



*Vision*



*Collaboration*



*Stewardship*



*Celebration*

GRATIOT CO. FAIR FOR  
  
YOUTH

**2008 Report  
to the Community**



## etter from the President

Dear Friends,

The mission of the Gratiot County Fair for Youth is to provide the youth of Mid-Michigan an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments in agriculture, home economics, art and crafts, and various other areas. The fair will provide this opportunity to youth from all walks of life through educational projects and programs. The fair will continue to be an event that provides social and educational interaction for people of all ages interested in our community. Our mission continues to be accomplished because the fair continues to be supported by youth and their families, volunteers, donors, and the community. The fair continues to have a dedicated board of directors with adult and teen representation striving to do the business of the fair, be good stewards, and always keep the youth as our main focus.

GCCFY had the support of 181 donors and 299 buyers for the 2008 fair. We also appreciate the support of individuals and businesses at other events like the winter dance, golf outing, and road sign auction. The support of the community is important to help us carry out the mission of the fair. GCCFY became a 501(c)(3) public charity in 2008 so your donations may now be tax deductible.

I am proud to be part of a community that continues to show such great support to the fair and our youth. It is because of your support that GCCFY continues to thrive while other fairs in Michigan are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet. I believe we have one of the best fairs in the state and with your continued support it will continue to be the best!

See you at the fair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Hirschman".

Becky Hirschman  
President

# Vision



The GCFY Board of Directors takes its responsibility of running a financially viable fair and exposition center seriously. Each year, the board reviews its strategic plan to determine the annual budget, evaluate the capital expenditure needs, and makes sure expenses are inline with the mission and within its goals.

An example of the fair's commitment to vision is involves youth in the planning process. The organizational by-laws establishes two teen positions on the fourteen member board. These members have the same voting rights and provide valuable insight from the youth perspective. As part of its planning process, the board is currently establishing new youth leadership opportunities to work closely with project superintendents.

True vision can only happen with effective evaluation. Evaluation is an important part of the fair's planning process. It is vital for the fair to understand the impact that the fair program has on the exhibitors, the volunteers, and the community.



## ollaboration

The GCFY works closely with the Gratiot County 4-H Program and the local FFA Chapters to create a positive atmosphere for youth to showcase their accomplishments. In both 4-H and FFA, youth are encouraged to learn and build life skills. These organizations focus on project completion. The fair provides a venue for youth to be recognized for their completed projects and to build marketable life skills.

Data taken from a survey of fair exhibitors shows exhibitors strongly agree they learned new skills as a result of their fair participation. Other results from the survey show youth find the fair a safe place with caring adults and positive peer influences.

The fair also works with numerous volunteers, most of whom come from 4-H and FFA. The fair utilizes 49 superintendent positions to help organize project areas. Countless families prepare and organize the grounds for fair week. All of the current members of the GCFY Board of Directors are affiliated with 4-H as volunteer leaders, members, parents, or alumni, and several have FFA connections.

The fair is an active member of the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce.

### Youth Participation by Membership



# Stewardship

GCFFY takes its mission seriously. Each gift from a donor or grant funds received helps maintain the fair and its programs within the mission of the organization. The fair had 181 different donors who supported its mission.

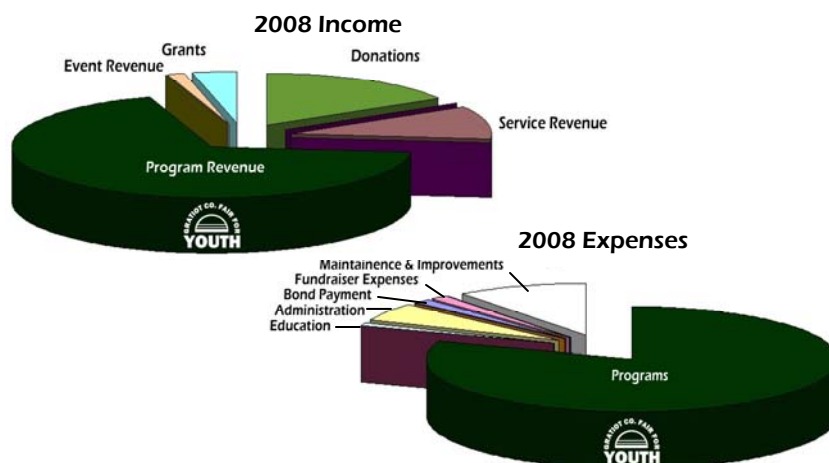
Private philanthropic support is critical to the future success of the fair. This past fiscal year, the fair reinvested a large portion of its funds to improve the fair grounds.

## 2008 Improvements in Infrastructure

- New vinyl fencing surrounding the Horse Arena
- Creation of the Laurie Smith Memorial Announcer's Booth in the Covered Arena
- Improved, high intensity lighting in the Covered Arena
- New steel roof on the Sheep Barn
- Major renovations in Food Booth
- Perimeter fence on Hillcrest Street
- New fencing around beef barns

## New Equipment Purchased in 2008

- TR3 Horse Arena Conditioning Drag
- Hot Water Heater for Restrooms and Showers



**Gratiot County Fair for Youth**  
**Profit & Loss Statement**  
**For the year ended October 31, 2008**

Nov '07 - Oct 08

<b>Income</b>		
101 · Class Sponsors	10,095.50	
102 · Bake Sale	27,126.01	
103 · Camping Registration	10,820.00	
104 · Carnival	8,022.00	
105 · Fair Coordinator	2,311.00	
106 · Fair - Late Entries	380.00	
107 · Fundraisers	80,183.00	
108 · Grants	13,689.46	
109 · Interest	562.57	
110 · Membership	60.00	
112 · Parking	17,990.25	
113 · Pig Scramble	0.00	
114 · Fairground Rentals	10,845.00	
115 · State Funds - Matching Funds	5,114.46	
201 · Livestock Income	312,905.27	
202 · Small Animal Sale	18,800.00	
301 · Premiums	200.00	
401 · Donations	23,806.90	
501 · Other revenues	55.20	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>542,966.62</b>	
<b>Expense</b>		
116 · Advertising	4,636.98	
117 · Awards	9,207.07	
118 · Bake Sale Expense	26,132.64	
119 · Wages and Salary	28,411.99	
120 · Debt Servicing	7,745.00	
121 · Dues and Subscriptions	570.00	
122 · Entertainment	1,703.40	
123 · Fundraiser Expenses	31,819.00	
124 · Insurance	3,252.00	
126 · Legal Fees	71.20	
128 · Building and Grounds	60,389.17	
129 · Miscellaneous	108.99	
130 · Parking Expenses	4,118.11	
131 · Permits, Fees, and Licensing	1,173.99	
133 · Supplies	9,259.63	
134 · Utilites	14,768.38	
203 · Livestock Expenses	302,743.98	
204 · Small Animal Checks	17,889.25	
302 · Premium Expenses	18,298.50	
402 · Fair School	3,570.60	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>545,869.88</b>	
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b><u>-2,903.26</u></b>	

# Celebration

The fair is a community-based celebration. GCFY understands that the main purpose of hosting a fair is to create a fun atmosphere for the community. A trip to the Gratiot County Fair for Youth is meant to entertain while educating the community about the importance of agriculture, youth development, and home economics in our local culture.

The fair is a celebration of youth, agriculture, and community. This past year, we celebrated youth and their accomplishments. 4010 projects were completed and evaluated. The fair paid youth exhibitors \$13,723.50 in premiums, distributed over 300 trophies, and over 4000 ribbons. The Michigan Department of Agriculture shared in the cost of paying premiums for project completion. There are numerous project areas for youth participation. A small sample of project areas includes foods, computer science, livestock, crops, visual arts, clothing and textiles, and performing arts.

One of the highlights for our youth is the opportunity to market their project(s) in our auction sales. This past year, with incredible community support, the fair sales brought in \$358,449 in revenue which was turned around for youth exhibitors to use for reinvestment in other projects, funding their future education, and stimulating the local economy.





## 008 Fair Sale Buyers

Aaron Waldron Trucking, Alma  
AIS Engine, Grand Rapids  
Alderman Inc., Lennon  
Alley T, Ithaca  
Alma Board of Education, Alma  
Alma Iron & Metal Co., Alma  
Alma Law Firm, Alma  
Alma Pontiac Buick GMC, Alma  
Alma Towing, Alma  
Alpaca Family Farm, Ashley  
American Cattle Co., Lexington, KY  
Carl Anderson Family, Ithaca  
Trent Apple Masonary & Trucking, Riverdale  
ASAP Towing & Recovery, Alma  
Ashley Salvage, Ashley  
B&B Farms, St. Louis  
B&D Sewer & Drain, Elwell  
Bader & Sons, St. Louis  
Dustin Baker, St. Louis  
Kristin Bakker for District Judge, Ithaca  
Bernie Barnes for Drain Commissioner, Sumner  
Ben & Jaime Baxter, St. Louis  
Ben Baxter - Quality Advertising, St. Louis  
Baxter Excavating, LLC, St. Louis  
Steve & Sue Beattie, St. Louis  
Kevin & Kelly Bebow, St. Louis  
Marge & Lowell Bebow, St. Louis  
Joe & Denise Beckmann, Alma  
Donna Bell, St. Louis  
Bellinger Packing, Ashley  
Best Excavating, Alma  
Biddinger Farms, Ithaca  
Boge, Wybenga, & Bradley, Mt. Pleasant  
Boland Tire Inc., Breckenridge  
Roger & Sharon Bovee, Ithaca  
Brecht Cattle Co., Alma  
Brecht Farms, Riverdale  
Breckenridge Area Chamber, Breckenridge  
Breckenridge Insurance Agency, Breckenridge  
Breckenridge Rotary, Breckenridge  
Mike & Monica Brennan, Alma  
Brennan Rentals, St. Louis  
Darren & Barb Brown, Wheeler  
Jim & Phyllis Brown, Wheeler  
Matt & Nanette Brown, Wheeler  
Brown Farms, Wheeler  
Burford Plumbing & Heating, Ithaca  
Stephanie Burgess, Sumner  
Butcher Excavating, Alma  
C & S Steel, Ithaca  
Dave Camp for Congress, Midland  
Dorothy Capen, Breckenridge  
Cattle Run Café, St. Louis  
Chemical Bank, St. Louis  
Circle K Family Farms, Perrinton  
Circle R Farm, St. Louis  
Coldwell Banker Superior Real Estate, Alma  
Commercial Bank, Ithaca  
Janet Conn, Elwell  
Ted Couter, DeWitt  
Cowboy Contracting, LLC, Ithaca  
Rex & Kathleen Crumbaugh, Breckenridge  
Crumbaugh Farms Inc, Wheeler  
Crumbaugh Legacy, Inc, St. Louis  
Crystal Pure Water, St. Louis  
Davidson Trucking, St. Louis  
de Vor Dairy, Decuer  
DeMott Farms, St. Johns  
Andy Denman, Ashley  
Brian Denman for Drain Commissioner, Alma  
Dennings & Associates Inc., Elsie  
John Densmore, Ithaca  
Diversified Alpacas, St. Louis  
Doty Auction Services, Wheeler  
Double Eagle Dairy, Middleton  
Downtown Auto Service, Ithaca  
Kris & Kim Duflo, Perrinton  
Dan Ebright, Elwell  
Ebright Farms, Elwell  
Craig & Beth Emery, Breckenridge  
Family Farm & Home, Alma  
Family Medical Center-Breckenridge, Alma  
John & Sharon Fenton, St. Louis  
Wayne Fisher, Breckenridge  
Fortino, Plaxton, Moskal, Alma  
Foster Trenching, Ashley  
Four D Farms, Perrinton  
Darryl Fowler, St. Louis  
Fowler's Farm City Sales, Ithaca  
Freed Construction, Alma  
Freed Stump Removal, Ithaca  
Freed Tree Service, Elwell  
Nancy Gallagher for District Judge, Alma  
GAAPS - Rob Blackwell, Ithaca  
Garst Seed - Bernard DeVuyst, Ithaca  
Glen's Market, Alma  
Dave & Cindy Godley, Ithaca  
Gratiot Co. Sheriff Rick Beracy & Family, Ashley  
Gratiot Community Credit Union, Alma  
Gratiot County Drain Commission, Alma  
Gratiot County Herald, Ithaca  
Gratiot Plumbing Supply, Ithaca  
Great Lakes Cattle Marketing, St. Louis  
Great Lakes Petroleum/Great Lakes Maintenance, Alma  
Ronda Green, Elwell  
Greenstone Farm Credit Services, Alma  
Gregg's Trucking, LLC, Carson City  
Growers Choice Insurance, Essexville  
Gulick Farms, Merrill  
H & S Auto Sales, St. Louis  
Hale Farms & Cutting Edge Lawn & Snow, Elwell  
Hall's Auto Parts, Alma  
Terri Hansen, Edmore  
Harrier Farms, St. Louis  
Harvey's Ag Solutions, Carson City  
Burt & Cheryl Henry, Elwell  
Bob and Tina Hindall, Ithaca  
Matt & Becky Hirschman, Ithaca  
Hirschman Trucking, Ithaca  
Steve & Laura Hoard, Breckenridge  
Richard & Nancy Hrabal, Breckenridge  
Hrabal Farms, Breckenridge  
Hyland Seed Dealers of Mid-Michigan, Elwell  
Isabella Bank, Breckenridge  
Janson Equipment Co., Breckenridge  
JBT Grain Co., LLC, Middleton  
Marshall Jenkins - Wilbur Ellis, Breckenridge  
Jim Cooper Insurance Agency, Breckenridge  
Jim Martin Chevrolet, Alma  
Jim Navarre Ford, Alma  
James C. Johnson, St. Louis  
Johnson Bros. Livestock, Escanaba

Senator Roger Kahn, St. Louis  
Kalmbach Feeds of MI, Breckenridge  
Karis Embroidery & More, Riverdale  
Keith M. Bever DDS MS, Alma  
Kids World News, Alma  
Scott Kilgo & Randy Smith, Sunfield  
Kimmel Propane Inc., Ithaca  
Tom Kleinbriel, Sumner  
Larry & Barbara Knight, St. Johns  
Laethem Agency/Farm Bureau Insurance, Midland  
Lafayette Farm Properties, Wheeler  
Lafayette Pork Production, Perrinton  
Lake of Dreams Camp Ground, Wheeler  
Shorty & Shirley Laurenz, Ithaca  
Butch & Jackie Loomis, Elwell  
Loomis Transport, Shepherd  
Lum Houghston Livestock Trucking, McBain  
Lux Funeral Home, Alma  
M & M Wrecker, Edmore  
MAC - Middleton, Middleton  
MAC & Hubbard Feed, Middleton  
MAC Breckenridge, Breckenridge  
MAC Middleton Agronomy/Seed Sales, Middleton  
MAC Middleton/Garst Seed, Middleton  
Main Street Pizza, Breckenridge  
Martin Chrysler Dodge Jeep, Inc., Alma  
Mary Beth's Floral & Gifts, Ithaca  
Jerry & Kathy May, St. Louis  
McCartney & Company, Lansing  
Frances McClintic, Alma  
McClintic Farms, Alma  
McConnell Farm Supply Inc, Rosebush  
McCune Centennial Farm, St. Louis  
Stewart McDonald for District Judge, Alma  
Merchant Excavating Inc., Ithaca  
Don Merrihew, Mt. Pleasant  
Mibelloon Dairy, St. Louis  
Michigan Valley Irrigation, Vassar  
Middleton Diner, Middleton  
Greg & Tresha Mikek, St. Louis  
Mary Mikek, St. Louis  
Tim Mikek, St. Louis  
Miles Petroleum, Merrill  
Miles Propane, Merrill  
John Miller, Elwell  
Miller Tax Service, Wheeler  
Mills Farms, St. Louis  
John & Lori Misenhelder, Ithaca  
Misenhelder Welding, Ithaca  
Mobile Seed Service LLC, Sumner  
Monosem, Ithaca  
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Mel Kanine Quidort Sales and Service, St. Louis  
Redbird Pet Food Center, Alma  
Mike Reeves, Ithaca  
Dr. Mason Reichard, St. Louis  
Mike & Mary Reichard, St. Louis  
Reichard Insurance Agency, St. Louis  
Judge Michelle Rick, DeWitt  
Ric's Food Center, Ithaca  
Riverdale Feed & Grain, Riverdale

Rolston Farms, Inc., Overland Park  
Kenneth Roslund, Ithaca  
Loren & Becky Roslund, Ithaca  
Ross Welding, St. Louis  
Ryder, Ithaca  
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Schneider Builders, Fowler  
Schneider Concrete, Fowler  
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Sherwood Farms, St. Louis  
Shults Equipment, Ithaca  
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Siler's Market, Breckenridge  
Al Silhavy, Alma  
Lavon Silhavy, Alma  
Simmet Insurance, Ithaca  
Dr. Jeffrey Smith & Great Lakes Surgical Assoc., Alma  
Smith & Son's Meat Processing, Mt. Pleasant  
Christina & Andrew Snoblen, Elwell  
Ken & Nancy Snoblen, Elwell  
Mark & Renee Sopel, Ithaca  
Mike Sopel, Alma  
Spartan Insurance Agency, Ithaca  
St. Louis Schools - Superintendent, St. Louis  
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Dale Stoneman, Breckenridge  
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Stoneman Cattle Inc., Breckenridge  
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Stoneman Pro Service, Breckenridge  
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Sun LP Gas, Sumner  
Carl & Peggy Sztuczko, St. Louis  
Ed & DeAnna Taylor, Ithaca  
TC Farms, St. Louis  
The Cutting Crew, Alma  
Thelen Construction, Alma  
TLC Dairy, Ithaca  
Travis Farms, Shepherd  
Mike Moore Triple M Livestock, Perrinton  
True Value Hardware of Alma, Carson City & Edmore,  
Lisa Tuggle, Ithaca  
UAP Great Lakes-Vestaburg, Vestaburg  
United Producers, St. Louis  
Wal\*Mart of Alma  
Wal\*Mart of Mt. Pleasant  
Walsh Farm, Elwell  
WD Management Services, Perrinton  
Weiss Equipment, Frankenmuth  
Dee Welch, Elwell  
Ron & Connie Weller, Middleton  
John & Karen Weller & Double Eagle Dairy, Middleton  
Wendy's of Alma  
Wenzel's Cycle & Snow, Wheeler  
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Wincel Communications, Mt Pleasant  
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WMLM, Alma  
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Crumbaugh Farms, Inc.  
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GreenStone Farm Credit Service  
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Wendell Smith

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Ward O'Boyle

### **Planned Gifts & Bequests**

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#### **Major Rodeo Rodeo Sponsor**

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#### **Event/Chute Rodeo Sponsor**

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#### **Partners of the Rodeo**

DeSaegher Dairy

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No Bull Graphix

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WQBX 104.9

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Ithaca Feed Center

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MAC-Middleton

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

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DuHadway Dance Dimensions

Exchange Club of Gratiot County

Gratiot Medical Center

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Ithaca Animal Hospital

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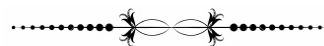
Jerry Desrochers & Scott Allen  
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Kristophers  
MAC Middleton  
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Scott Acker  
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Kevin Jerome 2010

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Kris Duflo 2009

**Treasurer**

Karen Weller 2008

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Morgan Brennan 2009

Marcy Jerome 2008

**Members**

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Amy Crumbaugh 2010

Marshall Jenkins 2009

Darcy Martyn 2009

Karl Merchant 2008

Jason O'Boyle 2008

Ben Pritchard 2010

Carl Sztuczko 2008

**Fair Coordinator**

Brian Gardner

**Main Office**

214 E. Center St.  
Ithaca, MI 48847

**Fair Location**

701 S. Lincoln Ave.  
Alma, MI 48801

(989) 875-5292

fax (989) 875-5289

*bgardner@co.gratiot.mi.us*

[www.gcfy.org](http://www.gcfy.org)

