



Michigan State Fair and ITC launch new Junior Fair Advisory Council

Novi, MI: The next generation of Michigan's agricultural leaders is an impressive group of individuals! The **Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair** and **ITC Holdings, Inc.**, are proud to provide a platform for them to collaborate and share wisdom, experiences and resources, across our great state.

Michigan State Fair Youth Council Mission Statement: *The Michigan State Fair Youth council shall pilot the mission to bridge the gap between the rural and urban agriculture. The members of the MSFYC shall act as ambassadors of the Michigan State Fair agriculture to fellow exhibitors, their peers, the public, and young agriculturalists around the state to offer a youth perspective to ensure that the Michigan State fair remains relevant and connected to youth*

In their own words, "What does Agriculture and State Fair exhibiting teach us?"

This work has taught me what true dedication really is. Working and doing your best 100% of the time. I like showing my animals because they have made me a better person by teaching me the benefits hard work delivers—**Tommy Purves, MSFYC President**

Winning the Gold Ribbon Scholarship last year helped me reach my personal goal of acquiring a laptop to help me complete schoolwork and Fair projects. The Scholarship recognition event at the State capitol was fun and I really appreciate the support from the organizers that day. Exhibiting at the fair is more than a fun time with friends, it is life changing... **Greta Gmazel, 12**

I love showing at the state fair because it is completely different from any other show I've been to. I am used to showing at large National shows where the people are only there to show cattle. At the State Fair however, the people come to learn and to see the animals—**Mackenzie DeLong**

Since I began exhibiting in Home Arts, the State Fair has given me the opportunity to create more art and become a part of a competition that is about much more than winning, but more about learning from other competitors so that I can improve my own skills in the future. I love having the chance to see the skills and ideas of people my age and develop my own thought processes and abilities along with my competitors. ---**Camille Kowalski**

I have been and continue to be a multi-species (cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, and rabbits) 4-H exhibitor; exhibiting at all levels of competition – local, state, and national. As I progressed through 4-H my brother and I started our own flock of sheep; which now includes 20 wether type ewes. My farm and 4-H activities have been invaluable from a learning standpoint. Raising and exhibiting livestock has taught me the significance of hard work, responsibility, respect for myself as well as others, accountability, time management, and the importance of faith, hope and a sense of humor.—**Brad Chapman, Sophomore, Michigan State University**

My family breeds, raises and then shows and sells hogs. We participate in many shows on the county state and national level. I love showing hogs for many reasons. The thrill of competition is amazing. You make many friends and connections through exhibiting animals as well. You also learn a plethora of new facts about the industry, the relationship between the public and the exhibitor and new technologies and advancements in the industry that will impact the rest of the world.---**Madalin Roberts, 17**

I have shown goats, rabbits, sheep, dogs, and chickens. I have learned a wide variety of things from showing in 4-H. I absolutely love everything about it-- from preparing for fair to learning about your animal. I have met lots of friends from being in 4-H and I am still constantly meeting new people that enjoy the same things I do. I have learned how to be a more confident person from 4-H. I have learned how to educate the public about my projects by answering their questions during Fair and out in the public, too. ---**Taylor Walker**

Because of the bond I have with my horse, the results of showing reflects on all the effort and hard work I have put into myself and my horse. Being an equestrian has taught me more things than I could name. I know that this life has shaped me to be the person I am today, I can say that I am a leader, I am dedicated, patient, responsible, motivated, and know good sportsmanship.—**Kelsey Layman, 19**

I started attending the Fifth Third Michigan State Fair last year as an exhibitor with my Indu-Brazilian Brahman beef cattle, my American Lineback dairy cows, and lastly my French lop rabbits. This fair is one I look forward to now because it offers so many opportunities for those who don't have the options to show big animals or even animals in general. They have anywhere from small crafts, veggies, canning, and more! I mean, if you think of it they probably have it, or will consider putting it into the following fair year. It is great to be able to talk to so many different people from so many different backgrounds, and I don't get such a constant flow of people at other shows like I do at the State Fair. The Michigan State Fair is just one of the best fairs I have attended and I only see it growing from year to year.

---**Clara Allen**

At our county fair I show sheep, crafts, foods, flowers, welding, writing and sewing projects. Last year I showed all of my still exhibits at the Michigan State Fair and was fortunate to win a scholarship. My dad has been teaching me how to weld and it has been such a great experience for us to spend time together! He and I draw out our project ideas and plan for the materials that we will need. My grandma and I try different recipes all year to come up with the foods projects that we like best. I practice them and get opinions from friends and family before deciding which ones that I will take to the fair. I am a fourth generation 4H member and the things I have learned while preparing to exhibit at the fair have given me lots of practical hands on experiences.---**Lydia Davenport, 13**

For the County Fair, I have entered many plant science projects mainly focusing on vegetables, but recently I have become interested in flowers such as Dahlias and Zinnias. Also, for the past few years, I have enjoyed taking dairy goats to the County Fair, and hope to take one to the State Fair this year. At the State level, I have exhibited plant projects in the Urban Agriculture category. On top of that I have won the Urban Agriculture Scholarship for the past two years. ---**Aaron Hutka**

My project areas include goat science, art, and plant science. I have not shown my dairy goat Jenna at the state fair yet, but I hope to this summer. Also, I will be showing a calf at the county fair for the first time this year. In the past 3 years, I have been awarded the Urban Farming Scholarship for the State Fair and have become a member of the SFYC this year. My experiences as an exhibitor have helped me to be a knowledgeable instructor at 4-H summer camps and in my 4-H club. -**Alana Hutka**

My heart lies with the dairy goats! I have shown competitively since I could walk, and have always had great interest in educating others about dairy goats. The Fifth Third Michigan State Fair gives me a great opportunity to talk with people who are full of questions and have a soft place in their heart for the cute animals! I have learned so much from raising goats. With all the responsibility comes a lot of dedication and compassion. Most of all, raising and showing goats has taught me to work hard and to reach for the stars. ---**Laura Coon**

This will be my third year exhibiting at the Michigan State Fair in the Home Arts area. Most of the projects that I make are used to decorate my home or used as gifts. By being involved in the home arts area, I get to learn new things, and I learn how to make improvements to better my skills. I have also developed great leadership skills by teaching others in my 4-H club the skills that I have learned from making these projects. --**Jessica Marimpietri, 17**

I've been going to the Michigan State Fair since I was born, almost every year. I have entered into several competition categories over my fair career. Before the State Fair starts I enjoy looking at the book, and planning what to grow for this year's fair. The first time I entered was in 2009, when I won my first Blue Ribbon in the King Arthur Flour baking contest with lemon bars. I've been showing projects every since. I like to enter into the Contest Central daily competitions too, like the Mom & Me look alike, pie eating contest and the bubble gum blowing. The circus is one of my favorites, and I am glad the State Fair moved out to Suburban Showplace.—**Heather Gregory**

I have been doing 4H at the county level, this being my 5th year. I started off as an explorer just doing crafts. Then I was sponsored by our Leader with a Nubian Goat that I have now shown for four years. I had a Sweep winner with my Duct Tape project. That's what led me to the State Fair. I have enjoyed trying different things and meeting new people. I can say I truly enjoy 4H. ---**Hunter Divert, 13**



From left to right: Alana Hutka (Novi), Heather Gregory (Novi), Ciara Allen (Jackson), Aaron Hutka (Novi), Kelsey Layman (White Lake), Hunter Divert (Milan), Madalin Roberts (Lapeer), Susanna Khanuk (Novi), Tommy Purves (Clarkston), Jessica Marimpietri (Monroe), Lydia Davenport (Ithaca).