



Illinois
Association
of
Agricultural
Fairs

May 2017

TentTalk

Crown Claudia VanOpdorp Fair Queen

What a successful 107th IAAF Convention we had in January with more than 3,000 in attendance and the crowning of Miss Claudia Van Opdorp as the new Illinois County Fair Queen.

Thanks to our sponsors, associate members, trade show exhibitors and fairgoers who attended. We are grateful for the support of Red Frog Events, Allied Specialty Insurance, Illinois Tractor Pulling Association, Swyear Amusements, Luehrs Ideal Rides, A Fantasy Amusement Co., DRS Skinner Amusements, Regalia Mfg Co., and Bobby Braun/Braun Events.

From the Showcase to Talent Show to the trade show and queen coronation, it was a weekend of fun, education and renewal of friendships. Our convention theme, Dreams & Memories, certainly came true for many.

Keynote speaker Jeremy Parsons reminded us of the importance of tallying the economic impact our fairs have on our county. A simple way is to add up all the checks written to individuals that do business with our fairs. Collectively, our Illinois fairs support 1,000 jobs and have an economic impact of \$90 million. Annually, they spend \$170 million and have \$80 million in ancillary sales, according to our recent economic impact study.

Claudia VanOpdorp was crowned the 58th Miss Illinois County Fair Queen by Illinois Director of Agriculture Raymond Poe and Illinois County Fair Association President Bill Redshaw. She represented Henry County and is the 19-year-old daughter of Tony and Juliet VanOpdorp of Annawan. She is currently attending the University of Illinois majoring in pre-dental biology.



2017 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen and Governor Bruce Rauner stopped for a quick photo opportunity during the IAAF Legislative Reception.

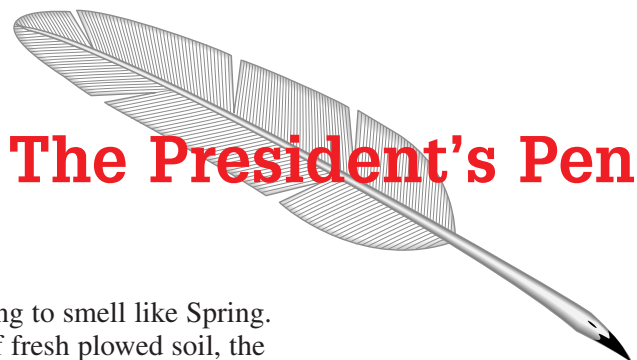
gy.

VanOpdorp will be a summer employee of the Department of Agriculture. She will travel to about 30 county fairs, and will be the official hostess of the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and the DuQuoin State Fair. As queen, VanOpdorp's main duty is to emphasize the importance of agriculture and county fairs to Illinois. Please contact her for any special events at your fair.

Also in the queen competition, Clare Bunyan, of Union County, was named the first runner up, Emma Hildebrand, of Adams County, was

named the second runner up, Bailey Smith, of Schuyler County, was named third runner up, and Kortney Stanfield, of Clay County, was named 4th runner up.

Also making a top 15 finalist: Clark County Whitley Brandenburg, McHenry County Gianisha Dougherty, Fayette County Brandy Protz, Bond County Abigail Deglar, Okawville County Rachel Recker, Montgomery County Ailie Elmore, Crawford County Carley Travis, Rock Island County Emilee Livesay, Moultrie-Douglas County Amber Tabeling, and Vermillion County



The President's Pen

It is beginning to smell like Spring. The smell of fresh plowed soil, the scent of Spring flowers, and the smell of County fairs is in the air.

I hope you all have your County Fair schedules booked and planning for the perfect fair.

The State Convention was an enormous success. Thanks to all of you for attending and participating. Our tradeshow was sold out, and we hope we continue to enjoy growth from networking with our vendors and county fair members. Our Queen pageant had 72 contestants and was again a sell out Sunday night for the finals. Talent had fewer entries, but the overall quality of contestants was certainly outstanding. Showcasing was Friday night with free beer, wine and ice cream, a recipe for lots of fun. Hope everyone went home with "Dreams and Memories" of a great convention.

Thanks to Jill Hardesty and her committee for the well planned IAFE Zone 5 meeting in Peoria. It was well attended, and everyone enjoyed the many opportunities to network with one another. Having the opportunity to talk with fair people from five states is priceless. We all want our fair to be the best, so why not get new ideas from others that have already proven to be successful? The speakers at each session were interesting and gave all attending some good ideas to take back to their fair.

Our new State Queen is Claudia VanOpdorp from Henry County. Her first official duty was to attend Ag Legislative Day on March 30 at the State Capital. The day began with breakfast at the State House Inn at 7:30 where Charlyn Fargo-Ware, IAAF Secretary/Treasurer handed us a one page recap of the



Bill Redshaw

Ken Tyrrell, Marvin Perzee and myself, visited with our Senators and Representatives and expressed our many concerns with them. It seemed like a very productive day.

Queen Claudia spoke very eloquently on the Senate Floor and was introduced to the House of Representatives. She had her picture taken with 800 FFA members attending and enjoyed tagging along with them as they presented baskets of products made in Illinois and lunch to each of their Representatives and Senators.

The IAAF was well represented at Queen Claudia VanOpdorp's Reception, sponsored by her home County of Henry on Sunday, April 2. Her Representative, Dan Swanson, read a very meaningful proclamation and presented it to Queen Claudia.

Perhaps this summer I will have a chance to visit many of your County Fairs and tag along with Cathy to a few of the Queen Pageants. Wishing you all a wonderful County Fair Season.

Bill Redshaw

President

Economic Study we did, to remind the representatives and senators of the impact that County Fairs make on our economy. Margaret Vaughn, IAAF Advocate, and Bill Jennings,

Dates to Remember

- **County Fair Day, IL State Fair**
August 11, 2017
- **Talent Entries Due**
October 1, 2017
- **Central Zone Mtg, Springfield**
October 29, 2017
- **Northern Zone Mtg, Ottawa**
November 5, 2017
- **Southern Zone Mtg, Mt Vernon**
November 12, 2017
- **IAFE Convention, Las Vegas, NV**
Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2017
- **IAAF Convention, Springfield, IL**
January 19-21, 2018

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2017 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Claudia VanOpdorp and Court

The 15 finalists for the title of 2017 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen and the newly chosen queen are pictured above, left to right: Okawville Fair, Rachel Recker; Clark County, Whitley Brandenburg; Bond County, Abigail Degler; Fayette County, Brandy Protz; Rock Island County, Emilee Livesay; Vermilion County, Katie Brown; Schuyler County, Baily

Smith; Union County, Clara Bunyan; 2017 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen, Claudia VanOpdorp; Adams County, Emma Hildebrand; Clay County, Kortney Stanfield; McHenry County, Gianisa Dougherty; Montgomery County, Ailie Elmore; Crawford County, Carley Travis; and Moultrie-Douglas Counties, Amber Tabeling.

Nominate Your Volunteer for Friend of Fair

Does your fair have a dedicated volunteer or a community person who is a true county fair booster?

The "Friends of Illinois County Fairs" awards program will honor a group of recipients at the 108th Annual IAAF convention to be held next January. Your fair may nominate an individual to be recognized at the 2018 IAAF Convention.

A nominee must be a supporter in some manner of Illinois county fairs. They need not be an officer, a board member or a superintendent of your fair. However, they must be dedicated to the support, promotion, and innovative operation of a fair or fairs. This is a way to recognize the unsung stars of county fairs.

All Illinois fairs should consider

nominating a candidate. The nomination form will be included in the summer IAAF packet mailed to each fair near the end of May. A fair may submit more than one worthy candidate for consideration. Only one person from any fair may receive the award in 2018. Any unselected candidates will be reconsidered in 2019 without reapplying.

Jachino: File Your Rehabilitation Reports

Happy spring to everyone!

We are looking forward to another successful county fair season. And to keep things running smoothly, I'll jump right in with a reminder for the premium county fairs: your Rehabilitation Reports are due June 30. We were appropriated funds for this program; please get those reports in early if possible!

At the time of this writing, a Fiscal Year 2018 budget has not been approved, meaning funding for your 2017 county fairs is still unknown. We have, however, sent your new contracts. If you haven't returned your contract yet, please do so right away.

The 2017 County Fair date listing

has been updated and posted to our website. As always, check there for the most current information.

Twenty-five county fairs will be hosting horse races this summer. Our nominations to the county fair circuit (197 total) are up slightly from last year. While we anticipate some shortages of horses, we hope that it will be a little easier to fill your cards this summer.

As stated above, with no Fiscal Year 2018 budget in place at this time, we do not know if we'll have additional funds to support these races after July 1.

We do know that harness races held at June county fairs will receive some funds that were left from can-

cellations last summer. As in the past, please work with your Colt Association or call our office with questions.

And finally, feel free to use my new tagline: County fairs are a fundamental stepping stone in the development of future generations of citizens who become actively involved in Illinois agriculture.

Thank you for your tireless work and continued support of your Illinois county fair. I hope to see you this summer!

Rhonda Jachino
Acting Bureau Chief County Fairs &
Horse Racing
Rhonda.jachino@illinois.gov

Honor 'Friends of Illinois County Fairs'

Five recipients received the prestigious 2017 Friend of Illinois County Fairs award at the Illinois County Fair Convention.

They are: Phil Hartke of the Effingham County Fair, Dean Page of the Boone County Fair, Jane Cross of the Richland County Fair, Don Moffett, former State Representative, and former Senator John Sullivan.

Phil Hartke, a farmer from Teutopolis, farms with his son and also feeds out hogs and dairy steers. He has a strong passion for his community and strives to continue to make it grow. He is actively involved in his church and has held many offices in agricultural organizations.



Phil Hartke

He has been on the board of directors of the local coop. He has faithfully served more than 30 years on the Effingham County Fair board and is currently serving as president. He never misses an opportunity to promote the fair, speaking to local organizations, talking to radio stations, newspapers, government meetings, farm meetings.

Phil is an avid promoter of the fair and attends the IAAF convention, state fair and Zone meetings. Phil's accomplishments include changing the bylaws to save the fair on real estate taxes, starting a scholarship for two graduating seniors in the county, starting a sponsorship program to area businesses to make donations to the fair, implementing an endowment plan for long term funding of the fair, improvements and renovations to the grounds and buildings to maintain the fair-grounds.

Phil also has been a strong supporter of horse racing.

The Effingham County Fair has 5 days of horse racing. 4-H is a large part of the county fair and Phil is a believer in 4-H and the positive affect it has on youth.

This summer at the Illinois State Fair Phil was inducted into the 4-H

Hall of Fame.

Dean Page of the Boone County Fair Association has been a Fair Board member for 24 years. Dean also attends the IAFE convention, Zone meetings and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions annual conventions. Dean has been in charge of the Fairgrounds Electric operations since 1999.



Dean Page

He constantly upgrades service to meet the demands in all the buildings and on the grounds. Dean is also an integral part of the grounds winter storage operations and as a member of the Boone County Sheriff's Patrol oversees a lot of the security and safety during the fair and for off season events.

Jane Cross began her 26 year Richland County Fair pageant director career in 1990 and has continued to serve the Richland County Fair since that time as a committee member and as Director.



Jane Cross

She has cultivated the development program and a scholarship program thru which the local girls have grown and developed, regardless whether chosen as queen or just as a competitor. The scholarship program has grown to provide assistance to not only the top three girls but others in the program.

Her success is not only measured by four state queens and many other award winners, but also the growth of every girl who goes thru this program. Jane has also been active in the state pageant directors' association, and has embroidered chair backs and also made Queen Chair covers for the association.

Jane and husband, John, have been of great service to the fair industry through the horse racing industry. Their business, Cross

Harness Supply, has provided equipment to race horse owners throughout Illinois at both state fairs and county fairs alike. Many fair winner blankets were embroidered by Jane.



Rep. Don Moffitt

Representative Don Moffitt has championed agriculture and promoted the needs of farmers in the Illinois General Assembly for 23 years. He worked tirelessly to draft and pass the Illinois Livestock Management Facilities Act, which provides for environmental safeguards that meet consumers' concerns, while also setting building standards for livestock facilities that allow farmers to continue operating successfully. Prior to serving in the Illinois House, Moffitt served as Knox County treasurer, Knox County Board chairman, Knoxville alderman and mayor of Oneida.

He remains an active member of Carver Community Action Agency, Galesburg Lions Club and Knox County Farm Bureau. Representative Moffitt recently retired from the Illinois General Assembly, and has recently been named Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Senator John Sullivan was first elected to the Senate in 2002 and did not seek re-election this year.



He has served as chair of the Senate

Agriculture Committee, was appointed assistant majority leader in 2011 and also was a member of the higher education, financial institutions, transportation, state government and veterans affairs, and environmental and conservation committees during his tenure.

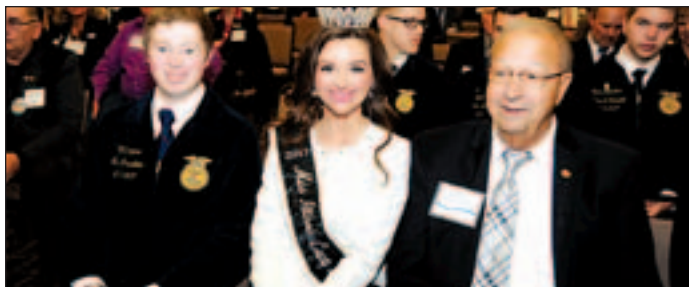
He graduated from Quincy College, now Quincy University, in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree



Ag Legislative Reception attendees included: seated: Rep. Dan Swanson (R-Woodhull), Chair of Amusement Ride & Attraction Safety Board Patty Sullivan and Bill Jennings; standing: Marvin Perzee, Sen. Kyle McCarter (R-Lebanon), Bill Redshaw, Margaret Vaughn, and Bill Johnson of Fantasy



Queen Claudia Van Opdorp and Queen Pageant Director Cathy Redshaw pose for a photo.



Queen Claudia visits with Illinois FFA President J. C. Adams and Illinois Agriculture Director Raymond Poe.



Junior Talent winners Mirando Ochs and Jacelyn Street of West Liberty are pictured with retiring Illinois County Fair Queen Abby Foster.

Winners of Talent Shows Are Announced

The Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs held its 107th annual convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois January 19th thru 22nd, 2017.

One of the highlights of the 107th annual convention was the Talent Show competition held January 21.

Winners of this year's competition include:

Senior Division:

First place – Riley Mulcahy of Plainfield in Grundy County with a vocal solo.

Second place – Ryland Green of Caldeonia in Boone County with instrumental guitar

Third place – Victoria Covell of Jacksonville in Morgan County with a dance solo.

Fourth place – Phrygian Shores, Josiah Keller, Brady Walsh, Caleb Meador, Justin Woods and Tyler O'Rear of Lincoln in Logan County, band and vocal instrumental.

Fifth place – Moodswing Group Tap – Alexis Krones, Jessi Page, Madisyn Shambrook, Hope Longest, Taylor Schippert, Courtney Thompson of Valparaiso, Ind, representing Iroquois County

Sixth place – Lauren Kochanski of Godfrey in Jersey County with a flute solo.

Junior Division:

First place – Mirando Ochs and Jacelyn Street of West Liberty of Jasper County with a piano duet.

Second place – Kelsey Jurich and Charlie Elliot of Herrin in Williamson County with a tap solo.

Third place – Mikella Cornell of East Moline in Rock Island County with a tap solo.

Fourth place – Ryan Boyd of Yorkville in Kendall County with a vocal solo.

Fifth place -- Tanna Trone of Rushville in Schuyler County with a tap solo.

Sixth place – Ainsley Holland of Savoy in Champaign County with a vocal solo.

It's time to think about the 2018 competition. Please see listed below the application information for the 2018 IAAF Talent Competition and the 2018 Queen Pageant. Forms will not be mailed but can be found on the IAAF website www.IllinoisCountyFairs.org.

The 2018 State IAAF Talent Contest rules and application forms are posted on the IAAF website: www.illinoiscountyfairs.org under the Convention tab. Entries must be submitted by October 1st. Please share this with your fair's Talent Chair. Entries are due October 1, 2017.

The Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant entry information and application form may be found at www.missillinoiscountyfair.com. Entries are due October 1, 2017.



Large Group at Reception

The IAAF Annual Legislative reception was well attended. Pictured above are, left to right, Lyle Dorjahn, Rep. Brad Halbrook (R-Shelbyville), Sandy Hoke, Sen. Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet), Mary Liz Wright, Mary Lou Wright and Mike Swartz.

Legislative Update by Margaret Vaughn

by Margaret Vaughn,
IAAF Lobbyist

Thanks to everyone that made the trip to Springfield for IAAF Legislative Reception. We had a great turnout from legislators, especially the new ones who were just elected.

Special thanks to Bill and Mary Johnson with Fantasy Amusements, Jeff Blomsness with North American Midway Amusements and Pat Skinner with Skinner's Amusements for their generous financial support of the event.

In legislative news, there is still no budget and the Senate Leaders have been trying to pass their "Grand Bargain" but the votes seem to be falling short.

These are the bills that appear to be moving that may be of interest to county fairs:

Official Grain –HB 470 --sponsored by Rep C.D. Davidsmeyer (R-Jacksonville) and Rep. Art Turner (D-Chicago) Makes Corn Official grain for Illinois. The bill passed out of the Agriculture Committee and is

waiting passage on the House Floor.

DuQuoin Fair – HB 4374 -- Sponsored by Rep. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro). The legislation provides that income derived from the sale of advertising, facilities at the DuQuoin State Fair and Illinois State fair shall be deposited into the Illinois State Fair Fund (rather than the Agricultural Premium Fund). Effective July 1, 2017. The bill passed the House unanimously and has just arrived in the Senate.

Regulation of Trampoline Courts – HB 3897 --Sponsored by Rep. Robyn Gabel (D-Evanston). Not sure if any fairs have trampolines but they seem to be the growing rage. This legislation creates the Trampoline Safety Act to be regulated by the Department of Labor. The bill requires the Department of Labor to adopt rules for registration fees, safety standards, annual inspections, insurance, record keeping etc. of trampoline courts. The bill passed out of the Business and Occupational Licensing Committee and is waiting passage on the House floor.

AG Sales Tax Incentive Sunset SB 472 --Sponsored by Sen. John Mulroe (D-Chicago). The bill places sunsets on numerous sales tax incentives and includes: eliminating the farm equipment sales tax exemption on 07/01/17; placing a 50% sales tax on farm fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides, places a 50% sales tax on biodiesel for one year until it sunsets on Dec. 31, 2018. The bill passed out of the Senate Executive Committee and is awaiting final passage on the Senate floor.

Horsemen's Council Fund – SB 52 --Sponsored by Sen. Dan McConchie (R-Hawthorne Woods) and Rep Norine Hammond (R-Macomb) Creates the Horsemen's Council of Illinois Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to allow for the issuance of decals for Universal special license plates by the Horsemen's Council of Illinois. Provides for the original fee, renewal fees, and fee distribution for Universal special license plates with decals issued by the Horsemen's Council of Illinois. The bill passed

Rep. Dan Swanson Pens Proclamation

Illinois County Fair Queen Claudia VanOpdorf was honored with friends and family at a reception at the Lavender Crest Winery in Henry County.

State Rep. Dan Swanson read a proclamation from the Illinois House of Representatives honoring Claudia. It was a fun-filled afternoon.

Here are some things you may not know about our new queen:

She loves to play the French horn

She won a recent Poetry Out Loud competition

She was the class president of her high school

She is studying pre-dental at the University of Illinois

She is the 58th Miss Illinois County Fair

Her goal is to be an ambassador for Illinois agriculture

Her nickname is pork chop

She is a humble, kind, soul

She loves loud hip-hop music and coffee to get her going in the morning

She recently participated in the University of Illinois Dance Marathon

One of her first jobs was detasseling seed corn

Her first appearance as Illinois County Fair Queen was on the Illinois Senate floor for Ag Day.

Here are excerpts from her speech:

"I could not be more excited and honored to have been crowned the new MICFQ this January at the end of such a fun filled weekend. When I was 6, I was the Little Miss Henry County Fair Queen. I joined 4H and started entering my projects in the 4H shows. And when I was 12 I was the Jr. Miss Henry County Fair Queen.

"I started helping my cousin show pigs and found my love of the demolition derby. And last summer I was crowned the 2016 Miss Henry County Fair Queen. Throughout my time serving our county fair and experiencing the role of agriculture in Henry county, I realized how much more it was than just career. Growing up in the small Midwest town of Annawan, with cornfields in my back yard and classmates who all seemed to live on farms, I knew agriculture was important to the people of my area.

"My father is a 2nd generation owner of a local trucking business. As I grew older I realized a large portion of his job was to haul grain for our local farmers, and then to our new Ethanol Plant in town. Which not only brought more business to my father, but also new friendships, as people moved to the area and kids enrolled in our school as their parents took employment at the Ethanol Plant.

"Last summer was my 3rd year working for Pioneer Seed Corn, as a member of a de-rousing team. Our team consisted of student-athletes and was led by our football coach, who named our team "The Corn Stars." We had our own Facebook and twitter pages where we would keep our local area updated on our field progress and hard work.

"After a news station found out that the Miss Henry County Fair Queen and 2 All-State football players were on the Corn Stars team, we gained publicity. Waking up at 4:30am every day of the summer to walk commercial seed corn fields (an average of 10 miles a day) in the heat



Rep. Dan Swanson read the resolution he had passed in the Legislature recognizing Queen Claudia VanOpdorf and presented her with a copy of it in a special folder at the reception.

or pouring rain taught me not only so much about myself, but about agriculture.

"Although it is believed agriculture is industrializing and losing its need for manpower, here hundreds of young people are still being employed every summer to help farmers do the tough jobs that machines cannot. Our team motto is "changing the youth of America, one field at a time".

"This motto is relevant to the way in which working in agriculture impacted the lives of me and my peers. Agriculture is a set of values, tradition, morals, faith, and work ethic unlike any other. Agriculture reaches everyone on this planet. Here in IL, the heart of Ag, whether it is my summer employment, business for my father, or my friend's parents working numerous positions of finance, marketing, or engineering for John Deere or Caterpillar, it connects our economy and people. And for those living in Chicago or anywhere else in the country, whether they realize it or not, agriculture is breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the shirt on your back.

"As I am studying biology at the U of I, a problem we often bring up that needs solving is our growing population. Scientists are working hard to find answers on how we will feed this population with diminishing land for crops and livestock. With a growing need for food and resources, it is more crucial now than ever that we continue our support of Agriculture, which is the foundation of our country.

"As I begin my year representing the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs, I look forward to growing in knowledge and experience, and am so honored to represent IL."

IN MEMORIAM

Roland “Rollie” E. Rosenboom, 74, of Clifton, passed away March 10, 2017 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, after a lengthy illness. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Delores Goldenstein Rosenboom and a daughter, Susan Lynn Rosenboom. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Coordes Rosenboom, daughter Jackie (David) James of Lovington, son, Lyn (Sally) Rosenboom, of

Clifton. Rosenboom was a farmer, auctioneer, realtor and livestock breeder and active at the Iroquois County Fair.

John Milleville, 89, of Altamont, died December 14, 2016 at HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial, Effingham.

John F. Milleville was born on Sunday, June 19, 1927 in Altamont. He married Aleda Stein on June 20, 1949, and she survives. He was a

member of St. Paul Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.), Altamont. He was a grain and dairy farmer, volunteer fireman with the Altamont Fire Department, a long-time member of the Effingham County Fair Board and the past president of the Illinois Association of Agriculture Fairs, and a member and served on the board of the Effingham-Clay Service Company.

Leo Stokes, 82, of El Paso died February 21, 2017. Leo’s life was spent in agriculture and his passion was raising livestock. Leo was a director of the Peoria Heart of Illinois Fair for 50 years. He was a community volunteer, a 4-H leader and an Army Veteran. Leo never met a stranger and always had a story to tell. He offered his helping hands to anyone and shared his wisdom with many generations. He was preceded in death by his wife Sue. Surviving are their four children: Kathryn (Mathew) Gamewell, Newport Beach CA; Renee, Evanston; Daniel, Chicago; David,

Watch Your Mailbox in Late May

Your summer IAAF packet should arrive by regular postal mail in late May.

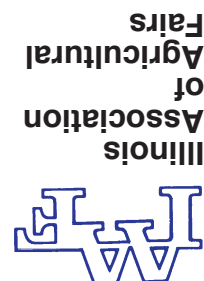
This packet is sent to the person or address which the IAAF has on file for each member Illinois County Fair. It will include four universal passes that any of your fair people may use to attend any 2017 Illinois County Fair.

Please share them with each other and enjoy some of your areas finest showcasing of agriculture and fun. A

complete application form for the “Friend of Illinois County Fair” award will also be enclosed. Please see the accompanying story for information about this opportunity.

Rules and application forms for 2018 IAAF Talent contest will be available at www.Illinoiscountyfairs.org.

The Queen Pageant rules and applications will be available at www.Missillinoiscountyfair.com.



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