1954.

In addition to the two large donations named above, \$500 donations were made by the LaGrange Lumber Company and the McMillan Foundation, of Fort Wayne. Vincent Cisler, of Greenfield Township was the third place winner of the Auto Lite Family Charity drawing. His prize was \$5,000 which he gave to the 4-H Club Association. He had signed his lucky ticket with George Fisher of the Studebaker Garage.

The total money raised in that first year's campaign was \$22,207.

Tents were used to house other livestock and all other Fair activities. Many of the activities were held in the open. Jay Gould was the dedication speaker on the first night of the Fair, August 9, which was marred by a severe wind and rain that blew over one tent, but the program was completed in the Exhibit building.

The general tenor of the Fair that first year has been followed very closely since that time. A glance at the program today is similar to our first Fair ten years ago.

Major improvements since 1954 include: A new fence in 1955; a 30x60 shelter house in 1956 that cost \$2,300; the horse show ring, an additional fence and a washrack in 1957 at a total cost of \$1,331. The Alspaugh pavilion was added in 1959 at a cost of \$4,500 and was made possible by a legacy willed to the 4-H Club Fair by Lyoll Alspaugh that amounted to \$3,643.

The present buildings and equipment, including the land, represent an expenditure of \$46,390.

As the Directors look forward they hope the finances will permit further development of the grounds to make them more serviceable to the public. New buildings will be needed.

The location of Lakeland School opposite the Fair grounds will affect the future development. How the new school will affect the future building program cannot be foreseen at present. It is hoped that no facilities need be duplicated by the two corporations but future developments will complement each other to the advantage of all people and especially the boys and girls of LaGrange County.