



# John Reichert Has Been Chosen Friend Of The Fair For His Service As Veterinarian



Sunday, July 15, 1:00 p.m. at the band shelter.

Reichert is a veterinarian with the Casselton, N.D. Veterinary Service.

Reichert graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1975. He took a position with Valley Veterinary Hospital where he practiced for 32 years.

Reichert's partner, Dr. Don Christen, DVM, had been serving as the official fair veterinarian for Clay County. The young Reichert took over the position shortly after coming into the clinic.

"When Dr. Christen was ready to retire in 2010, I wasn't, so I took a position with the Casselton Veterinary Service," said Reichert.

He continued to serve as the fair vet as part of that clinic, but was encouraging the younger vets to step up to the position.

"I have been trying to get some of the younger generation of vets excited about the fair. Dr. Trevor Bjerke has been coming out for the last couple of years to be the official fair vet I think he will do well. I do still come out to the fair some days," said

Dr. John Reichert, DVM was chosen to receive the Friend of the Fair Award. Reichert served as official fair veterinarian of the Clay County Fair for 40 years.

**By Karen Carpenter**

Chosen this year to receive the honor of Friend of the Fair by the Clay County Fair Board is Dr. John Reichert, DVM. Reichert was chosen because of

the veterinarian service he has provided the Clay County Fair. Dr. Reichert has been the official fair veterinarian for the past 40 years.

The award ceremony is



Reichert poses with two other vets who volunteer at the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska. Veterinarians from all over the United States come to work with the sled dogs. From the left is Sara Hitts of Virginia, Reichert and Claire Hohenwarter of New Jersey.

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Reichert.

Each and every animal has to be inspected by the vet on entry day of the fair. It does not matter if the animal is a large horse or cow or a baby rabbit. They all must pass inspection for infectious disease.

If sometime of problem is found the animal or bird cannot be entered in the fair. Animals are not turned away very often according to Reichert.

Each day of the fair the veterinarian must do a walk through and inspect each animal or fowl for sanitation quality as well as evidence of food and water being provided.

If an animal would become ill during the days of the fair the exhibitor would be asked to remove the animal.

The official fair vet needs to be well versed in all of the livestock health requirements dictated by the state.

The veterinarian spends 10 to 12 hours on the fairgrounds on entry day of the fair. From then

on it takes about two hours to do the inspections each day during the run of the fair.

"In my estimation, the Clay County Fair is a really well run and special county fair," said Reichert. "When compared to the Red River Valley Fair there are a lot more exhibitors at the fairgrounds in Barnesville.

"The 4-H people really shine in Clay County. It is fun for me to see the next generation, and in many cases, even the third generation, of 4-H families who continue to participate.

"It is great to see the parents and grandparents promoting the event. It seems like almost a state holiday for Clay County. You have to reserve the dates for the next year to get a camper spot.

"I've seen young exhibitors dozing in the straw next to their animals, that is special."

Neither Reichert nor his children or grandchildren have

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