

(9/25/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

The 61st Annual River Valley School Fair is this Friday, September 27, 2024. You don't want to miss it! It is a great day of learning for our River Valley community! Rural Wisconsin has a rich tradition of celebrating youth, agriculture, and family during county fairs throughout the state, but very few districts continue to organize such an event, and the River Valley School Fair is one of only three left in the State of Wisconsin.

Fairs have existed since the 1800s in the United States, often starting as agricultural fairs or farm fairs. Practices (such as sheep shearing) or improvements on equipment (such as plows) or feed for livestock were often displayed. The original intent of a county fair was to educate by showing examples or offering samples in a regional setting. As Chayse Gilbertson, our FFA President says, *"The goal of our fair is to educate the public about agriculture in our River Valley community. Many individuals, businesses, and others support our youth in agriculture here at the fair. We, the River Valley FFA, truly appreciate the kindness extended to us over the years."*

This incredible event allows many folks in our agricultural community to gather, learn, share, and celebrate... and we would love to see you there to share in our success. Here is a quick summary of the day's events:

6:00-8:00: Animal weigh-in and registration

7:00: Food stand opens

8:00: Exhibits in the middle school gym open

8:00: Dairy show starts in the show ring

8:30: Interactive Agriculture Experience exhibits open for interactive agriculture learning

- Milk the Wooden Cow Station
- Soil Sensory and Dirt Pudding
- Case for Learning
- Many Hats of a Farmer
- Cows Upcycle for the Environment
- Iowa County Tech Rescue for Safety
- Arena Fire / Rescue Station Team
- Wisconsin Pork Producers
- Richland County 4-H Team
- Agriculture in the Classroom

8:30: Sheep show begins

8:45: Beef show begins

9:00: Horse show begins (on the lawn near the high school parking lot)

9:00: Small animal exhibits and poultry show begins

9:15: Swine show begins

10:30-11:30: Registration for the auction (in shed 1 near the pavilion)

10:45: Goat show begins

12:00 (noon): Animal auction begins for our community to bid

As you wander, please stop by and participate in our Interactive Agriculture Experience exhibits. We have 10 stations (listed above) for the young and old alike to learn about the vast agricultural opportunities in The Valley. At each station, get your card from the front table stamped. You then get a free t-shirt and a chance to win a gift card from Culvers.

Also, don't forget to support all the local fundraisers. The Community Garden Club is back and selling their Valley Famous Caramel Apples in front of the middle school. The student council will be selling cotton candy and boba tea. The juniors are doing a "Smash the Car" at the northern end of the high school parking lot, the sophomores are doing a "Pie in the Face" on the north side of the middle school, and the freshmen are doing a "Pin the Balloon" on the corner near the concession stand.

Additionally, we will see you at the Homecoming parade (3:00 pm on Jefferson Street) and later at the stadium for the football game (7:00 pm). It is a great week to be a Blackhawk!

Mr. Loren G. Glasbrenner
District Administrator