



Pam Aakre Named To Fair Hall Of Honor

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county fair out to the broader area and reducing the perception that it's not the Barnesville Fair." Ag Olympics and Spelling

Bee are other fair events that Pam headed up. She also served as board secretary for six years. "That means being the go-to person for questions about the fair."

Pam's dedication to the Clay County Fair springs from her childhood. "I've been involved in 4-H since I was nine and living in North Dakota. It's always been a



From 2007 to 2017, Pam Aakre donated countless hours to the Clay County Fair. The Fair Board is honoring her dedication as a Clay County Friend of the Fair.

part of my life."

Pam's husband, Dean, was a Clay County 4-H member in his youth and all four of Aakre's children are 4-H alumni and exhibitors in the Clay County Fair.

"Our family enjoys exhibiting in the fair and taking in its activities. And The fair is fun! It's a highlight of the summer."

Not serving on the fair board for the first time in more than 10 years will free up some time for Pam and her family to relax and enjoy the fair. She also promised her grandsons that she'll have more time to spend with them during their visit to the fair.

"I look back with pride on my years with the fair board," Pam said. "But it was time for a change and to bring in new people with new ideas. I plan to stay connected with the fair by helping with the open class registration entry process. I'm also the contact person if anyone wishes to ride a charter bus to the Minnesota State Fair."

Pam added, "Clay County has a very nice fairgrounds. The

people who started it more than a century ago had a lot of insight in purchasing acreage for the fair. We've made sure that it's remained family friendly, and we've been fortunate to have the Thomas Carnival to make it even more fun for kids of all ages."

The Clay County Fair has continued with the July dates over the last several years. Despite some overlapping with the Red River Valley Fair dates, the annual county gathering remains strong and vibrant.

Once the details of organizing a fair are in place, the weather plays a contributing factor to a fair's success. Pam recalls that while there have been occasions of downpours, thunderstorms, or excessive heat over the years, the Clay County Fair's events go on, keeping the safety of visitors a priority.

"I enjoyed being on the board, going to state conventions and exchanging ideas over the years," Pam said. "Things get a little crazy as we get closer to July, but everyone pulls together in the end to make it successful."

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