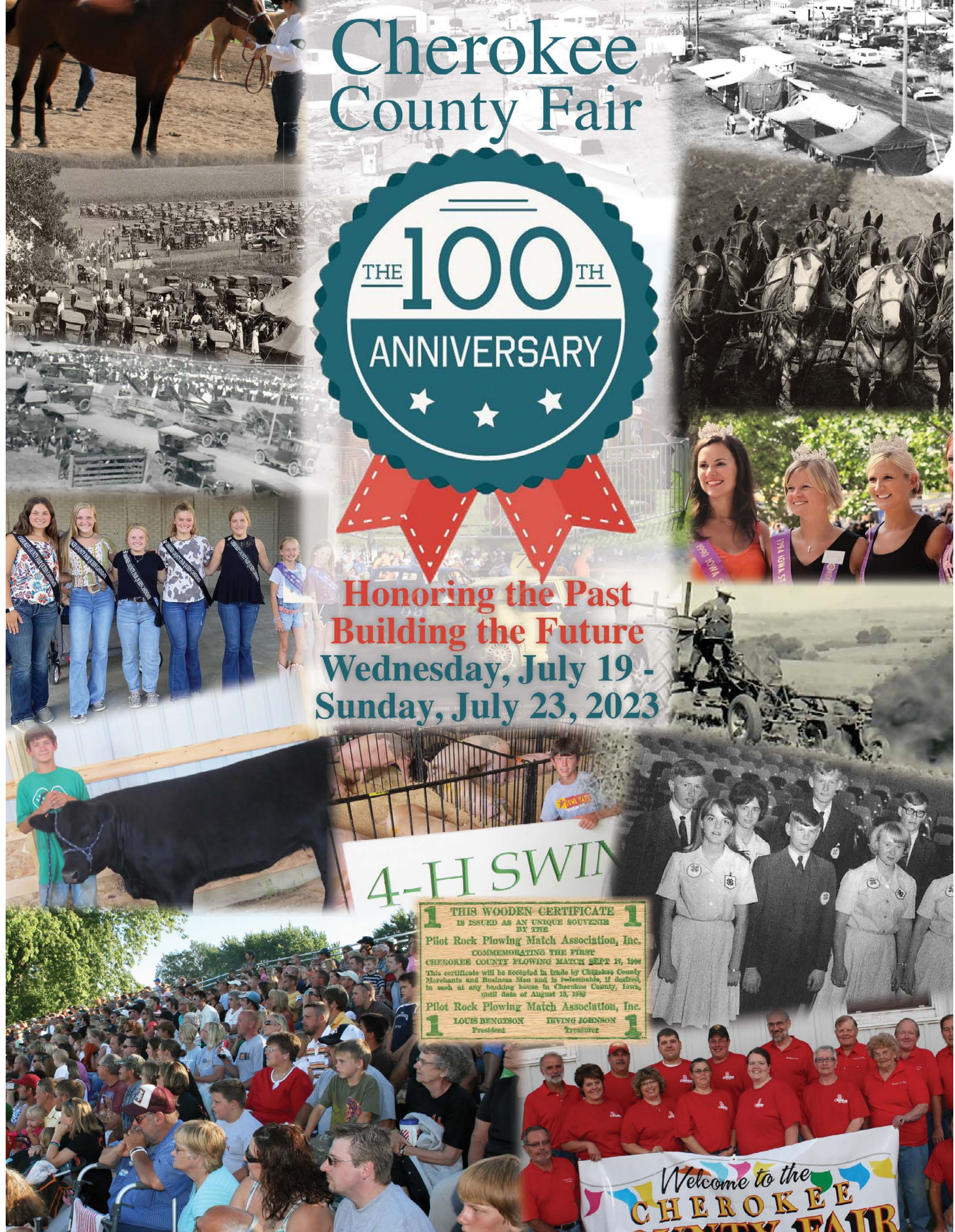


Cherokee County Fair



**Honoring the Past
Building the Future**
**Wednesday, July 19 -
Sunday, July 23, 2023**



4-H SWIN

1 THIS WOODEN CERTIFICATE 1
IS ISSUED AS AN UNIQUE SOUVENIR
BY THE
Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association, Inc.
COMMEMORATING THE FIRST
CHEROKEE COUNTY FLOWING MATCH SEPT 24, 1908
This certificate will be accepted in trade by Cherokee County
Merchants and Business Men and is redeemable, if desired,
in cash at any banking house in Cherokee County, Iowa,
until date of August 18, 1929
Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association, Inc.
1 LOUIS BENJONSON IRVING JOHNSON 1
President Treasurer

Welcome to the
CHEROKEE COUNTY FAIR

As we celebrate 100 years, a note from our Fair Association President

On behalf of the Cherokee County Fair Association, I wish to thank you for your support. We scheduled several events this year to honor our past. Volunteers have always been the driving force behind the Cherokee County Fair for 100 years, this year is no exception. A special thank you to all the community members and businesses who donated time or money to make the Cherokee Centennial Fair a success. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the week and attend the many events we have planned for this celebration. After the Fair we will continue building for the future.

Nicholas Sullivan

Nicholas Sullivan,
President Cherokee Fair Association



L to R Front row: Chris Nelson, Caitlyn Ebert, Emily Schlenger and Linda Smith
Back row: Brad Nelson, Nick Sullivan, Pam Bezoni and Dale Springer

2023 Cherokee County Fair Association Members

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nicholas Sullivan, President | Duane Mummert, Supervisor Liaison | Layne Reinhart |
| Chris Nelson, Secretary | Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary | Peggy Corrington |
| Brad Nelson, Vice President | Ann Blaise | Bobby Jo Erskine |
| Linda Smith & Shirley Staver, Treasurers | Tanner Schroder | Emilly Schlenger |
| Pam Bezoni, Executive Board | Dale Springer | Jessica Tuttle |
| Cheri Blaise, Executive Board | Caitlyn Ebert | Dane Jurgensen |

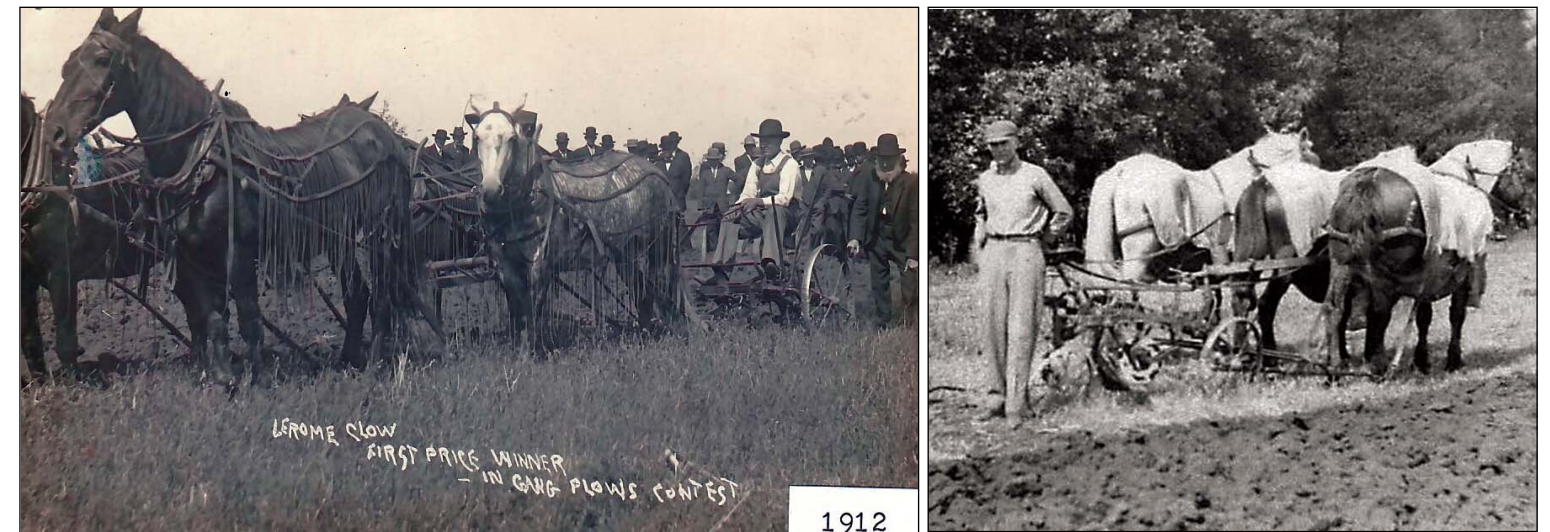


This 2023 commemorative magazine of the Cherokee County Centennial Fair was a collaborative effort. Layout and design by Rhonda Fassler - Cherokee Chronicle Times, Cover by Chris Reed - Cherokee Chronicle Times, Research, photographs, and copy by Erin Rydgren - Cherokee Chronicle Times. Contributions were made by Iowa State Extension, Cherokee Area Archives, Peggy Corrington, Doris Grashoff and the Cherokee County Fairboard. Funding was provided through the Cherokee Tourism Grant.

Why are we celebrating the 100th fair in 2023?

The first record of a county fair in Cherokee was in 1872, there were also plowing matches during this time but they were not held annually. The Pilot Rock Plowing Match became an annual event in 1908. Even though the Pilot Rock Plowing Match began before 1923, we are celebrating the 100th fair in 2023. The reason why, can be found in the minutes of the Pilot-Rock Plowing Match Association. At the April 4, 1923 meeting of the Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association, County Agent Glenn Ellis, talked about the possibility of receiving state aid and forming a corporation. New names that were suggested at the meeting were Cherokee County Agriculture Society and Pilot Rock Plowing Match and Agriculture Society. No decision was made that night. However, a committee was appointed to meet with the Cherokee Breeders. The Breeders Club held a county livestock show in connection with Pilot-Rock Plowing Match. On July 27, 1923, Attorney Walter McCulla was present and gave legal advice in drawing up the Articles of Incorporation for The Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association. The name was not changed. Forty-four members signed the original document. There was a delegate sent to Des Moines to represent the association at the state meeting for county fairs and we began receiving state funds. Article III of the Articles of Incorporation reads: The object of this association shall be to promote the interest of agriculture and allied industries by holding an annual plowing contest and an annual show for the exhibition of livestock, agricultural products, machinery, and domestic science in Cherokee County. This was the beginning of the Cherokee Fair Association as we know it today.

The rest of the story by decades from newspapers, minutes and fair books of the Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association



Above: 1912 Postcard showing Gerome Clow, as first place winner in the Gangs Plow Contest. Above right: Plowing Match 1918 - Right: The Pilot Rock Plowing Matches included both plowing competitions as well as, livestock competitions, where contestants vied for first place and best of show.

Pilot Rock Plowing Match

The first Pilot-Rock Plowing Match was patterned after similar events held in Will County Illinois, from where most of the residents of these townships had come. The Pilot Rock Plowing Match was named for the townships where the annual competitions were started in 1908. John Bridie and Dave Patterson are known to have competed in the first contest held in 1908. For years these contests were held on farms in Pilot and Rock townships. At first activities were confined to plowing with some entertainment, but gradually additions were made, until the annual event took on the aspects of a fair. In 1952 the Pilot-Rock Plowing Match Association bought 15 acres on the south edge of Cherokee, to be used as a permanent site for the annual Plowing Match exhibits, with plowing to be done on nearby farms.



Early Plowing Match and Livestock Show

1910's

4000 people attended the plowing match held in 1912. Two years later, the match was accompanied by a "thresher style" dinner at noon which served fried chicken, baked ham, baked beans, mashed potatoes, potato salad, and pies supplied by women of the county. The first year for tractor classes and livestock exhibits was in 1918. In 1919 the event was changed to last for two days in order to incorporate all the planned activities.



Early plowing match competitions.



1920's

The plowing match continued to be well attended. Baseball tournaments were added with local teams, although some came from as far away as Omaha and Sioux City. In 1921 the annual meeting of the Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association was referred to as the Cherokee County Livestock Show and Farm Bureau Picnic. The Cherokee Breeders Association organized livestock shows for cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry. Cherokee County women showed off their flowers and garden produce, as well as preparing meals which were enjoyed by all. The Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association was incorporated in 1923 and began receiving state funds and attending state meetings. In 1924 baby contests were introduced after a



Thousands attended the annual Pilot Rock Plowing Match and Livestock show which later became the Cherokee County Fair. Held at local farms, by the 1930's the Plowing Match had expanded to include Horse Hitch and Pulling; gardening, baking and "fancy work." Committee members also manned food stands and parked vehicles.

suggestion from the county newspaper, The Cherokee Chief. It was an opportunity for children of the county to receive a free health examination, with prizes awarded in six classes. The Plowing Match still travelled from place to place, with tents or temporary buildings set up for displays. Barns were modified for livestock events. The Plowing Match was usually held in early September on Thursday and Friday, even coordinating with the area schools to make sure children could attend. The Plowing Match gained fame and was featured in publications like The Iowa Homestead, The Country Gentleman, Wallaces 'Farmer, and The Drover.



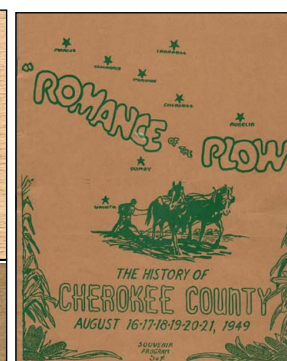
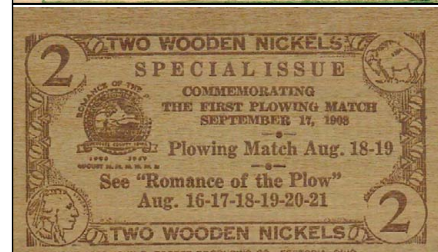
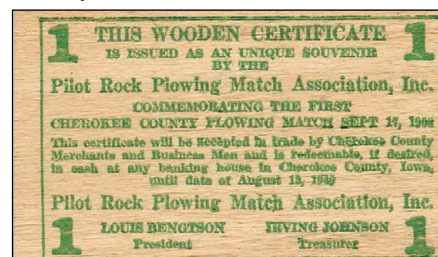
1922 Pilot Rock Plowing Match ball team: Flora Dewar Escue; Laura Dewar Jugler; Mildred Welch Graham; Marion Welch Simons; Frances Mundy Hohbach; Inez Dushinske; Azalia Kraut Boatman; Leah Darling Newburg and Marjorie Patterson Salts.

1930's

The Pilot-Rock Plowing Match continued to expand. Many committees were involved in the event including Advertising, Horse Hitch and Pulling, Agriculture, Field Superintendents, Tickets, Parking, Food Stand, Sports, Poultry, Water and Light, Ground Committees, Flowers, Quilting and Baking. In 1934 there were 200 entries in garden categories, over 100 entries for canning, 76 for baking, and 68 for "fancy work." Additionally, state representatives had their first booth explaining hunting and trapping regulations accompanied by a display of mounted fowls and furs. School exhibits were a major feature of the Plowing Match and included a penmanship contest, artwork, subject booklets, and various projects. The last contest for plowing with horses was held in 1937, which was held on the State Hospital grounds. However, horse pulling and car driving contests were added to the Plowing Match. By 1939 entertainment was added in the evenings. This included 4-H skits, bands, circus acts, and comedy shows.

1940's

The Plowing Match in 1940 was attended by 12,000 people over two days. Amusement rides including a merry-go-round and ferris wheel were arranged for the first time that year. In 1941, the Plowing Match was cancelled because of World War II, although a modified event was held in 1942 within the city limits of Cherokee. Monthly meetings of the event organizers were held in local businesses like the Lewis Hotel, Steele State Bank, and the Farm Bureau. By the 1940s there were over 40 committees involved in the event planning. 4-H girls held County Achievement shows during the Plowing Match and there were several other contests. Popular entertainment expanded to include dances and concerts. In 1949 a play was performed on a specially constructed stage at Tomahawk Field in Cherokee with a cast of 750 community members called "Romance of the Plow." The play portrayed the entire history of Cherokee County.



Souvenir wooden nickels and playbill from "Romance of the Plow."



Vere Corrington 1947 Plowing Match Open Division Winner

1950's

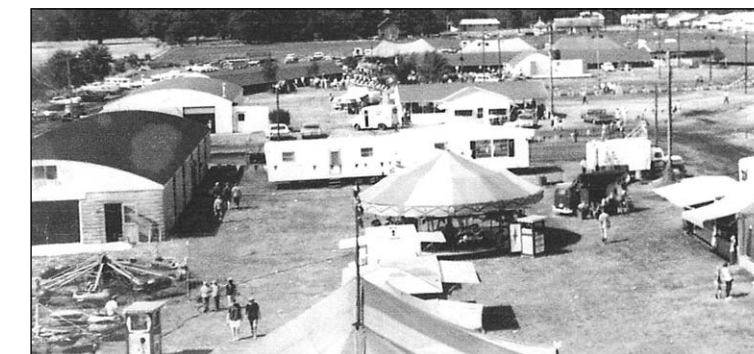
As the Plowing Match continued to draw large crowds and add activities to the program, discussions about leasing ground for permanent buildings began during the 1950s. In 1952 the Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association purchased 17 acres, the property that is currently known as the Cherokee County Fairgrounds from Karl and Minnie Gesland. It was at this time that the fair began receiving county funds. Construction of large stock barns, weighing scale, light poles, fixtures, gates, fences, and hookups to city water occurred in 1953. In 1954 the South 4-H building was built with over \$3,000 raised by 4-H students contributing to the building fund. Additional construction for concession stands, exhibit buildings, livestock stalls, and wooden bleachers was undertaken and approximately \$25,000 was invested in such projects throughout the decade. Entertainment during the 1950's included talent shows, horse shows, 4-H style shows, and carnivals. In 1956 we started having Fair Queens instead of Court of Celebration Queens. The first prize was a vacation for 2 in the Ozarks. The Plowing Match continued to be held off the fairgrounds but at the same time as the fair until 1958, at which time the board voted to discontinue plowing matches.



1955 Pilot Rock Plowing Match

1960's

Opening day in 1960 welcomed 3000 visitors. Although the fair no longer held plowing matches, tractor pulls were added as a replacement. The fairgrounds continued to see new construction including the family craft building, a stage, and restrooms. The first Ladies' Day was in 1960 and women from around the county were invited to meet a columnist from Kitchen Klatter magazine and two radio personalities who specialized in homemaking. The first Kids Day was held in 1965, admitting young attendees free of charge and including programs especially designed for their entertainment. A king and queen of Kids Day was chosen and the winners were each given a new bicycle. Commercial exhibits displayed the latest in household equipment and product demonstrations. Entries in the family crafts building were submitted by the hundreds and included canning, baking, fruit, flowers, and needlework. The fair continued to draw not only plenty of guests and exhibitors, but popular entertainment acts such as Canyon Kid. Other entertainment included County School band and Chorus groups, Jim Henry from KCAU, dances, horseshoe throwing contests, cookouts, Ernest Tubb, Grand Old Opry, Cavalier Horse Performances, and local school bands. There was even an appearance in 1969 from Miss Iowa Jackie Jochims, a candidate in the Miss Universe (USA) Beauty Pageant. During the 1960s the Aurelia FFA exhibited at the fair for the first time.



1966 Cherokee County Fair

1970's

In 1970 the North 4-H building was built. Kids Day continued to be popular and bike giveaways were done. It was not until 1972 that the Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association officially changed its name to Cherokee County Fair Association. Bicentennial Day was held in 1976. Cletus Henke performed a magic act for fairgoers and other entertainment included Farm Bureau Cookouts, Pony Pulls, "Anything Goes" competitions, dances, cooking demonstrations, greased pig contests, Jaycee's dunking booth, Cavalier Performances, The Imperials, Tommy Cash, The Mason Family, barber shop quartets, and the 82nd Air Force. The first National Association of Pedal Power Pullers-sanctioned miniature tractor pull was held in 1979. Bleachers and lights were added around the arena and in 1979 the cattle barn was built. The dates for the fair were changed to run from Thursday through Sunday in 1979. In order to accommodate crowds, the hay field neighboring the fairgrounds was rented for parking.

1980's

The first Demolition Derby was added to the fair in 1980, enjoyed by a crowd of about 1,800 people and the main stage was constructed. In 1981 fifty-five children competed in the National Association of Pedal Power Pullers-sanctioned miniature tractor pull at the Cherokee County Fair. The same year there was a parade of antique cars through the grandstand. During the 1980s the fair office was built and there were drawings for hams and free watermelon. Tug-o-war contests, carnivals, teen dances, car shows, skid loader rodeos, craft working demonstrations, harness driving competitions, and an Ag Appreciation BBQ were all popular events. Other additions included figure 8 and BMX races, a 4-H volleyball tournament, garden tractor pulls, and dance performances by Deborah's School of Dance. The first Bill Riley talent show was held in 1983. In 1984 the fair hosted the first Combine Derby in Iowa. Tractor pulls, Tug of Wars became annual events, the Cherokee County Fair cookbook was published and the first diaper derby was held in 1985. Babies were judged in races, male and female sweet smile, and most feminine and male physique. The first open rabbit show was held in 1989. Top entertainment acts included Jerry Reed, the Senders, Leroy VanDyke, Atlanta, and Kitty Wells.

1990's

1990 saw the first 4-H Pride of Iowa Contest. 4-H students would prepare a simple recipe using an Iowa product. 4-H students and projects became an even larger part of the fair as more children and families participated in the program, especially with the creation of Clover Kids. Performances by the Cherokee Cavaliers and their horses were highly anticipated by crowds of fairgoers and hundreds of projects were turned in for display and competition. In 1993 the first Nursing Home Day was held as well as the first "Cute Cow" contest for children in kindergarten through age 11. A Horse Shoe tournament returned to the fair in the 1990s, as well as a change in schedule to allow livestock to stay on display at the fairgrounds through Sunday. Other entertainment included hot air balloon rides, petting zoo and pony rides, craft working demonstrations, magic shows, clowns, pet shows, hypnotists, household product and machinery demonstrations, dances, BMX contest, tractor pulls, the Demo Derby, lawn mower races, a skid loader rodeo, pedal tractor pull, and makeovers. The fair was put forward as not only a fun and family-friendly activity, but an educational experience for all ages. A new swine building was built in 1997. Evening performances by The Senders, Gary Puckett, Nashville Country Music Revue, Lorrie Morgan, Vickie King, Texas the Band and BJ Thomas were held. Three Cherokee County Fair Queens from the 1990s went on to be elected State Fair Queen: Amy Bryant (1990), Lindzy Jones (1994), and Abby Menke (1999).

2000's

The Cherokee County Fair continued to add new activities, programs, and opportunities for attendees alongside maintaining popular favorites. A Tractor Square Dance performance occurred in 2000. In 2001, Celeste Ogren became the fourth county queen to capture the Iowa State Queen title. In 2002 an ATV Mud Drag Race joined the Outlaw Sanctioned Tractor Pull, the Golf Cart Obstacle Race and the Demolition Derby. An Exotic Animal Show was added to the 4-H roster in 2004. Go Kart Races were held for the first time in 2007. In 2008 a mud volleyball tournament was added to the program, as well as a caricature artist, an Open Beef Show, and a free gate on Sunday. Bull riding events, VFW flag presentations, Beef and Pork Producer cookouts, Chain Saw carvings, tractor rides, painting classes, Quilt Block Contest, Bingo, an Antiques Appraisal program and fireworks were other additions to the fair this decade. Additional land was purchased north of the Cattle Barn in order to build a horse arena in 2005 and more land was added to the fairgrounds in 2008.



Pictured 2008 Fair Board. Front Row: Leon Klotz, Chris Nelson, Lisa Grashoff, Brenda Parker, Lana Rife, Betty Haselhoff, Karol White, Eric Lundell Back Row: Dale Henke, Brad Nelson, Nick Sullivan, Brandon Rife, Mark Arnold, Rusty Grashoff, Dave Medick, Chuck Tolzin. Absent: Katie Haselhoff, Demi Dunn.



2007 Auction Quilt made with blocks by various county quilters.



Each year we are honored to have the Veterans of America Chapter 888, American Legion Post 230 & VFW Post 2253 presenting flags before each nightly fair performance. Photo taken in 2000. Thank you for your service.



Always a crowd favorite at the Annual Cherokee County Fair, the Demo Derby, held on Saturday night. Grab your friends and come to the fair for a smashing good time!

2010's to Present

In 2010 construction began on the Cherokee County 4-H Expo Center and the Bomgaars Conference Center. The building project began with the Cavaliers and grew to include all of the county's 4-H clubs, the fair association, rural betterment funds, many private and business donations. The Expo Center provides an indoor arena with moveable bleachers and restroom access for members to use year round or it may be rented for events. Family memberships are purchased annually, currently we have over 60 memberships. During the fair the arena is used for a cattle show arena and horse stalling area. The Bomgaars Conference Center is used for Fair board meetings, 4-H club meetings and it is also available to rent for private parties and events. The conference center is heated and air conditioned, it has a kitchen area, seating for 50 and handicapped accessible restrooms. In 2011 the Cherokee County Fair was recognized as a Blue Ribbon Fair by the Association of Iowa Fairs. The fairgrounds continued to receive upgrades such as a new swine/poultry show arena built in 2016 and steel siding. Animal attractions varied from year to year but Cherokee county residents have been able to learn about and experience elephants, reptiles, and big cats, to name a few. Mutton Busting, Barrel Racing, and bull riding events continued, as well as the Demolition Derby, food contests, tractor and pedal tractor pulls, Bingo, Go Kart races, and Kids Day programs. Water fights were added, as were arm wrestling and wrestling entertainment programs. 4-H and Clover Kids continued to encourage county children to participate in fair exhibitions and the commercial building has grown to accommodate more vendors. In April 2020 the fair board made the difficult decision to postpone all non-youth related activities related to the fair including all main arena events, the carnival, commercial exhibits, food vendors, and entertainment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A 4-H exhibition was held in July 2020 and a Demolition Derby was held in August 2020.



2010 Tractor Ride



In 2011 the Cherokee Fair Association was awarded the Blue Ribbon Fair Award by the Association of Iowa County Fairs, for their outstanding commitment to the community and the Cherokee County Fair.



Go Kart Races held throughout the summer



100's of Ribbons are awarded at the Fair.



Petting Zoo



Annual Pedal Tractor Pull



The sponsor sign on Main Arena Stage.



Hundreds of entries are made each year by talented county artisans, pictured Marty Zauhar.

2023 Cherokee County Fair Schedule of Events

Daily Building Hours:

10:00 am - 8:00 pm (Wed. - Sat.) - Commercial, 4-H, & Family Craft Building
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm (Sun.) - Commercial, 4-H, & Family Craft Building

Entry Days:

Saturday, July 15th, 2023

9:30 - 2:30 pm Entry & Judging of 4-H Exhibits
 1:00 - 3:00 pm Clover Kids Entry - North 4-H Building
 2:30 pm State Fair Selection - North 4-H Building (building closed)

Tuesday, July 18th, 2023

5:00 - 7:00 pm Entry for Family Crafts & Gardening Exhibits

Wednesday, July 19th, 2023

6:30 - 8:30 am Weight all 4-H/FFA Swine & Check-in with Superintendent
 8:00 - Noon Entry of Family Crafts & Gardening Exhibits
 8:30 am All Swine in Place
 10:00 - 11:30 am Weight all 4-H/FFA Beef (market breeding, advanced cattle feeding, & check-in with superintendent)
 Noon All Beef in Place
 12:30 pm - until finished Judging of the Family Craft & Gardening Exhibits (building closed)
 2:00 pm Ultrasound of Advanced Cattle - Cattle Barn Area
 2:00 - 3:00 pm Weight 4-H/FFA Sheep/Meat Goats & Check-in with Superintendent
 4:00 pm All Horses in Place
 4:00-6:00 pm BINGO - Open Activity Building
 5:00 pm All Rabbits in Place
 5:30 pm All Poultry in Place & 4-H/FFA Poultry Pullorum Tested
 5:30 pm Horse Drill
 6:00 pm Horse Games
 6:00-8:00pm Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
6:00 pm Appreciation Supper for Past Queens, Board Members, Superintendents, 4-H Councils, etc.
6:00-8:00 pm Local Band Jam Session
 6:15 pm Chicken Poop BINGO (tickets can be bought during BINGO)

Thursday, July 20th, 2023

8:00 am 4-H/FFA Swing Show - Showmanship - Lower Show Ring
 11:00 am-5:00 pm Hot Glass Academy - North end of 4-H Buildings
 1:00 pm 4-H Clover Kids Poultry Show - Lower Show Ring
 1:00 pm 4-H/FFA Poultry Show - Lower Show Ring
 1:00-9:00 pm Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
 1:00 - 10:00 pm McDermott Family Shows - Midway
 3:00 pm Electrifying Magic
 4:00 pm Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
4:00-8:00 pm Iowa History101 Bus
 4:00-5:00 pm Cow Chip Throwing and Rabbit Chase registration
 4:00-6:00 pm BINGO - Open Activity Building
 5:00 pm Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side
 5:30 pm Livestock Judging Check-in

5:30 pm Registration for Talton Toney Mutton Bustin' - Main Stage
 6:00 pm Livestock Judging
 6:15 pm Chicken Poop BINGO (tickets can be bought during BINGO)
6:30 pm Introduction & Crowning of 2022 Little Miss Cherokee County - Open Activity Building
Cow Chip Throwing and Rabbit Chase
 Electrifying Magic
 Presentation of Flags by Veterans of America Chapter 888, American Legion Post 230, & VFW Post 2253 - South End of Fairgrounds
 Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
7:30 pm Talton Toney Mutton Bustin' - Main Arena
 8:00 pm Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side

Friday, July 21st, 2023

7:45 am 4-H/FFA Sheep & Goat Show - Lower Show Ring
 9:00 am Open Bucket Bottle Calf - Expo Show Ring
 9:30 am 4-H/FFA Equine Show - Halter Classes - Outdoor Horse Arena
 11:00 am-5:00 pm Hot Glass Academy - North end of 4-H Buildings
 1:00 pm Clover Kids Stuffed Animal Show - North 4-H Building
 1:00 - 9:00 pm Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
 1:00 - 10:00 pm McDermott Family Shows - Midway
 2:00 pm Electrifying Magic
 3:00 pm Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side
 3:00 pm 4-H/FFA Pet Show/Dog Obedience - Lower Show Ring
 3:00-4:00 pm Clothing Event - North 4-H building
 4:00 pm Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
4:00-5:00 pm Donut eating contest (3 age groups, limited number of contestants) and mullet, beard, and pigtail contest registration in open activity building
 4:00 pm 4-H Clover Kids Rabbit Show - Lower Show Ring
 4:00 pm 4-H/FFA Rabbit Show - Lower Show Ring
4:00-8:00 pm Iowa History101 Bus
 5:00 pm Electrifying Magic
 5:30 pm Registration for Can Chase Barrel Racing - Main Stage
 Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side
 Presentation of Flags by Veterans of America Chapter 888, American Legion Post 230, & VFW Post 2253 - South End of Fairgrounds
7:00 pm Cherokee County Can Chase Barrel Racing - Main Stage
7:00 pm Mini Rods - Tractor Pull Area
 Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
 7:15 pm Chicken Poop BINGO (tickets can be bought during BINGO)
 7:30 pm Electrifying Magic
8:00 pm -?? Sips and Singing with Karaoke - Open Activity Building

Saturday, July 22nd, 2023

Ticket Prices: \$10.00 for Adults All Day - Children After 3:00 pm are \$5.00
***FREE ADMISSION to the Fair for Kids 12 & Under Until 3:00 pm**

7:30 am 4-H/FFA Advance Cattle Feeding
 4-H/FFA Bottle/ Bucket Show
 4-H/FFA Beef Show - Showmanship
 4-H/FFA Dairy Show - Showmanship - Expo Show Ring
 8:00 am-2:00 pm Hot Glass Academy - North end of 4-H Buildings
11:00 am - 3:00 pm Kids' Day
 11:00 am Diaper Derby and Babes and Dress "Like A Pioneer"
 Registration - Open Activity Building
 11:00 am Spelling Bee Registration
 Open Activity Building
11:30 am Diaper Derby with Dress "Like A Pioneer" to follow
11:00 am - 5:00 pm Active Demonstrations - Commercial Building South End
 11:30 am Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
 11:30-2:30 Kids Scavenger Carnival Hunt throughout fairgrounds - pick up information in the Family Craft Building
12:00 Spelling Bee - Open Activity Building
 12:00 - 8:00 pm Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
 12:30 pm Electrifying Magic
 12:30 pm Pedal Tractor Pull Registration (ages 4-11) - Open Activity Building
 12:30 pm Tumbling Demonstration (location to be announced)
 1:00 - 10:00 pm McDermott Family Shows - Midway
1:00 - 2:30 pm Honoring our Past - North 4-H Building
1:00 pm Sanctioned Pedal Tractor Pull - Open Activity Building
 1:30 pm Chicken Poop BINGO (tickets can be bought during BINGO)
 1:30 pm Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side
 2:00 - 2:45 pm Registration for Kids Day Drawing - Open Activity Building
 2:00 - 4:00 pm Kids Water Fights - Sponsored by Aurelia Fire Department - East of Tractor Pull Area
3:00 pm Kids Day Drawings (must be present to win) - Open Activity Building
 3:00 - 4:00 pm Clothing Event North 4-H Building
 3:00 - 3:30 pm Registration for Kids Day Drawing - Open Activity Building
 3:00 - 3:45 pm Weigh-Ins for Cherokee Monster Arm Wrestling Tournament - Weight Class Competition - Both Men & Women - \$10 Entry Fee - South of the Commercial Building
3:00-6:00 pm Iowa History101 Bus
3:00 pm Gate Fees Increase for Children (12 & under) to \$5.00
 3:00 pm Electrifying Magic
 3:30 pm Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
4:00 pm 2023 Queen Crowning - Open Activity Building - Crowned by 2022 Cherokee County Fair Queen, Katie Bryant
 Registration for Bring Your Best Baked Beans, Hobo Meal, or Apple Pie Contests - Family Craft Building
 Cherokee Monster Arm Wrestling Tournament
 Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side

5:00 pm Bring Your Best Baked Beans, Hobo Meal, or Apple Pie Competition Judging Begins - West Side of Open Activity Building
5:30 pm Pride of Iowa Contest Opens to the Public - North 4-H Building
 Electrifying Magic
 6:30 pm Presentation of Flags by Veterans of America Chapter 888, American Legion Post 230, & VFW Post 2253 - South End of Fairgrounds
7:00 pm Demo Derby - by Domination Motor Sports - Main Arena
 *Wood Carvings & Quilt will be Auctioned Off Between Consolation & Feature Demos
 Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
 Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side
 8:00 pm Chicken Poop BINGO (tickets can be bought during BINGO)

Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

*FREE GATE ADMISSION

9:00 am - 11:00 am Pancake Breakfast - Open Activity Building
 9:00 am-1:00 pm Hot Glass Academy - North end of 4-H Buildings
 9:30 - 11:00 am Registration for Car, Truck, & Motorcycle Show - Tractor Pull Track
10:00 am - noon Plowing Demonstration
 11:00 am Overall Senior Showman Competition - Expo Show Ring
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Car, Truck, & Motorcycle Show - Tractor Pull Track
 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
 11:30 am Hog Diggity Dog Show - West Side
 11:30 am - 1:30 pm BINGO
 Noon - 1:00 pm Registration for Go-Kart Races - South End of Fairgrounds
 Chicken Poop BINGO
 12:30 pm Jurassic Kingdom - East Side
12:30 pm Communications - Working Exhibit, Share the Fun, Educational Presentation, and Extemporaneous speaking - Commercial Building
1:00 pm Go-Kart Races - South End of Fairgrounds
1:00-3:00 pm Iowa History101 Bus
 1:00 - 4:00 pm McDermott Family Shows - Midway
 Electrifying Magic
2:00 pm County Council Fun & Games (Expo Show Ring)
 3:00 pm Release of Family Craft Exhibits
 3:30 pm Release of 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibits, 4-H Static Exhibits
4:00 pm Fair Cleanup



Cherokee County Fair
Honoring the Past
Building the Future

Cherokee County, Iowa 4-H History

4-H is an organization that first began in 1902 in Clark County, Ohio. The clover pin with an “H” on each leaf was developed in 1910 and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs. Two years later the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA and nationalized 4-H.

The first recorded County 4-H club was a beef club in Meriden in 1918. Another was a baby beef club organized in 1920 in Grand Meadow Township. These first clubs were project-driven and separated between boys and girls. Project clubs became common such as garment clubs and bread clubs for girls and beef, pig and poultry clubs for boys. By 1925 baby beef clubs existed for both boys and girls and the objective of both boys and girls clubs were “to develop rural leadership and a keener appreciation of rural life.”

As we moved through the 1920s and 1930s, the clubs spread throughout the county, but were still project specific with a focus on canning, home furnishing, poultry and bread. These clubs gave girls in townships with no clothing clubs an opportunity to do club work.

1931 was a peak year for clubs, with 18 clubs and approximately 200 members recorded. As we rolled into the 1940s, Rally Day became an annual tradition. These all-day sessions invited all club members across the county, along with their leaders. It must have been a remarkable sight to see. 100–200 young ladies demonstrated their finest skills of communication and leadership, 4-H service work, and skits portraying songs to close the day. In the mid-1930s, there were other opportunities for girls to compete, such as for the title of "healthiest girl" in the county/state after being judged on appearance from top to bottom.

During the 1940s boys clubs experienced a steady growth of membership, climbing from 69 in 1940 to 204 by 1947. More clubs continued to be added in the county and membership was estimated to be as high as 300 by the end of the 1940s. In the 1950s Cherokee County recorded 11 boys clubs. Although girl enrollment continued to increase, the number of girl clubs did not. Girls clubs continued to hold their Achievement and Rally days into the 1950s. Together, the boys and girls clubs raised more than \$3,000 to build the current 4-H building on the fairgrounds in Cherokee.

The fundraising efforts were fruitful because of the hard work performed by the 4-H’ers. Bake sales, selling 4-H pencils, chicken dinners, breakfasts, coffees, circulating food baskets and free will donations were some of the ways that they raised funds. However, they were still short of money to pay off the building, so the 4-H’ers continued to work toward paying down the debt that remained. Cherokee County “exchanged” with Custer County of western Nebraska in the 1950s. For about six years, two girls and two boys from Cherokee County visited Custer County for one week, allowing the 4-H’ers to share a different way of rural life, even within the Midwest!

Cherokee County has always had a love for horses. The Cavaliers 4-H Horse Club was organized in 1961 and is still extremely active. Each year a horse show was held at the County Achievement Show. Members were very active in Horse Judging, Horse Classic and Hippology Contests. They continue to be active and receive many honors.

Beginning in the early 1970s a Citizenship Short Course trip to Washington, D.C. became available to 4-H’ers in the Sioux City area. Eligible 4-H’ers applied, interviewed and were selected to represent Cherokee County. 4-H State Conference also was part of the summer fun and was held in Ames. By the mid-1970’s, Cherokee County boasted 11 Boys Clubs, 18 Girls Clubs, three co-ed Clubs for youth that included a horse club, kennel club and tropical fish club. 4-H’ers during the 1970s had opportunities to attend the 4-H Conference, Leadership Camp, Conservation Camp and the Minnesota “exchange” program.

4-H throughout the 1980s continued with concentration of specifics in projects. There was an increased interest to learn about child care and development. County Council continued to share successes and concerns with all 4-H Clubs.

A proud fact is that four Iowa State Queens have come from Cherokee County. They are Amy Bryant Hawthorne (1990), Lindzy Jones Bjork (1994), Abby Menke (1999) and Celeste Ogren (2001).

In 1997 the school districts of Cherokee County began the Clover Kids Program. Clover Kids is an after school and/or Saturday program for children in kindergarten through third grade. The overall purpose is to foster the development of life skills that are essential for the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical maturation of this age group by providing a unique, age-appropriate educational opportunity. Clover Kids explore STEM concepts and literacy, learn about the importance of being healthy and physically active, practice communication skills, learn to work as a team, make new friends, and play fun games. Since 1997, we have reached 1,085 youth in the county with this hands-on educational program.

Cherokee County 4-H partners with area schools for variety of field trips inching: All sixth graders in the county can attend the Silver Sioux Science Field Days in the spring. Youth and teachers can learn about value-added agriculture, Iowa pre-history, conservation, Iowa wildlife, water conservation and soils and take a tour of the Silver Sioux County Park.

4-H through the century has broadened youths’ ideas of the county, state and world. The focus has always remained constant, to better our youth. The mission is still “To make the best better.”



4-H Dress Uniform



4-H Pledge

"I pledge My HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service,
and My HEALTH to better living, for
My club,
my community, my
country and my
world"



1953 June Olson Storey and Marilyn Springer Prunty
Sheridan Stars Demonstration Team.



1947 District Camp at Lake Okoboji

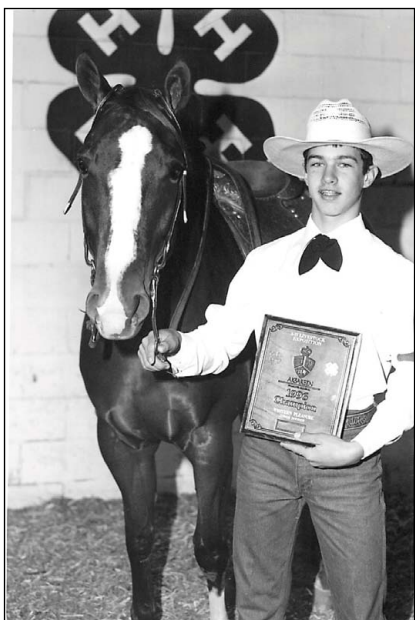


4-H Dress Uniform

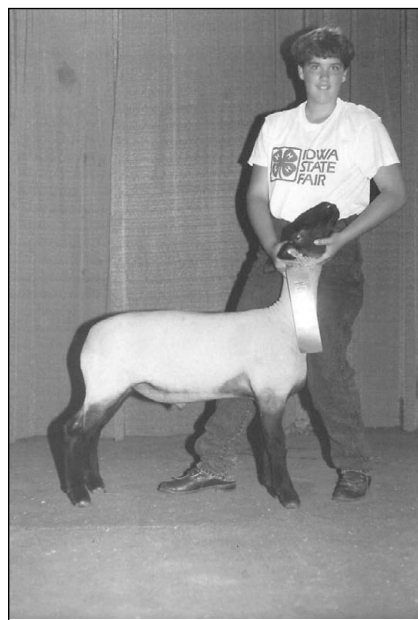


Mary Margaret Rupp Messerole, Patty Smith,
Kay Clark, Janet Jensen

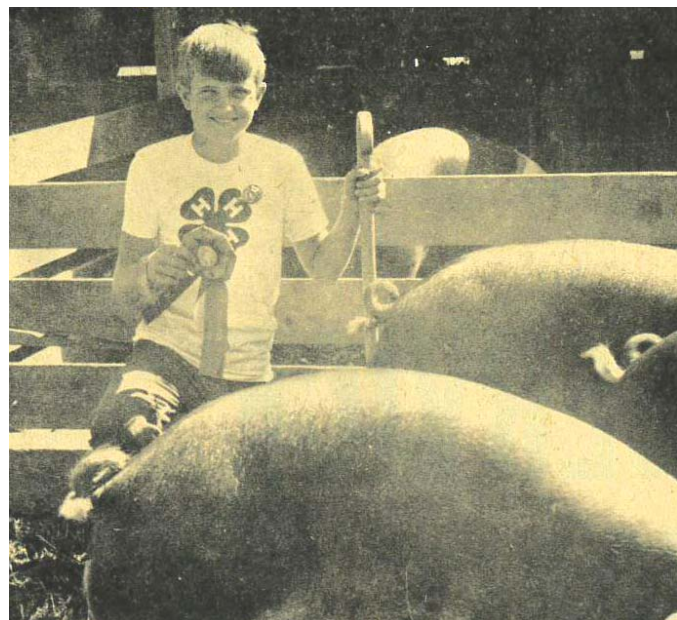




1996 Bobby Donahoo

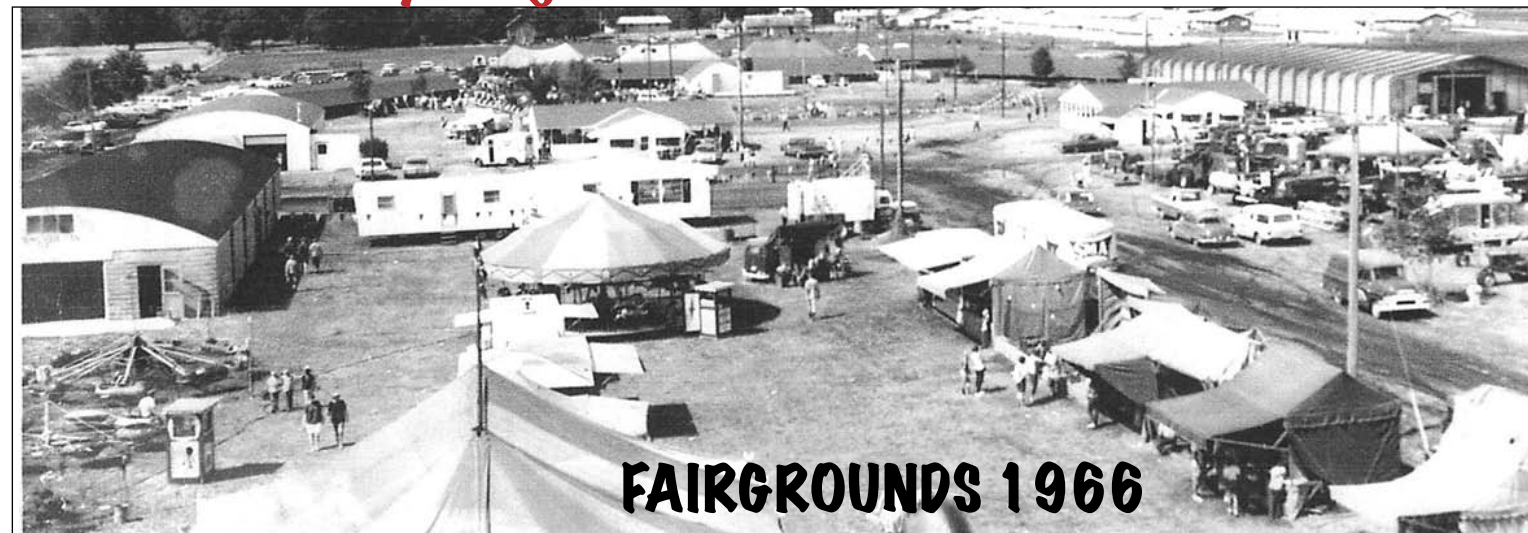


Jackie Rasmus-Kuchenreuther



Bruce Rogge

Cherokee County Fairgrounds



FAIRGROUNDS 1966



Jacob Spieler - Cattle Show



Jaylee Happe - Cattle Show



Fran Conley & Carter Kruse - Swine Show



Left: Becca Cowan & Tyler Fordyce



Goat Judging



Jacob Ebert Poultry



Eli Ridell - Exotic Alpaca



FAIRGROUNDS EARLY 2000s



Commercial Building resided



4-H Building



Cattle Barn



Family Craft



Caitlyn Eert - Exotic Emu



Kaitlyn Buenger Exotic Gerbil



Kaden Schulenburg & Tyler Erpelding Rabbits



Lily Schulenburg & Aubrey Kannigater - Pride of Iowa



4-H Expo & Bomgaars Conference Center

It takes countless volunteer hours and fundraising events each year to maintain and improve the Cherokee County Fair Association property. The addition of the Cherokee County 4-H Expo Center - Indoor Arena and Bomgaars Conference Center was a huge bonus to the 4-H program, Fair grounds and the public. Improvement projects are always ongoing with constant maintenance and upgrading of all the facilities on the grounds and constant mowing to keep the property looking sharp for not only the Annual Cherokee County Fair, but also local events such as the Cherokee PRCA Rodeo and more.

And the crown goes to.....

According to the board minutes., the Cherokee County Fair Queen Contest started in 1956. Each 4-H Club in the county and each incorporated town was allowed to enter one girl younger than 20. Girls residing in the town of Cherokee were not permitted to enter the contest. The Queen received a one week vacation for 2 at Lake Kellarney in the Ozarks. This included transportation, and lodging. Second place was luggage and third place received a portable radio. Beverly Simons was the first Fair Queen. The winner was based on the number of fair tickets sold. The second year only 4-H clubs could sponsor a queen candidate. The trip was also discontinued as a prize.

In past years, Cherokee County has had several Iowa State Fair Queens and runner-ups at the Iowa State Fair. In 1990, Amy Bryant of Aurelia was crowned as Iowa State Fair Queen. In 1992 Julie Angell was 1st runner up at the State Fair. Then in 1994, Lindzy Jones, also of Aurelia, was crowned Iowa State Fair Queen. Next in 1999, Abby Menke of Cherokee was the Iowa State Fair Queen. The following year, in 2000, Liz Ogren was the first runner-up at the Iowa State Fair, and in 2001, Liz's cousin Celeste Ogren was crowned the Iowa State Fair Queen. Both Ogrens' are from Marcus. A few years later, in 2004, Jana Radke of Aurelia was awarded first runner-up at the Iowa State Fair. In 2009, Demi Dunn of Cherokee was awarded second runner-up. Following a few years later in 2014, Amber Neisius of Marcus was also awarded second runner-up at the Iowa State Fair.

So as you can see, Cherokee County has a history of sending some pretty outstanding young women to compete at the Iowa State Fair!

Currently, the fair queen candidates meet every Tuesday starting the first Tuesday in June through the fair week. During these meetings, we work on etiquette, how to talk in front of a crowd or individual, and how to talk on the radio, they learn their intro which includes their name, parents, town, what grade and school they are either currently in or going to be in this fall and what their position is, fair queen candidate or last years fair queen, princess and Miss Congeniality.

The Sunday before the fair we have our judging day, this includes having the fair queen candidates go through individual interviews, group current events, and dinner with judges and family members. We also moved our Little Miss judging day to the same Sunday because we always have very active young women running for Fair Queen therefore trying to do too many things during the fair week becomes difficult. The Little Miss candidates and past Little Miss Royalty participate in activities while also learning their intros. They are judged by the past Fair Queen, Princess, and Miss Congeniality.



Iowa State Fair Queens: 1990, Amy Bryant, of Aurelia, 1994, Lindzy Jones, of Aurelia, 1999, Abby Menke, of Cherokee and 2001, Celeste Ogren, of Marcus.



1962

DORIS SMITH



1998
Cherokee
75th
Diamond
Jubilee
Queen
Allison
Green



2016 Queen Court



2022 Little Miss Court



2023 Queen Contestants

Cherokee County Fair Queens

- 1956 Beverly Simons
- 1957 Phylis Smith
- 1958 Alice Carlson
- 1959 No Contest
- 1960 No Contest
- 1961 Wanda Smith
- 1962 Doris Smith
- 1963 Jean Mason
- 1964 Beverly Rupp
- 1965 Nena Biezuns
- 1966 Nancy Hurd
- 1967 Carolyn Ashbaugh
- 1968 Jane Schmillen
- 1969 Joani Rutherford
- 1970 Sara Sandvig
- 1971 Susan Green
- 1972 Hallie Smith
- 1973 Roxy Brownmiller
- 1974 Debbie Cline
- 1975 Annette Green
- 1976 Audrey Felton
- 1977 Gayle Mummert
- 1978 Nancy Niebuhr
- 1979 Sue Nelson
- 1980 Teresa Hinkelday
- 1981 Erica Tutle
- 1982 Lois Glienke
- 1983 Sara Clark
- 1984 Jerri Simonsen
- 1985 Rhonda Leonard
- 1986 Amy Dettmann
- 1987 Kimberly Harper
- 1988 Cassie Willis
- 1989 Kami Kirk
- 1990 Amy Bryant*
- 1991 Jennifer Vande Weerd
- 1992 Julie Angell
- 1993 Leah Johansen

- 1994 Lindzy Jones*
- 1995 Becky Ruden
- 1996 Brenda Bird
- 1997 Molly Hughes
- 1998 Allison Green
- 1999 Abby Menke*
- 2000 Liz Ogren
- 2001 Celeste Ogren*
- 2002 April Dunn
- 2003 Abby Mayer
- 2004 Melissa Keith
- 2005 Jana Radke
- 2006 Priscilla Otto
- 2007 LeAnn Johnson
- 2008 Jessica Alesch
- 2009 Demi Dunn
- 2010 Stephanie Specht
- 2011 Sara Peters
- 2012 Heather Hoefling
- 2013 Makenna Mummert
- 2014 Amber Neisius
- 2015 Brooklyn Treinin
- 2016 Fran Conley
- 2017 Libby Peterson
- 2018 Nicole McLaughlin
- 2019 Rebecca Cowan
- 2020 NO Contest-Covid 19
- 2021 Caitlyn Ebert
- 2022 Katie Bryant

*Denotes Iowa State Fair Queens

Cherokee County Fair Association Presidents

- 1912 Thomas Patterson
- 1913 H.C. Dewar
- 1914 Thomas Patterson
- 1915 John Patterson
- 1916 HC Dewar
- 1917-18 Tom Patterson
- 1919-22 Rob Lauer

Official Beginning of the Fair

- 1923- 26 John Patterson
- 1927 Harry Dewar
- 1928 Harry Fisher
- 1920-30 Harry Dewar
- 1931- 32 Robert Fee
- 1934-36 John Patterson
- 1937-38 Glen Curtis
- 1939-42 Don Graham
- 1941- No Plowing Match during WWII
- 1943-47 Don Graham
- 1948 Whitfield Adamson
- 1949-50 Louis Bengston
- 1951 Clint Lowry
- 1952 Knox Montgomery
- 1953 Paul Kohns
- 1954 Howard Fee
- 1955 -57 Dean Simmonson
- 1958-60 Harold Conley
- 1961 -63 Dick Graves
- 1964 George Mundy
- 1965-67 Carvel Burkhart
- 1968 Duane Saudiase
- 1969-71 Alvin Peterson
- 1972-74 Gunner Osterling
- 1975-79 Forrest Kohrt
- 1980-81 Ron Schmillen
- 1982- 88 Frank Escue
- 1989 Darrel Paulsen
- 1990-97 Larry Plagman
- 1998 Don Pingel
- 1999-00 Nancy Nelson
- 2001-04 Chuck Tolzin
- 2005-07 Doug Stowater
- 2007-10 Rusty Grashof
- 2011-15 Brad Nelson
- 2016-17 Nicholas Sullivan
- 2018-21 Brad Nelson
- 2022-23 Nicholas Sullivan

100 years of excellence

Paul Struck, Editor, Cherokee Chronicle Times

We heartily salute the Cherokee County Fair Board for its yeoman efforts in bringing "our fair" to its present and proud standing as a community treasure now celebrating 100 years of excellence.

From its humble beginnings as the Pilot Rock Plowing Match held annually at various farm locations in Pilot and Rock Townships, to today's impressive fairgrounds complex on the city's south side, organizers have merged talents and dedication to produce this annual July tribute to agriculture.

As the event continued to grow from its early plowing match days and add gardening, baking, needle work, livestock showing etc., it moved to 2 farm locations to hold all the events. As locations became harder to secure due to the number of contestants and spectators, the Cherokee Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association (Cherokee County Fair Association) purchased the land the current fairgrounds is located on today in 1952. Construction of the various structures began then for the first Plowing Match and 4-H Fair was held there in 1953. The name officially changed in 1972 to the Cherokee County Fair, but it was referred to the County Fair in print after 1957, and plowing matches ended.

With devoted volunteers and supporters enhancing and growing the summer celebration over the years, the Cherokee County Fair Association has featured 42 presidents, 64 fair queens and thousands of hard-working volunteers collaborating hand-in-hand to make the fair the best it can be, time after time.

Even when plagued by inclement weather, struggling ag economies, wars and pandemics, the Cherokee County Fair has stayed the course for the betterment of the greater good and a continuance of this proud tradition from its humble beginnings.

Happy 100th Birthday to the Cherokee County Fair and its dedicated volunteers who keep the gates open and crowds filing in to see our brightest and best show us their stuff and the vital role agriculture plays in the community.

CHEROKEE COUNTY FAIR 2023 SPONSORS

12 Oaks Design	Farmer State Bank	Modern Heating
59 Grind	Farmer's Mutual Insurance	Monterrey Mexican Restaurant
360 Design	Family Table	Motor Part Sales
AgState	Fareway	Mud on Main
AgriVision	Frederick Welding & Signs	New Reflections
Alta Implement	Fridley Theatres	Noggin Water
Beck Engineering, Inc.	Fuhrman Farms	North Star Community Credit Union
Benson Construction	GCC Ready	Northside Tire
Best Western/LaGrande Hacienda	Godfather's Pizza	O'Reilly's
Blooming House LTD	Golden Harvest-Simonsen Seeds	Outlaw Car Cruising Club
Bomgaars-Cherokee	Greenwood Schubert Funeral Home	Perspective Insurance
Boothby Funeral Home	Gustafson Realty, LLC	Phipps Crop Insurance
Botanicals by Katie	H & S Electric	Pioneer
Brad & Chris Nelson	Hairology	Pizza Hut
Brad's Tire Service Center	Hazard Tavern	Rasmus Realty
Builder's Sharpening & Service	Holzauer Motors, Inc	Rebound Technologies
Burkhardt & Dawson, CPA's	Hardee's	RJ Thomas Mfg. & Pilot Rock Signs
Careys Cafe	Haselhoff Construction	Sanitary Services, Inc
Casey's General Store	Headlines	SCE
C&B Equipment	High Country	Sioux Valley Family Health
Cassidy Rider, D.D.S, PLS.	Hirshman Fabrication	Schumann Equipment
Central Bank	Hog Slat, Inc	Sleezer Family Center
Central Insure	Home Anthology	Sparky's
Cherokee Fire Dept.	Hopkins Insurance	State Savings Bank
Cherokee Inn	Hy-Vee Store, Pharmacy, Distribution	Summit Carbon Solutions
Cherokee Pork Producers	J & K Insurance	Subway
Cherokee PRCA Rodeo	Jane's Sanford Lane	Taco John's
Cherokee Regional Medical Center	Jim's Sewer Service	The Grainery-Duane Mummert
Cherokee State Bank	Johnson Seamless Gutters	Timmerman Farms
CML	Jones Nursery	United Bank of Iowa
Cook Law Firm	KCHE	Valley Vet Center
Cooperative Farmers Elevator	Kennedy Chiropractic	Vetter Equipment Company
Country Tire	Kody's Camera Tours	VL Cherokee-The Garden's
Country Trailer	Lily Grace Photography	VT Industries
Cronin Trucking	Little Sioux Corn Processors	Wassau Homes
D's Handyman	Liquor on the Corner	Wetherell Mfg. Inc
Degree of Style	Lundell Brothers	Whiskey Throttle
Details Custom Design	McGuire Auction Co., Inc	WITCC
Farm Credit Services of America	Mid-American Energy	Ziegler Ag Equipment

TICKET INFO

Season Pass: Adults (13 & up) - \$15.00 • Children (12 & under) - \$5.00 4 & Under Free

Daily Pass: Thursday and Friday – Adults (13 & up) - \$6.00 - Children (12 & under) - \$5.00

Saturday – Adults (13 & up) - \$10.00 - Children (12 & under) – FREE until 3:00 pm \$5.00 after 3:00 pm

Sunday – FREE GATE

www.cherokeecountyfair.net • 712.225.5843

