

# Morrow County Fair premium books available

by Birdine Tullis, Morrow Extension Service

We hear from the printer that County Fair Premium books should be available this week, and we'll be so happy. The Extension office has been besieged with questions from would-be exhibitors concerning the fair. Extension staff are always willing to offer any help they can to those wanting information. Often there is confusion concerning who to contact for information regarding the fair.

The Fair Board and Fair Committee share the responsibility for the management and production of the Morrow County Fair, with the help of dedicated superintendents and other volunteers. Most questions regarding open class entries, exhibits, requirements, dates, etc., as well as reservation of space for booths and commercial displays should be directed to the Fair Board secretary, Dorothy Estberg, home phone 676-5159, or fair grounds, 676-9474. Questions regarding 4-H exhibits, entries, events and activities should be directed to the extension office, 676-9642.

The Fair Board chairman this year is Pete Richards, Irrigon. Other members of the board are Charlie Daly, Ron Currin, Harold (Shorty) Peck, and Virginia Grieb. Fair Committee chairman is Delpha Jones, Lexington. Other Fair Committee members are Marlene Gray, secretary, Ruth McCabe, Harold Peck, Phyllis Piper, Virginia Peck, Bill Helphenstine and Gary Grieb. Any of these persons, including extension staff, are happy to answer questions, for all are people who believe that the county fair is an important event in the county, and are eager to promote the fair, and work for its success.

4-H Records Required with Market Livestock

A new rule this year for exhibitors of 4-H market animals (beef, lamb, swine) requires the member to turn in feed and growth records when animals are weighed at the fair. John Nordheim, 4-H agent, says there are standard 4-H forms on which this may be recorded, but he will accept information recorded on non-standard forms, such as a feed and growth diary, calendar, etc. He cautions all livestock members to have this information up to date and ready.

State Fair Entry Information

Have you ever considered entering open class at Oregon State Fair? Morrow County has many talented people who could certainly score well at the state event. Most exhibits for state fair must be pre-registered, with registration deadlines occurring in early August. Those who might want to enter agricultural products, photography, livestock, arts and crafts, home economics or floriculture, will find a copy of state fair premium book available at the extension office. Some entry forms are also available. You are welcome to come by and check information. The only products we know about that go to state fair from our county without individual pre-registration are the wheat exhibits. Since our county fair coincides with state, wheat exhibits from our county are accepted late, by special arrangements, and taken directly to Salem with 4-H exhibits. Incidentally, Morrow County has often won the best grains exhibit category at the state fair.

More Wheat Information

The bountiful wheat crop this season seems to be inspiring more local women to get out and pick wheat for weaving and for sheaves. Questions have come in concerning judging standards for sheaves, as well as how to make them. I'll share some hints given me last year by Norm Goetze, OSU agronomist, as well as information from the Oregon State Fair Premium book. The state fair premium book states that the sheaves "will be judged on attractiveness." We interpret

that to say the length of the sheaves should be in proportion to the size of the arrangement of heads, as well as having the wheat heads well arranged. Sheaves should not be less than 4 inches in diameter at bottom tie. Most are tied with

three strings, one in under the heads, one near the crown, and one in the middle of the stalks. Goetze said, "In making sheaves, remember, they are intended to hang on a wall, so the back side will be

flat. Arrange your heads attractively, building from a tie point in the center, and lay on the heads in to form an attractive bundle, not too tight. Stalks should be clean and straight. Remove any

leaves clinging to stalks. He stressed that wheat should be picked in the dough stage, as kernels will not shatter and straw will be more pliable. Sheaves may be made from wheat that is ripe, but not

when better than one. I personally found that making a sheaf of wheat was not as easy as one might think. Mine was very dry (ready for harvest) when picked, so I resorted to misting the straw and heads

with warm water to make them easier to handle. (If dampened, be sure to hand the sheaves where they will dry.) If you have missed the perfect time to pick, don't despair. You can make sheaves and weaving from drier wheat.

There are many attractive ways to use wheat for home decoration or crafts. Just an arrangement of wheat in an attractive container is a lovely accessory for any home. I've seen lovely wall decorations of wheat displayed on old

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