

Bluestem Breezes
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Countdown to County Fair!

By the time this newspaper arrives to your doorstep, we are merely hours away from kicking off the 2014 Wabaunsee County Fair.

While each year brings modifications to the schedule, or the infrastructure, or the volunteer list, there are still core values that remain. Sure, the County Fair holds value and merit in a community! Otherwise, why would County Fairs still exist nearly 100 years later?

Recently, the *Wabaunsee County Signal-Enterprise* dropped off a few fair books from the 1920s for our records. There are indeed some interesting finds in those books.

In 1927, local businesses advertised in the fair book. There were premiums given to class winners. Divisions included livestock, domestic arts (clothing and textiles), fruits and vegetables (plant science), domestic science (foods), and arts and crafts (visual arts). There were officers (fair board) and superintendents overseeing the operations of the County Fair.

Folks came to view the exhibits and enjoy the social outing. Exhibitors were proud of their accomplishments, and therefore entered various projects in to the 1927 Wabaunsee County Fair.

My, how times haven't changed!

This year, 2014, why is it you are headed to the County Fair? Exhibiting? Supporting? Social outing?

At the very heart of each County Fair lies the young people who work so hard leading up to the County Fair in order to display their talent(s). The community helps build those young people's skill sets through volunteering, supporting, and viewing those exhibits. It's amazing how this all molds together like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

Now, to focus in on the supporter segment of the County Fair, there is something new and exciting available this year – a new way for exhibitors to show gratitude to our many dedicated fair supporters. If and when you take pictures at the fair and post them on social media, “tag” the sponsor of the prize in that photo. Many businesses and individuals have their own Facebook and Twitter accounts. This is a great way to show thanks! Also, include “#fairthanks” in your posts. Your posts could be printed in the *High Plains Journal*. Regardless of how exactly you tag supporters, the important piece to remember is to show thanks for their support of the Wabaunsee County Fair and its exhibitors!

I am eager to see many of your faces at this year's fair, July 25-29! For more Wabaunsee County Fair details, visit www.wabaunsee.ksu.edu.