



Illinois
Association
of
Agricultural
Fairs

October 2019

TentTalk

Woodcock Is Named Fair Person of Year

Little did Richard Woodcock of Waterloo know that a lesson in sheep shearing would lead him to a lifetime of volunteer work with the Monroe County Fair.

He was recognized for his devotion to county fairs at this year's County Fair Day. Woodcock, 74, of Waterloo, was named Illinois County Fair Person of the Year.

When Richard was a teenager, he learned to shear sheep from his high school FFA Advisor, Harold Drake. That gave him an opportunity to earn money early in life, which led to a shearing business that in its height meant shearing more than 3,000 sheep a year.

As a 40-year fair board member, Richard serves as the treasurer as well as works to continually maintain and improve the grounds and facilities to make the annual county fair event one of the best in southern Illinois. Over 300 head of sheep are shown each year at the county fair. Most of the exhibitors have began a sheep hobby or business due to the influence of Richard.

"He inspires and teaches the youth and adults by example, always displaying integrity, honor, respect, consideration and diplomacy," said his fellow board members, who nominated him for the award. "Richard believes strongly in the value of county fairs."

Richard served 44 years on the Monroe County Fair board. When something needs to be done, Woodcock steps up. He served as superintendent of the sheep department for more than 25 years and treasurer of the Monroe County Fair



Richard Woodcock is congratulated by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker for being named Illinois Fair Person of the Year during this year's County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair. Woodcock of Waterloo was honored for his 40 years of volunteer service for the Monroe County Fair where he serves as treasurer as well as being active in making sure the fair grounds and facilities are welcoming to fair attendees.

board for the past 30 years, a position he still holds.

"It's all about helping the kids," said Woodcock, after being surprised with the award. "I've enjoyed being around livestock as a 4-H leader because of the kids. That's where the future is – with kids in 4-H."

Woodcock had a 48-year career with Purina in the animal feed division and helped his father on the

family farm. He retired two years ago from his full-time work, but continued to work with 4-H members. "Now a lot of kids I worked with now have kids coming back and learning how to shear sheep. That gave me purpose."

He's a believer in the mission of county fairs to put the spotlight on youth. "County fairs are a great place to showcase agriculture – and kids."

The President's Pen

Hello from southern Illinois!

As we come to the end of summer, I hope everyone's fair went well this year.

We have had a wonderful year for our fairs, thanks to the good weather and great support from all of you. Now we are looking forward to our zone meetings and to the IAAF annual convention in January.

Our theme is "The Best Ever" and it is our volunteers who make our fairs The Best Ever each year.

We were all saddened by the passing of long-time IAAF board member and friend, Marvin Perzee of Ashkum. Our sincere sympathies to his family and wife, Sharon.

Marvin was a Director at Large from our Northern Zone. To fulfill his term, I appointed Ron Meyer of Manteno, former IAAF board presi-



James Walsh

now to attend and renew friendships.

James T. Walsh
President James T. Walsh

dent. Many thanks to Ron for being willing to do this.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual convention Jan. 17-19 in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza.

Make plans

Reports Are Due to State Board

It's that time of year that all the county fairs are now completed for the year.

A lot or some have already started planning for next years fairs. Tim Norman and I were able to attend serval of the fairs this year and were very impressed with each of them. I know next years fair will be as good or better then this year. If there is anything I can do to help feel free to contact me.

This year at the Illinois State Fair we are proud to award Richard Woodcock of Monroe County the County Fair Person of the Year. Congrats to Mr. Woodcock for being selected this year. Each year we are getting more nominations for the award. Please keep up the good work and getting more people in the mix for this award.

As we get closer to the end of the year there are some deadlines coming up.

Rehabilitation Report was due June 30th, Premium Report is due October 15th. Report on how you

used the \$54,347.82 is due October 15th; and Fair and Exposition Reports are due December 31st.

I want to take a few minutes to remind how important you get the reports in on time. If you don't file, the Premium Report you will have a chance not to receive any money for the year, which would be a shame given the economic need. So please make sure your county fair is filing the reports on or before the due dates.

Once again, I want to say what a great summer I had attending the county fairs throughout the great State of Illinois. These county fairs are great chance to introduce the younger kids to agriculture. To see them learning, playing the games, and riding the rides with smiles. I know it has the same effect on you folks as it does on me.

From Tim, Kelly, Carrie, and myself, we are looking forward to the convention and next year's fairs.

Michael Foster, (217)524-0666,
County Fairs and Horse Racing

Dates to Remember

- **Central Zone Mtg. Springfield**
October 27, 2019
- **Northern Zone Mtg. Ottawa**
November 3, 2019
- **Southern Zone Mtg. Marion**
November 10, 2019
- **IAFE Convention, San Antonio**
November 30-December 4, 2019
- **IAAF Convention, Springfield**
January 17-21, 2020

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Inspirational Speaker for Convention

You won't want to miss our Convention Speaker, Dayna Steele. Steele lives in Seabrook, Texas.

Steele's career experience includes speaking at the International Livestock Exposition, working as a host on the KLOL radio station in Houston and as a NASA aerospace contractor.

She is the author of eight books and the host of "The Rock Business", a video series about music entrepreneurs. Steele will be speaking at the Saturday morning breakfast.

On a stage speaking to and inspiring people since she was a teenager, Dayna creates custom success strategies for individuals and companies with her Rock Star Principles of Success. Readers' Digest Magazine calls Dayna "one of the 35 people who inspire us."

AOL says she is "one of the foremost experts on career networking," and Successful Meetings Magazine calls her "a pep talk from the deejay



Dayna Steele

booth." Audiences consistently rate her as one of the best speakers they have ever heard.

As an entrepreneur, Dayna has created The Space Store, Smart

Girls Rock and Operation National Anthem.

Steele spent years traveling the globe and interviewing countless bands and rock stars like Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ozzy Osbourne, David Bowie, Bono and Sammy Hagar...to name a few.

The great music and insights bestowed upon Steele by these rock legends were what inspired her book, *Rock to the Top: What I Learned About Success From the World's Greatest Rock Stars*.

Since leaving the airwaves she has gone on to head up a successful marketing and public relations firm, a space-related e-commerce company and SmartGirlsRock.com – an online community for girls destined to be tomorrow's leaders, scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

Dayna is married to corporate aviation safety expert and author Charles Justiz, a former NASA pilot. They are the parents of three sons.

'Best Ever' Is 2020 Convention Theme

You won't want to miss the 2020 IAAF Convention. We've got a theme certain to help you with your fair next summer – helping you to put on the best fair you've ever had.

Your attendance at the 2020 IAAF Conference is the first step toward creating a better fair. The programming, speakers and trade show will jump start you to success.

The Saturday morning speaker is Dayna Steele, speaker and author and former radio broadcaster. She's a favorite at the Houston International Livestock Show and started her own company to encourage young women to be all they can be. Her book, *Rock Star*, features her interviews with the country's top entertainers. You won't want to miss her presentation.

In addition to the Saturday morning breakfast, the Trade Show is shaping up to be bigger than ever. We're also making plans for the Friday evening Showcase – with two stages – with plenty of beer, wine and ice cream, thanks to our own Tom Schraher. We've also got several new topics for our Sunday Roundtables.

The dates for the 2020 convention are Jan. 17-19. Our queen contest is going to have more contestants than we've ever had. Crowning of our 2020 Miss Illinois County Fair will be held Sunday evening.

IAAF Membership and Convention packets will be sent out to a contact person at your fair or your associate business in mid-October. Included is renewal mem-

bership information and basic convention registration materials, including breakfast ticket requests and hotel reservation forms. Association packets also include sponsorship opportunities as well as trade show and Showcase opportunities. When returning the materials, please make sure that all contact information relating to names, addresses, email and website information is correct. Note that the IAAF office address has changed to 71 West Fairview, Springfield, IL.

Thank you for your continued support of Illinois fairs. If you have questions, be sure and contact me by email (charfarg@aol.com) or by cell, 217-553-1120.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in January!

Fairgoers Enjoyed Fairbury, Farmer City/D



A great way to advertise the Farmer City Fair.



A serious fairgoer.



The dairy show is serious business at the Fairbury Fair.



A livestock show draws friends and neighbors.



You've heard of a butter cow at the Illinois State Fair? Here's a butter pig.



Relaxin' and jammin' with the local entertainment.

eWitt, Ford, Livingston and McLean Fairs



A fair wouldn't be a fair without a Midway.



Four-year-old Kenadee Casson had her work cut out for her in the Pee Wee Showmanship event at the Fairbury Fair's Dairy Show.
—Photo by Kent Casson



Fairs are for families.



The younger crowd flocked to the outdoor stage venue entertainment at the Ford County Fair. Good entertainment is one key to a successful fair.



These chickens are being watched with anticipation of the win.



Never underestimate the power of a cute baby picture. An exhibit like this can draw people to your fair.

Vaughn: Budget Has Level Fair Funding

by Margaret Vaughn,
IAAF Lobbyist

STATE BUDGET PASSES WITH LEVEL FUNDING FOR FAIRS

After recent years of there being no budget and the General Assembly spending most of the summer in erratically scheduled overtime sessions, the House adjourned on June 1st and the Senate on June 2nd (within 48 hours of the May 31st adjournment date).

Thankfully the budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, included level funding for county fairs.

With over 45 new legislators in office this session, it was very important to get to know them and continue to educate them on the importance of county fairs. We were very fortunate

last year to get all the additional funding after our long battle but funding for county fairs is something we can never take for granted.

The legislature will be returning to session for the Fall Veto Session October 28-30th and November 12-14th.

TRAVELING ANIMAL EXHIBIT BAN

Though SB 154 which would have banned traveling animal exhibits of certain species of animals fell one short of passage in the Senate Agriculture Committee, the issue could easily resurface next year, and we must remain diligent on the issue.

I want to work with the Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Department of Agriculture to see if we can come up with a proposal that would give the Illinois Department

of Agriculture the authority to shut down a traveling animal exhibit under certain circumstances.

It is a difficult situation and should really be addressed at the federal level because it is the federal and not the state government which regulates exotic animal owners.

IAAF WORKING TO ADDRESS LATE AG REPORT SUBMISSIONS

IAAF is working with the Illinois Dept of Ag to address the issue of premium fairs submitting their reports several months late and delaying the rest of the fairs from receiving their payments.

The Dept of Ag is proposing to amend their administrative rule so that fairs will not be able to receive any premium payments if they submit their grand summary report later than December 31st.

Recognize Volunteers' Years of Service

Congratulations to all the award winners who were recognized at County Fair Day for their years of service.

Thanks to all for their dedication and commitment to our county fairs.

20 years

Roger Miller, Boone County Fair
Scott Bradshaw, Western Illinois Fair

Ralph Beckmann, Clinton County Fair

Robert J. Stadel, Marshall-Putnam Fair

Jerome Sievers Jr, Calhoun County Fair

Tammy Focken, Rock Island County Fair

Jon Freeman, Western Illinois Fair
Greg Scott, Western Illinois Fair

30 years

Jerry Korte, Massac County Youth Fair

John Stelbrinki, Calhoun County Fair

Peter Schafer, Rock Island County Fair

Dave Hake, Nashville, Washington County Fair

40 years

Gene Wesselmann, Clinton County Fair

Dianne Stelbrink, Calhoun County Fair

Paul Vock, Whiteside County Fair

Dan Heusinkfield, Whiteside County Fair

Tom Moore, Jersey County Fair

Dwight Bowman, Jersey County Fair

Unspoken Words by Marvin Perzee

As I travel from earth to the heavens above, I think of so many unspoken words I didn't get to share.

I wanted to thank so many people who have been such an important part of my life; my family, the farm and the agricultural community, and the Iroquois County Fair including its fair board, superintendents and volunteers, those who were contributors, donors, sponsors, grantors or livestock buyers.

My mother loved and inspired my life. She supported my involvement in 4-H and as an active sheep exhibitor at the County Fair. I learned to pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living through a lifetime involvement in 4-H. As a leader, I have been privileged to

work with really great youth who have made wonderful achievements.

I have been blessed to reap the rewards of hard work, receive the love and affection of family, receive honors for my passions and meet some of the finest people on earth. From governors, legislators, State Officials and members of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs to every last gate keeper and concessionaire. I respected and appreciated their friendship.

I hope I have left this world a better place. I hope I have made a difference, and I hope you know how important you were in my life. We have had so many wonderful memories and adventures, and someday we will meet again.

Thank you for the honor of knowing you and sharing in my life.

IN MEMORIAM



Marvin E. Perzee, 76, of Ashkum passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. He was born October 9, 1942 in Watseka, the son of Nellie (Koets) Perzee. He was preceded in death by his mother; one brother, Wendell Perzee; one daughter, Karen Cox; one grandson, Zachary Rabideau; and one niece, Alana Perzee.

He married Sharon K. Durst on September 21, 1979 in Danville and she survives. Also surviving are two brothers, Merle Perzee of Danforth and Wayne (Cheryl) Perzee of Olathe, Kansas; one daughter, Kim (Robert) Rabideau of Clifton; one son-in-law, Kevin Cox of Bloomington; grandchildren, Quentin (Christy) Rabideau, Alex and Sean Rabideau, Jeremy Giles, Cory (Marisa) Giles, and Noah, Annalise and Conner Cox; great-grandchildren, Camden and Grayson Rabideau, Amina, North and Ani Rabideau, and Cillian Giles; and nieces and nephews, Chrissy (Kevin) Marose and Aaron Perzee.

Marvin was a member of many professional organizations and received several awards and honors including: in 1963, American Farmer Degree – FFA; 1963-1969, Army Reserves; 1963-1992, Iroquois County Republican Precinct Committeeman and Chairman for 14 years; 1965 to present, leader of the Ashkum Chargers 4-H Club; 1965 to present, served on the Board of Directors of the Iroquois County Agricultural and 4-H Fairs Association and was elected President in 1973 and then assumed the role of Vice-President in 2019; 1968 to present, member of Elks Club, Moose Club, American Hampshire Sheep Association and Farm Bureau; 1971-1981, member of Iroquois County Extension Youth Council; 1971, Vice-

Chairman American National Red Cross Fund Campaign; 1973, Outstanding Young Farmer Award recipient – Illinois Jaycees; 1974, appeared in Awards Volume of Outstanding Young Men of America; 1979 to present, member of Legislative Committee for the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs and Chairman for 40 years; 1979-present, Vice-President of Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Association – Northern District; 1979-1984, member of Department of Agriculture Advisory Board; 1980, recipient of the Iroquois County Extension Council Alumni award for distinguished service; 1982-1983, President of Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Association- Northern District; 1983-1984, member of Advisory Board for Division of Fairs and Horse Racing; 1984-1989, Director of Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs; 1984, recipient of Department of Agriculture, Fairman of the Year Award; 1990-1998, appointed to the State Fair Advisory Board; 1990-1991, President of Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs; 1992-1996, Director at Large of Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs; 1999, Prairie Farmer – Master Farmer Award; 1999-2003, appointed to Attorney General Jim Ryan's Advisory Board; 2005, Watseka Times Republic – Lifetime Achievement Award; 2006,

Kankakee Daily Journal – Farm Family of the Year Award; 2007, inducted into the University of Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame; 2014, Certificate of Appreciation – OPTIONS Center for Independent Living; 2014 to present, State of Illinois Advisory Board Carnival Safety Board; and 2019, Recognition of Service to Fair Industry From Illinois House and Senate.

Harry Gleckler, 88, of New Salem, IL, passed away on May 2, 2019 at his home in rural Pike County. He was a graduate of Pittsfield High School in 1949 and entered the Army in 1952.

He served on the front line in Korea for a year and was invited by the South Korea government to return to Korea to celebrate the 50-year even of the signing of the truce. He devoted his life to farming, raising and exhibiting Hereford cattle, serving on numerous boards and raising a family.

He was a long-time board member and past president of the Western Illinois Fair in Griggsville. He spent 10 years as Beef Superintendent at the Illinois State Fair and at the DuQuoin State Fair.

He is survived by his wife, Sue and three children, a son, Brad, and two daughters, Nancy Halpin of Pittsfield and Gail Jones of Waynetown, IN. He is also survived by three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Will You Attend Zone Meetings?

The annual fall Zone meetings are here! Please attend your respective IAAF Zone meetings this fall.

They are:

Central Zone - October 27th at Poe's On the Hill, Springfield

Northern Zone - November 3th at Pitstick Pavillion, Ottawa

Southern Zone - November 10th at the Marion County Fairgrounds in

Salem

Everyone learns something at these events and we welcome you to attend!

Come and see your queens, some vendors on site and some awesome entertainment available to book for your fair. There will be plenty of friends to see, and a lot of things to discuss and learn.

You're Invited to Round Tables

Attention all fair board members!

You are cordially invited to attend the roundtable discussions that will be held at the IAAF State Convention in Springfield.

A morning Breakfast sandwich and drink will be provided by our sponsor at the meeting. These sessions are so much more informative

with everyone's input!

If you have a topic that you wish to be considered to be discussed, please contact Central Zone Director Jill Hardesty (jill.hardesty@frontier.com or cell phone 217-841-3487). She will also be at all three Zone meetings this fall asking for topics of discussion and moderators.

Hutchison Honored for 40 Years Service

Forty years is a long time. Forty years of volunteering for a single organization is almost unheard of.

Yet, Fred Hutchison, who turned 86 last month, has been trudging to the Carroll County Fairgrounds east of Milledgeville for the past four decades to provide a variety of services that largely go unnoticed when the crowd descends upon the annual Carroll County Fair each August.

It's doubtful many will notice the neatly trimmed fencerows devoid of weeds or the equally neatly trimmed areas around trees where the mowers can't quite reach or the edges of the myriad buildings throughout the fairgrounds.



The great-great-nephew Brent Walls leaned over and grasped Fred Hutchison shirt and gave him a kiss of appreciation for helping the Carroll County Fair..

Every week this summer and the 39 previous summers, Fred Hutchison spends four days carrying his gas-powered Stihl weed trimmer around the fair grounds keeping the weeds from taking over and becoming an unsightly welcome to the thousands who attend.

Few will notice the absence of weeds that seem to grow despite the recent drought, but everyone would notice if they were there greeting visitors with a "nobody cares" attitude.

Yet, Fred does care and has cared for these many years that included years when he and his long time friend, Russell Schryver, also mowed the grounds. He and Russell, who isn't helping any more because he stays home to care for his wife, used to each take one side of a fence row and in tandem run their weed trimmers along opposite sides. Today, Fred does both sides.

Fred retired after 32 years of working at Northwestern Steel & Wire in Sterling, but still farms and raises beef cows on his small acreage four and one-half miles north of Milledgeville in a now wide-spot on the road that is still known locally as Hitt where he moved to in 1952.

Fred and his late wife, Darlene (she died in 2003), have two sons, five grandchildren (all boys), and ten great-grandchildren that will keep the Hutchison name front and center for many years to come with most being groomed for or already volunteering at the county fair.

In addition to his early morning to 3:00 p.m. "shifts" of weed trimming, Fred is also the superintendent of the Carroll County Fair Produce department.

But, Fred's volunteerism doesn't end with weed whipping and produce management. He is in charge of maintaining the two wells on the property and taking the water samples from them and maintaining off season use of buildings for parking boats and recreational vehicles.

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