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10 a.m.: Private Applicators; must pre-enroll with MU Extension Office. Visit extension.missouri.edu/counties/pettis or call 660-827-0591.
1 p.m.: K9 demonstration with Pettis County Sheriff's Office.
2 p.m.: Drones.

SATURDAY

10 a.m.: Show Me Quality Assurance for 4-H.
Noon: K9 demonstration with Pettis County Sheriff's Office.
1 p.m.: Private Applicators; must pre-enroll with MU Extension Office.
Other seminars will also be offered Friday and Saturday; visit the Ag Expo for a full seminar schedule. For more information about seminars, contact Janice Klenke at 660-473-1140.



Eli Dehan shows his Grand Champion Charolais Heifer, Amelia, at the Pettis County Junior Livestock Show on July 17, 2023, at the Swine Barn on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. PHOTO COURTESY OF MU EXTENSION PETTIS COUNTY



14-year-old Mattalie Shaw has been on horseback since she was 2, and had already picked up two ribbons with Max before noon Saturday at the 2023 Pettis County 4-H and FFA Horse Show. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



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At the 2023 Ag Expo, Gentry Davis, a junior at Marshall High School and owner of GMae's Baking and Milling, talks to a man during the Central Missouri Agriculture Club's annual Ag Expo. Gentry and her brother Gage Davis, a high school freshman, are members of the Marshall FFA Chapter, and their businesses, GMae's Milling and AGDash, are engaged through the National FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience.

FILE PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

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By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

The Central Missouri Agriculture Club will again host its annual two-day Ag Expo on Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Mathewson Exhibition Center and the Lowell Mohler Assembly Hall on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

Danny Young, president of the Ag Club, said the annual event brings in farm equipment dealers, livestock

equipment vendors, and anything for farm, home, and ranch.

"The Missouri Cattlemen's (Association) has a booth there," he added. "There's all kinds of financing for anybody that deals with agriculture.

"There will be seminars for farmers who want to get their applicator certification," he continued. "There's seminars on gardening, all kinds of stuff. We have a lot of smaller booths on the upper level of the exhibition center, and they just sell all kinds of stuff."

See **EVERYONE**, Page 5

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EVERYONE

Continued from Page 4

He added that wives enjoy shopping in the upper level because the items take in purses, crafts, and other things many women enjoy.

“There is something definitely for everybody,” Young noted.

He added the event is not only for farmers and agriculture-related people but for everyone, and it is also free to attend.

Young said the club had its annual Ag Club Banquet on Saturday, Jan. 20, and raised more than \$37,000 in the yearly pie auction. The proceeds will go toward local youth in agriculture.

“It was a huge success,” he noted. “That (the money) goes to basically anything that deals with youth in agriculture.

“Last year, we funded 14 scholarships that totaled, I think, around \$21,000,” he continued. “We sent a little over 830 area kids to the historical agricultural farming tour in Cole Camp. We donated \$8,000 to 4-H and FFA for their shows and events. That money all goes to youth in agriculture. So, that’s a pretty neat deal.”



The Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller smiles as her son, Isaac Zeller, 5, watches a model train at the 2023 Central Missouri Ag Club Expo. The train was at the Reece Nichols Realty table with realtor Hansel Morris.

As for the Ag Expo, Young said he doesn’t have the exact number, but he believes the event has been going on for 25 years.

“It gives all of our central area that’s surrounded by farmers, it gives them

a place in the wintertime to get out and see all of those vendors in one place,” he explained. “Whether they are selling machinery or equipment or where they get their insurance from. Maybe it’s who they do their banking with, maybe it’s MFA.

“There’s vehicle dealers there,” he added. “It just gives them a one-stop place they can go and just visit all of the people they do business with. There are some new businesses there, and it gives them a chance to get acquainted with them. It’s just a real neat exposure to everything agriculture.”

Also, this year, the State Fair Community College Ag Department will have a concession stand at the Ag Expo featuring drinks, cookies, pies, and cakes. The Missouri Cattlemen’s Association will have a booth with cheeseburgers and ribeye sandwiches.

“There’s always a couple hours each day the MFA Oil has free hot dogs,” Young said. “On Saturday, we have a pedal pull at 3 o’clock in the afternoon for kids to do the pedal pull. So, there’s literally something for everybody.”

The Central Missouri Ag Expo will be hosted on Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Mathewson Exhibition Center and the Lowell Mohler Assembly Hall on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. For more information, visit www.centralmoag.com.

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at 660-520-0289.



Judy Harrell takes an order at the Pettis County Cattlemen’s food truck at the 2023 Central Missouri Ag Club Expo. The food truck was open Friday and Saturday at the Expo, grilling hamburgers and ribeye steak for sandwiches.

FILE PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

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Agriculture Club supports local students

By Democrat Staff

In addition to its support of local agriculture programs, the Central Missouri Agriculture Club also awards numerous academic scholarships each year.

The Agriculture Club gave out \$28,700 in scholarships in 2023, a significant increase over the last several years. It's seen as a way to help the future of agriculture by supporting students seeking education and training in an agricultural-related field.

Funds are raised through the Ag Club's annual pie contest and Agriculture Expo and given to three areas: scholarships, 4-H and FFA, and youth tours.

See **SUPPORTS**, Page 8

AG CLUB DONATES TO AREA AGRICULTURE EFFORTS



The Central Missouri Agriculture Club gave \$28,700 in scholarships in 2023. First row from left, Kylie Baker, Ebanie Shaw, Abigail Arnold, Macy Reed, Mattilyn Mergen and Kay Sparks. Second row, Janice Klenke, Aubrey Embry, Emma Slate, Monty Cornine and Judd Harms. PHOTO BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT



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AG CLUB DONATES TO AREA AGRICULTURE EFFORTS



The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated \$2,000 to the Pettis County Horse Committee. From left, Janice Klenke, Ivy Elwell, Keely Elwell, Mary Holsten, Jessie Elwell, Brad Elwell, Julie Carpenter and Kay Sparks. PHOTO BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT



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The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated \$4,000 to the Pettis County Junior Livestock Show. From left, Kay Sparks, Julie Carpenter, David Dick, Nick Gerke and Janice Klenke. PHOTO BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT



The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated \$1,000 to the Pettis County Dog Show. From left, Kay Sparks, Julie Carpenter, Amy Gibbs, and Janice Klenke. PHOTO BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT

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SUPPORTS

Continued from Page 6

The Central Missouri Ag Club also partners with Agriculture Future of America of Kansas City to present scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan on pursuing a four-year degree in an agriculture-related field of study. AFA offers a match for the Ag Club scholarships. AFA applications can be submitted online at www.agfuture.org/scholarships. The deadline is March 6.

Students from any Pettis County school district, Cole Camp, Lincoln, Otterville, Sweet Springs, Windsor, Warsaw, and

Knob Noster who plan to study an agriculture-related field in college, plus college students already studying agriculture, are eligible to apply for scholarships through the Central Missouri Ag Club.

Interested students should contact their school counselor for more information and to receive the local scholarship application; it is also available on the Ag Club's website. The applications are available each spring and are presented at the student's high school graduation.

For more information, visit centralmoag.com, find Central Missouri Ag Club on Facebook or contact Ag Club Scholarship Chair Todd Gerlt at 660-851-7113 ext. 7050.

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Macy Reed of Green Ridge is living the 4-H dream

By Chris Howell

chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Macy Reed is devoted to agriculture and, at a young age, already has a thriving herd of cattle.

"I live in Green Ridge," Reed said. "My family and I own a Hereford cattle operation south of town. We have about 80 head of registered purebred Hereford cattle."

Reed and her sisters grew up on the farm and have shown their cattle in many expos and shows, including the Missouri State Fair.

"We've also been members of our local 4-H club and so we've done a lot of things through that," Reed said, "including the showing of our cattle and other agricultural-related projects. We do a lot of things like community service and other learning experiences through 4-H as well."

Reed, who received a Central Missouri Agriculture Club scholarship, was in 4-H for 10 years and just recently "graduated" from the club.

"Then, in high school, I was a member of FFA for all four years of school," Reed said. "I'm getting ready to apply for my American FFA degree. I'm working on that right now. I've just been a big part of agriculture in the Pettis County and statewide area through organizations as well as the Cattlemen's Association and Missouri Hereford Association that we've been really involved in in the last several years."

Reed is hoping to be involved in February's Ag Expo at the Mathewson Exhibition Center to learn more about agriculture and support the farm community.

"I usually go every year just to kind of see what's going on and support our local agriculture," Reed said. "I go to State Fair Community College in Sedalia and the Ag Club, we are going to be doing something there to help out and show our support and our presence in Pettis County."

Raising livestock and showing prize cattle has led Reed down a productive path, and she recommends a career in agriculture to those willing to do the work.

"It's a really good opportunity for young people," Reed said. "Whether it's a job or just an opportunity, there are lots of things agriculture has offered me as a young adult. I've been working at MFA Agri Service and that's been one of my greatest accomplishments as far as learning more about agriculture in a different aspect than other things I've been able to do."

Reed's farm has a large social media presence and she works to build relationships through agriculture.

"A lot of it for me is making connections with people," Reed said. "A lot of people I've met through the agriculture industry are either family, friends, or just people I've met through different events. They are people you can really rely on and can say something good about you, people that will always be there to help you out if you ever need it."

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.

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SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE



Participants in the Pettis County Dog Show on July 8, 2023, pose for a photo at Mutts, Manners and More in Windsor.



Samuel Dehan shows Bosley's teeth to judge Amy in the confirmation class show as part of the 2023 Pettis County 4-H Dog Show. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MU EXTENSION PETTIS COUNTY

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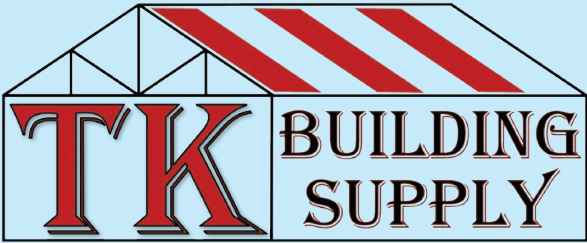
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Club's mission is to support, promote agriculture

The Central Missouri Agriculture Club is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support, promote, and recruit youth in agriculture in central Missouri.

The Club consists of Pettis County area business leaders and individuals.

Since the Club was formed in June 2009, it has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships, nearly \$20,000 for the Ag Tours and more than \$70,000 in financial assistance to area youth and 4-H/FFA activities.

In 2023, the Central Missouri Ag Club awarded scholarships totaling \$28,700 to area students and provided \$8,000.00 in financial assistance to the local 4-H/FFA Livestock Show, 4-H/FFA Dog Show, 4-H/FFA Horse Show, 4-H Achievement Days, and robotics program, as well as sponsoring a farm youth tour for area students to experience at a glance the past in farming techniques.

The proceeds are funded from the two annual fundraisers: the Agriculture Banquet and Pie Auction, hosted annually in mid-January, and the Central Missouri Ag Expo, hosted annually the first weekend in February.

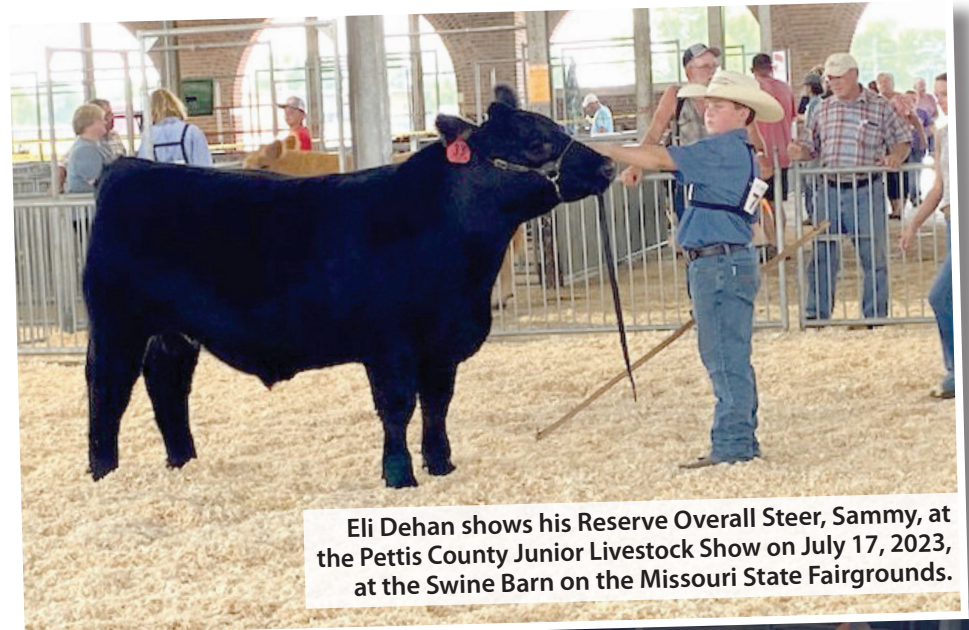
The Central Missouri Agriculture Club provides scholarships in conjunction with Agriculture Future of America (AFA) to graduating high school seniors who plan on pursuing a four-year degree in an agriculture-related field of study. This scholarship supports college tuition and fees in the amount of \$3,200 and includes sponsorship to the AFA Leaders Conference (a \$1,000 value) during the fall of the recipient's freshman year of college. The AFA Leaders Conference focuses on personal and professional development and is hosted annually in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Club also provides scholarships to students who plan to pursue an agriculture-related field of study at

either a community college or a four-year college/university.

The Central Missouri Ag Club also sponsors a Farm Family of the Year award.

For more information about the Central Missouri Agriculture Club, visit www.centralmoag.com or find Central Missouri Ag Club on Facebook.



Eli Dehan shows his Reserve Overall Steer, Sammy, at the Pettis County Junior Livestock Show on July 17, 2023, at the Swine Barn on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

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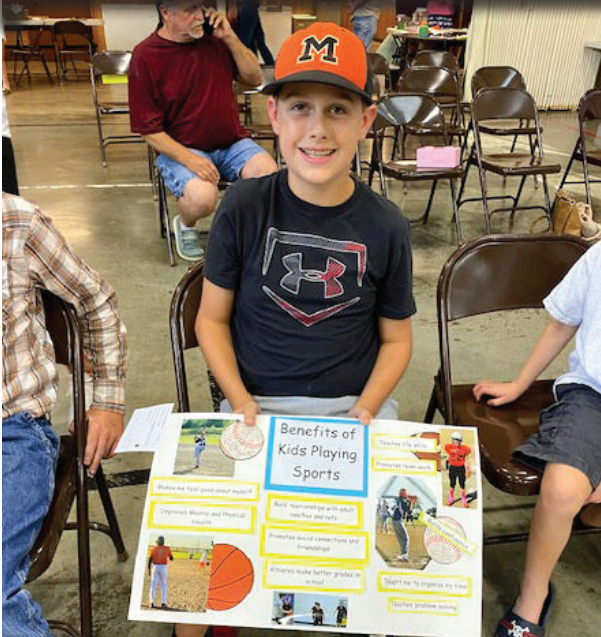
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Junior and senior Showmanship winners sponsored by the Pettis County Cattlemen's Association are seen at the Pettis County Junior Livestock Show on July 17, 2023. From left, Rhett Sneed, Maggie Reed, Gabby Meyer and Zach Cordes. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MU EXTENSION PETTIS COUNTY

SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE



Grady Wilbanks shows off his Healthy Living Champion-Keeper Fit: The Benefits of Sports and Kids poster. His poster was selected to be exhibited at the Missouri State Fair in the 4-H building.



Joclyn Clements, of Slater, entered her first horse show with help from her mother, Jessica, Saturday, June 17 at the Pettis County 4-H and FFA Horse Show at the State Fair Coliseum on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



Eli Dehan holds up his Charolais cattle photos that were selected to go to the Missouri State Fair in the 4-H building from Pettis County Achievement Day, which was hosted July 12, 2023.



Kinze Wilbanks displays the pillow she made for Pettis County Achievement Days on July 12, 2023. Wilbanks' project was selected to go to Missouri State Fair in the 4-H building. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MU EXTENSION PETTIS COUNTY



Isabella Cornine waits with her mother, Katie, to visit with the Clover Kid judge to talk about her projects she made at Pettis County Achievement Day.



Austin Wood holds his poster for Staging Corn.

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Robert Weinberg shows area students the hours-long process of reducing sugar cane juice into molasses on Thursday, Sept. 28 during Farm Life of Yesteryears in Cole Camp. Hundreds of students saw demonstrations in rural farming practices over the two-day event. PHOTOS BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Local students visit Cole Camp for Farm Life of Yesteryear

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

COLE CAMP — As part of its focus on youth in agriculture, the Central Missouri Agriculture Club helps fund student trips to teach about the old-fashioned rural lifestyle. Students from area schools visited Cole Camp on Thursday, Sept. 28 and Friday, Sept. 29 to experience the rural lifestyle of a bygone era.

The Central Missouri Ag Club, MU Extension office, Pettis County 4-H, and Cole Camp Antique Tractor Association partnered with local schools to demonstrate the working history of agriculture in Pettis County.

Cindy Jolly was the event organizer, and said it was beautiful weather to host the hundreds of students bussed in each day for this glimpse of farm living.

“This is Farm Life of Yesteryears,” Jolly said over the noise of the antique sawmill. “I’ve been doing it since 2009. We run a sawmill and talk about the demonstration after it’s over. They cook molasses, we make apple cider on site, we make homemade butter, we have Grandma’s Kitchen that shows antiques that go back into the middle 1800s.”

More than 850 homeschooled kids and students from 12 schools in Benton, Camden, Cooper, and Pettis counties,



Stover junior Luke Viebrock samples a spoonful of freshly-refined molasses at Farm Life of Yesteryear in Cole Camp. People today either love the taste of molasses or hate it, event organizers said.

along with their chaperones, attended over the two-day event.

Keeping the high-tech students of today interested in the low-tech farm equipment meant moving in small groups from station to station as experts gave demonstrations of old equipment and techniques.

See **CAMP**, Page 15

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CAMP

Continued from Page 14

“We have some animals on site,” Jolly said. “Some burros and llamas, we have corn shelling and then we have wheat thrashing and a stationary bailer. The ones I spoke to were quite impressed. One school was all kindergarteners, so they really enjoyed that. We show them the demonstrations, they get to ask questions out in the nice cool breeze. We give them a little sample of molasses, we give them a little sample of cider, we give them a sample of homemade butter. I love to do it every year.”

One demonstration that really drew in kids was the crushing of sugar cane and boiling the juice into molasses. Verona Goetz grew up working the labor-intensive process with her family and remembers it well.

“We buy the cane from the Mennonites in Windsor; they will strip it all and cut it off and put it on the wagon,” Goetz said. “My family did this for years, I remember doing this as a little girl in the field. It got so labor intensive we haven’t got enough people to go out and do it.”



Robert Weinberg shows local students the crushed husks of sugar cane after the juice extraction process. Farmers say no animal will eat the husks, and they must be dumped. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

An antique tractor with an old universal joint turned a 100-year-old masher as Robert Weinberg fed the cane in and collected the greenish liquid to be boiled down for hours.

“For three and a half to four hours,”

Goetz said. “We start with about 50 to 60 gallons of juice and wind up with about 7 or 8.”

All that work for a sweet, sticky goo.

Luke Viebrock is a junior from Stover and spent the morning admiring

the well-rested farm equipment.

“Just viewing all these nice antiques and learning about what they did in the past,” Viebrock said. “They just did what they were told by their parents and really get to work.”

Viebrock watched the cane refining process and marveled at the way forefathers put their back into it.

“Lot of hard work,” Viebrock said. “Just taking the sugar cane and just crumbling it up, cutting down trees and using that for firewood. They just got their own products, and they were good homemade.”

Viebrock was one student willing to try the freshly refined syrup and bravely sampled a spoonful.

“It’s either they like it, or they don’t like it,” Goetz said. “They’re going, ‘Oh this tastes like honey, this tastes like pumpkin!’ You know, everybody’s taste is different.”

Perhaps it was seeing how the molasses was made that helped Viebrock be one who enjoyed the flavor.

“It was sweet and tasted really good,” Viebrock noted. “I wish I could have some more right now.”

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.

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By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Saturday evening, Jan. 20, the Central Missouri Agriculture Club hosted the annual Banquet and Pie Auction at the Pork Place on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The event raised a total of \$37,150. Janice Klenke, Banquet and Pie Contest Chairman, said it is all about raising money for youth in agriculture. "The money we raised from here and from the Ag Expo that'll be coming up in February, that money goes towards scholarships," Klenke said, "for kids going to college studying agriculture, and goes to help the 4-H and FFA kids pay for their achievement days out here." The money raised is also used every year to support local kids visiting Old Set-

“

The highest pie we ever sold was a Grand Champion pie and it brought \$4,800."

— Janice Klenke
Banquet and Pie Contest Chairman

tlar Days in Cole Camp, paying for lunch as hundreds of students get to experience aspects of rural farming in days past. "We fed better than 700 kids to go find out about farming," Klenke said. Klenke said the banquet has been hosted for 40 to 50 years, and the pie auction for half that.

See **AUCTION**, Page 17

#1 — Rayleigh Williams, of La Monte, took home the prize for Overall Grand Champion Pie on Saturday, Jan. 20 with her amazing Peanut Butter Paradise Pie. The Central Missouri Agriculture Club's Banquet and Pie Auction has been hosted annually for more than 40 years.

#2 — The Central Missouri Ag Club's banquet raised more than \$37,000 Saturday, Jan. 20 to support kids in agriculture.

#3 — Hadley Bruner baked her Cherry Pecan Plum Pie with the help of her grandmother Sharon Bruner. Hadley's pie took third place in the youth division. PHOTOS BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

AUCTION

Continued from Page 16

"The highest pie we ever sold was a Grand Champion pie and it brought \$4,800," she added.

The banquet also serves as a kick-off for the upcoming Ag Expo, which Klenke says will be special this year.

"Everybody needs to make plans to come to the Expo and it'll be at the Mathewson (Exhibition Center) and Lowell Mohler (Assembly Hall) coming up the first weekend in February," Klenke said. "Come and see what all we've got down there, a lot of interesting booths, seminars, and different things."

Danny Young is President of the Ag Club and said moving the banquet to the Pork Place on the fairgrounds has made it an event not to be missed.

"We originally had the pie auction at the Ag Expo,"

Young said. "Then a few years into that we started having the banquet and having the auction here, which just really helped it grow."

The organizers added the pie auction to the annual banquet around 20 years ago, which, with an auction, adds excitement and a way for anyone to contribute to the goal of raising funds for the right reason.

"Youth in ag," Young told the Democrat. "It goes to scholarships, 4-H, FFA, anything youth in agriculture."

The pies could be considered a tasty way to reward big donors for their generous contributions.

"They pay way more than they're worth," Young said, "but they know it's going to a good cause."

Sharon Bruner was at the banquet with her family to support kids in ag and see how she and her granddaughter Hadley's pies rated.

"I did the Hawaiian cream pie, a Peach gooseberry pie and the mystery pecan pie," Bruner said. "I got number one in the meringue division for the Hawaiian Cream Pie and third for Mystery Pecan Pie."

Hadley placed third in the youth division with her Cherry Pecan Plum Pie, and the big winner of the evening's pie contest was Rayleigh Williams, of La Monte, who took Overall Grand Champion Pie with her amazing Peanut Butter Paradise Pie.

"I personally love peanut butter pie," Williams said. "I think it is so delicious. You get judged on looks, which is a very big thing, taste, your pie has to taste good – I mean, if it tastes bad, it's not gonna do well – and it just has to be a nice pie, like it just it has to be put together well."

Williams is a 4-H member and has found a knack for pie baking and a way to contribute to students in agriculture.

"I've been doing this for a while and I've just really enjoyed doing it," Williams said. "It's really, really, fun. It's a peanut butter pie with homemade whipped cream, it's all homemade, it has homemade crust. I spent lots of time on it, a lot of fails and successes with the pie."

Her hard work paid off when she was told Saturday her pie was picked as the Overall Grand Champion.

"It felt amazing because I've been trying to just win first place in the youth category for three years and I really tried to work hard this year and put together a good pie," Williams said.

Williams helped at the Ag Club banquet as a server and has made many friends through 4-H.

"It's just really great for people to start young and it's a great group of people," Williams added.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.

Pie Contest Results

Overall Grand Champion Pie:

Peanut Butter Paradise Pie, Rayleigh Williams.

Double Crust Category: First, Sassy Southern Peach Pie, Cheryl Lange. Second, Triple Apple Pie, Jo Beeman. Third, All American Apple Pie, Penny Taylor.

Meringue Category: First, Hawaiian Cream Pie, Sharon Bruner. Second, Peanut Butter Cream Pie, Jo Beeman. Third, Chocolate Mocha Meringue Pie, Connie Soendker.

Mixed Medium Category: First, Pina Colada Pie (Not Just a Drink), Cheryl Lange. Second, Creamiest Mile High Coconut Cream Pie, Rhonda Hess. Third, Mystery Pecan Pie, Sharon Bruner.

Youth Category: First, Peanut Butter Paradise Pie, Rayleigh Williams. Second, Peach Pie, Maggie Reed. Third, Cherry Pecan Crumb Pie, Hadley Bruner.

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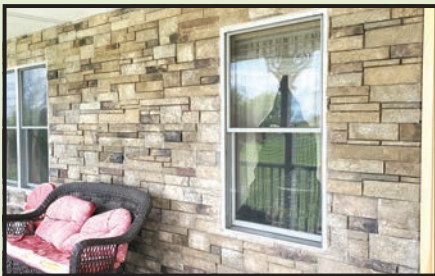


A trio of Pettis County 4-H and FFA Horse Show winners smile for the camera. The annual show is hosted each June on the Missouri State Fairgrounds and sponsored by the Central Missouri Agriculture Club. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ELWELL FAMILY



Pettis County 4-H and FFA Horse Show participants show off the hardware they earned during the 2023 competition on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

See us at the Ag Expo Show February 2nd & 3rd!



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Participants in the 2023 Pettis County 4-H and FFA Horse Show pose for a photo with their awards outside the Coliseum on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The show had 45 exhibitors from multiple counties that competed for class ribbons and high point awards.

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Competitors in the 2023 Pettis County 4-H and FFA Horse Show pose for a group photo outside the Coliseum on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Youth from all across the state are invited to come show off their horsemanship skills and have some fun. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELWELL FAMILY

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