



Lincoln County Fair

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Lincoln County Fair 2022

PARTY

with
the

ANIMALS

New secretary takes helm

By Chris Wilson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

Longtime Tobacco Valley resident Pam Rackley took over the position of Lincoln County Fair Secretary and Manager in November of 2021.

Rackley started out as an assistant to Svea Jorgensen, the previous fair secretary and 4-H manager. As the workload of both positions increased and became untenable, Jorgensen moved to focus on 4-H and Rackley stepped up to to head the fair.

Rackley is originally from Portland, Oregon, and has lived in the Tobacco Valley area for 26 years. Over the years, her entire family fell in love with the area and both her mom and her husband's parents now live nearby. Rackley is also an artist and creates rock paintings that she sells at the farmers market and other events throughout the year.

Rackley is passionate about her job. She was in 4-H when she was a child, but she said it wasn't nearly as developed as it is in the Tobacco Valley. "I love the fair. And it's great. When people come together and volunteer to help out, and they want to be part of something like that. - I love that part of it," she said.

This year's fair will include some new vendors and see the return of Kidsville. At the popular attraction, kids and their parents can bounce in inflatable toys, play



PAM RACKLEY

old-fashioned booth games, and enjoy face-painting and balloon animals.

Rackley said that the Covid pandemic had a big effect on the fair the last couple of years. In 2020 safety restrictions reduced the size of the event, turning it into just a 4-H fair and eliminating many of the other events and attractions. For 2021, The Bull Thing, open display classes, and other attractions returned, but Kidsville remained on hiatus.

Rackley thinks this will be the year where the fair is back in full force and ready to show its best side to the community and outside visitors.



Bidders attend the 4-H livestock auction.



A volunteer places a piece of art back on the wall after judging.

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Musicians Sequoia Adams and Liberty Adams perform on the free stage in 2021.



A youngster pets a lamb in the sheep barn.

4-H hog program especially popular for this season

By Chris Wilson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

The numbers of pigs entered at Lincoln County Fair this year has eclipsed previous years and

necessitated an expansion in the program.

Extension agent Svea Jorgensen said that there will be 61 hogs at this year's fair, 20 more than in 2021. She attributed the increase to a growing number of children in the in the community that are eight

years or older and meet the 4-H age requirement to raise and sell a pig - and those children learning how lucrative pigs can be.

With that growth, the 4-H program has improved the fairgrounds infrastructure to handle the extra animals. With the help of volunteers and sponsors, the arena was enlarged, the announcer's booth moved to the center of the arena, and two new wash racks were added. Lambs were moved to a different barn to free up more stalls for the pigs, all of which will provide more room to prepare and exercise all of the animals.

Keenan Flanagan, 10, is preparing his pigs to compete at the 2022 Lincoln County Fair.

Flanagan has been raising pigs for three years. He is raising three pigs this year and his two main ones are Porky and Jasmine. The Flanagan family will keep one of the pigs for their own use, one will go to the fair, and the third pig will be raffled off.

Flanagan says the 4-H program has

taught him how to raise, discipline and take care of his animals. He said to raise a pig you have to build a pen, provide straw for bedding and for the pigs to root through in order to satisfy their need for stimuli and to explore their surroundings, a heat lamp to keep the pigs warm when it's cold. He offers three different stages of feed: starter, grower and finisher. Flanagan said the pigs will go through about three bags of food a week, or about 150 pounds.

Flanagan predicts Jasmine will grow to about 270 pounds. Porky was a more expensive piglet, and Flanagan thinks he'll top out between 280 and 300 pounds. Flanagan said that a grown pig can be sold for around \$3,000. Porky and Jasmine will be the largest pigs he has raised so far.

Flanagan said he's going to keep on raising pigs for the next couple of years before he switches to raising cattle. He said he enjoys raising and working with the animals. "I like bonding with the animals," Flanagan said.



Keegan Flanagan, 10, is raising three 4-H pigs this year.



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Youngsters enjoy a sweet treat on the fairway.



Children try to catch the "golden chicken" during the chicken scramble for prize money at the 2021 Friday Night Games.

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Jason Quintanilla of Libby watches two bantam chickens in the open class judging.

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Mom Svetlana Harper helps Nick Harper and pup Mirta prepare for the dog agility course.

Trainer steps up to judge

By Rebecca Nelson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

Trainer Christine Gevas is looking forward to her first year judging the dog division at the Lincoln County Fair.

Gevas is the owner of Chaos K-9, a business located in Rexford and specializing in obedience training. It's named for her Belgian Malinois, Chaos. She has always loved and owned dogs, but only got seriously into training them in the last few years.

Three years ago, Eureka dog trainer Kenyon Evers was offering a free Saturday dog training class at the fairgrounds, and Gevas started attending with her pitbull hound.

Evers has "so much experience training dogs," Gevas said. "He's been doing it his whole life." Since Evers specialized in breeds such as Belgian Malinois and German Shepherds, Gevas was inspired to adopt a Belgian Malinois, and started training it with Kenyon's help.

She now has six dogs of her own, all either rescues or in the case of her pitbull hound, offered for free and therefore at risk of ending up in a fighting ring. She also has a pitbull pointer mix "who has some issues," she said.

Her two Malinois came from a Malinois

rescue, another dog came from a shelter in California, and she adopted a cattle dog because he had the habit of chasing cows and couldn't perform the work his original owners had wanted him to.

Some of her dogs come from tough backgrounds, but Gevas is up to the challenge. What she loves about dogs is "their loyalty, how smart they are, their forgiving nature - like being a beginning handler, they can be real forgiving partners in that," she said. She also loves that they are protective.

In addition to her judge duties, Gevas is renting a building at the fairgrounds and offering her services for free to 4-H students "so that they can have a real trainer that they can go to, to help them if they would like with the dog classes."

The fair also offers other dog classes which are open to the public, Gevas said.

There are various skills highlighted in the dog division. Judge Erin Kelly will join Gevas and will focus on agility and tricks. Kelly is also a trainer, and has won titles with her dogs in various competitions. One event Kelly will judge at the fair even includes costumes.

With her focus on rescue dogs, Gevas is dedicated to foundational skills and obedience. "It'll be a new experience, doing the judging," she said. "I really am looking forward to that."

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NEWS



4-H member Leah Cote leads her hog through the arena at the 2021 livestock auction.



Extension agent and former fair secretary Svea Jorgensen and a volunteer prepare a barn for judging.



A ticket taker counts out change for Kidsville.

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Gardener Catherine Kahle of Trego admires the vegetables on display at the fair and contemplates her potential future entries.



Junior Patrick Souza of Sonora, Brazil prepares in the chute for a ride at the Bull Thing.

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2022 Lincoln County Fair



Auctioneer Gideon Yutzy celebrates a bid at the 2020 4-H livestock auction.



Youths compete in the three-legged race at the 2021 Friday Night Games.

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Bull fighters protect rider Warren Brennan after he dismounts at the 2021 Bull Thing.



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4-H member Isabella Soileau, 7, stands on a step stool to reach the rabbit judging counter at the 2021 Lincoln County Fair.



A team practices for the blindfolded wheelbarrow race during Friday Night Games.



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Bull rider Colt Yeager catches air off a bull at the 2021 Bull Thing.

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A steer takes a victory lap around the arena at the 2021 livestock auction.



4-H members await judging.



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2022 Fair Schedule

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Register and weigh in livestock2-7 p.m.
 Weigh-in livestock interview2-7 p.m.
 Barn meetings immediately after weigh-in.....7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25

Livestock judging.....8 a.m.
 Register 4-H poultry, rabbits, pocket pets.....3-7 p.m.
 Register horses3-7 p.m.
 Dog agility5:30 p.m.
 Open Class & 4-H dog show.....6 p.m.
 Oldies but Goodies with Holly VanBemmel, food court6:30-8 p.m.
 Divisions A through H registrationNoon-8 p.m.
 Division K - Youth registrationNoon-8 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26

General exhibit barn hours10 a.m.- 8 p.m.
 Judging, Divisions A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H.....8 a.m.
 4-H horse show.....9 a.m.
 Kidsville10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Food Court free stage with Holly VanBemmelAs scheduled
 Community garden opens.....Noon-3 p.m.
 Flower demonstration.....1 p.m.
 Judging11:30-3:30 p.m.
 4-H rabbits.....11:30-Noon
 Open class rabbits.....Noon-12:30p.m.
 4-H pocket pets.....12:30-1 p.m.
 Open pocket pets.....1-1:30 p.m.
 4-H poultry.....1:30-2 p.m.
 Open class poultry.....2-2:30 p.m.
 Required Round Robin instruction5 p.m.
 Friday Night at the Games, Arena.....7-9 p.m.
 Family dance at fish pond pavilionAfter games

Saturday, Aug. 27

Exhibit barns10-7 p.m.
 Round Robin, all-around showmanship8 a.m.
 Kidsville9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.
 Open class horse show.....10 a.m.
 Open class horse trail/obstacle course.....10:30a.m. - 1 p.m.
 16th annual Karaoke Challenge.....Noon-3 p.m.
 Food Court free stage.....Noon-3 p.m.
 4-H Livestock Auction.....3 p.m.
 The Bull Thing.....7 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 28

General exhibit barn hours10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Food Court stageuntil 3 p.m.
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.
 Kidsville1-4 p.m.
 Closing ceremonies3 p.m.
 General removal of livestock and exhibits4-6 p.m.



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TOBACCO VALLEY
NEWS

from the Lincoln County Fair