

Wilkinson arena - new livestock facility for fair



Photo by Merlyn Robinson

Morrow County Fair Board Chairman Sam Bellamy (left) cuts the ribbon at the July 30 dedication of the fairgrounds' new Wilkinson arena. Dick and Virginia Wilkinson (pictured above), staunch fair supporters, were major contributors to the building of the arena. The 125'x225' building has ample room for show rings, and livestock exhibits. This year's fair book was dedicated to the Wilkinsons.

As most of you know, the Wilkinson Arena is the new building at the Morrow County Fairgrounds that will house beef, sheep, swine, and small animals.

To try to alleviate some of the congestion during the unloading process, unloading will be handled a little differently at fair this year. Swine will start being weighed at 7 a.m. Sheep will be weighed after the main rush of swine is over. Beef will start being weighed at 8 a.m. and weigh as usual.

To unload your swine, come in the main fair entrance and turn to the right, going between the building and the road. Continue to the east end of the building and unload at the swine area.

To unload sheep, come in the

main gate and go to the football field and park. From there you can lead your sheep to its pen in the Wilkinson Arena. If you have heavy tack to unload, you can drive closer to the new arena when the traffic has cleared out and the congestion is gone.

Beef can come in the main gate or the gate by the elementary school, then proceed to the west end of the outdoor arena. Unload your steer and weigh him. You can either lead your steer back to the Wilkinson arena or load back into a trailer and haul. Hauling them back may be a good option if your steer is a little nervous when you weigh him.

"This will be the first year in the new facility. A lot of people worked very hard to have this

new facility available for fair," said Bill Broderick, Morrow County Extension agent. "As might be expected with a new facility, we may have to monitor and adjust as we find better ways to manage people, animals, and equipment. Please try to stay flexible and help with this process as much as you can."

If you have any questions about the procedure, please call Bill Broderick 676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664.

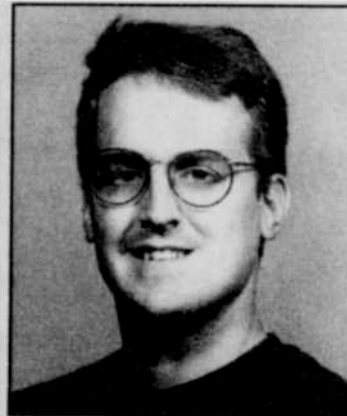
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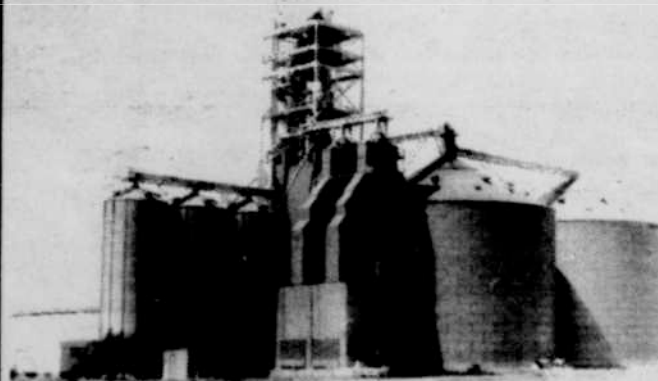
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