



The Fair Focus

Sunday, July 30
2023

Tompkins County 4-H Youth Fair

Upcoming Events:

- The Youth Fair has ended

Thursday August 3:

- 5:30 p.m. 4-H Fair Evaluation Meeting, 4-H Acres; Burgers/ hotdogs, and leftovers provided; everyone invited
- After Evaluation meeting: State Fair Mandatory Meeting

Congratulations on a Wonderful Fair!

It was a pleasure to watch everyone at Fair this year. I saw so many people smiling, laughing, joking, and offering helping hands to each other. From an outside perspective, I could tell how much everyone has learned over the past year, whether it was about showmanship, public speaking, or knowledge bowls. Your projects all looked amazing, and I could tell just how much work everyone put into them. I have one request for next year: Keep learning and keep growing. Keep being amazing.

Good luck, Shawn!

I'm sure I can say that everyone in 4-H will miss you deeply, as this is your last year in 4-H before you embark on the beginning of a new journey. But we all want you to know that going on a new journey doesn't mean packaging up the old journey and forgetting it. Brenda described this perfectly, saying that she wants you to "remember the friendships and lessons you learned in 4-H." And it only took Stephanie a second to think of her advice, to "keep learning by doing." There's a lot you've learned in the years you've been in 4-H, and Colleen had to think through each lesson you've learned to find the perfect piece of advice for you. She said, "Keep being a leader." As Cameron and Josiah thought, they realized that 4-H has taught you a lot of lessons even beyond leadership and friendships. Alternating every few ideas, they said, "Don't go sledding down a hill ... in the middle of the summer ... with a line of people waiting to go after you ... and a cameraman. Don't forget the cameraman." Gabe agreed with this sentiment, offering advice to not "sled down hills ... Marry up." With regards to life advice, Dan would like to advise you to "invest lots early in high-interest CDs", though Josiah thought that money could be used elsewhere. His advice to you was to "get a car that goes over a hundred." I'll have to add a caveat to that, though: Please be careful ... None of us want another sledding incident. Though simple, Nathaniel's advice is the truest of all. He said, "Smile." Cherish every little bit of life, because that's how you find peace and true happiness. But perhaps the most heartfelt piece of advice was from CJ. "Never give up," he said. We look forward to hearing about all your next adventures. We will all miss you so much, but we wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors.

Rabbit and Cavy Show and Showmanship

Like all other 4-H shows, this show consists of a conformation section and a showmanship section. In the conformation section, rabbits' body forms are evaluated, and the judge determines how close they are to the ideal form. However, the showmanship section is a lot different than for most other shows. Competitors stand with their rabbits in front of a judge and describe, from top to bottom, what markers of health they're looking for in their rabbit. First, they describe the fur and ears. Then, competitors must flip their rabbit over on its back and describe teeth, eyes, claws, legs, and so on all the way down the rabbit's body to the tail. Congratulations to all rabbit showmen on a wonderful 4-H year!



Left: Cassie Haas; middle: A rabbit showman holding her bunny; right: Emily Ralph

Chicken BBQ

Thank you, Country Kitchen, for barbecuing chicken for arguably the largest fundraiser at Fair! The barbecue pit was cooking since before 10am this morning as they worked hard to make this meal the best. Cooked to perfection, the chicken was delicious, and the potatoes perfectly creamy. Brenda Payne liked the potatoes the best, and her friend Christine Ashdown loved the chicken. I'm a bit of a potato-addict, so I loved those boiled salt potatoes as well. There were so many smiling faces, especially from the kids, as they received their chicken dinners. We appreciate all the hard work you put into making this meal!



Garden of Healthy Eatin'

Fortunately, vegetables aren't the only food that's healthy. Though I have to admit, vegetables – when they're fresh and chilled – do taste really good on a hot summer day. But fruits are also healthy, since they, too, contain the vitamins and minerals that we need to grow. Fruits like cherries, apples, bananas, and blueberries are almost like dessert, except that they're good for your body. And with a little whipped cream for dipping? That is dessert! So, it's important to eat both fruits and vegetables so that you can grow healthy and strong.



Lara Slattery munching on a sprig of celery

Veggie Art

We did even more veggie art today, adding lots of creations to our collection. Veggie arts that weren't picked up were turned into tasty meals, and inedible portions like rinds were put in the compost. This way, nothing was wasted. As our collection grew, our creativity was sparked, with even more scenes and delicate creatures being created. It was a joy to work with so many kids all creating something beautiful out of vegetables.



Dog Show and Showmanship

In a dog show, there is much more than just a conformation and showmanship section. In fitting and showmanship, a dog must be properly fitted (for example, hair clipped and groomed in the correct areas), and the 4-Her must be able to properly gait their dog (show off their dog's gait at a jog). There are also sections testing a dog's obedience and agility. As the showman gets older, their dog is expected to do more things, like jumping on command and following their owner's directions off leash.

Awards:

Grand Champion Senior Showman: Ariana and Timmy
Reserve Grand Champion Senior Showman: Lucia and her Aussie
Grand Champion Junior Showman: Nathaniel and his poodle
Grand Champion Obedience: Ariana and Timmy
Reserve Grand Champion Obedience: Lucia and her Aussie
Grand Champion Rally: Lucia and her Aussie
Reserve Grand Champion Rally: Ariana and Timmy



Left: Jacob Henderson; middle: Nathaniel Carpenter; right: Ariana Passalacqua

4-H Olympics

Set up by Joann Gruttadauro and her assistants, Rhoda Brown and Fiona Greene, the 4-H Olympics was long-awaited by many youths. As they wove their way through the egg race, rolled the straw bales as fast as they could, threw cow pies, and hobbled through the three-legged race, there were so many smiling faces and kids asking, "Can I try, too?" We welcomed 4-Hers and guests into the Olympics this year, and anyone from age three and up participated. It was a big hit, and I'd like to thank Joann for putting all this together.

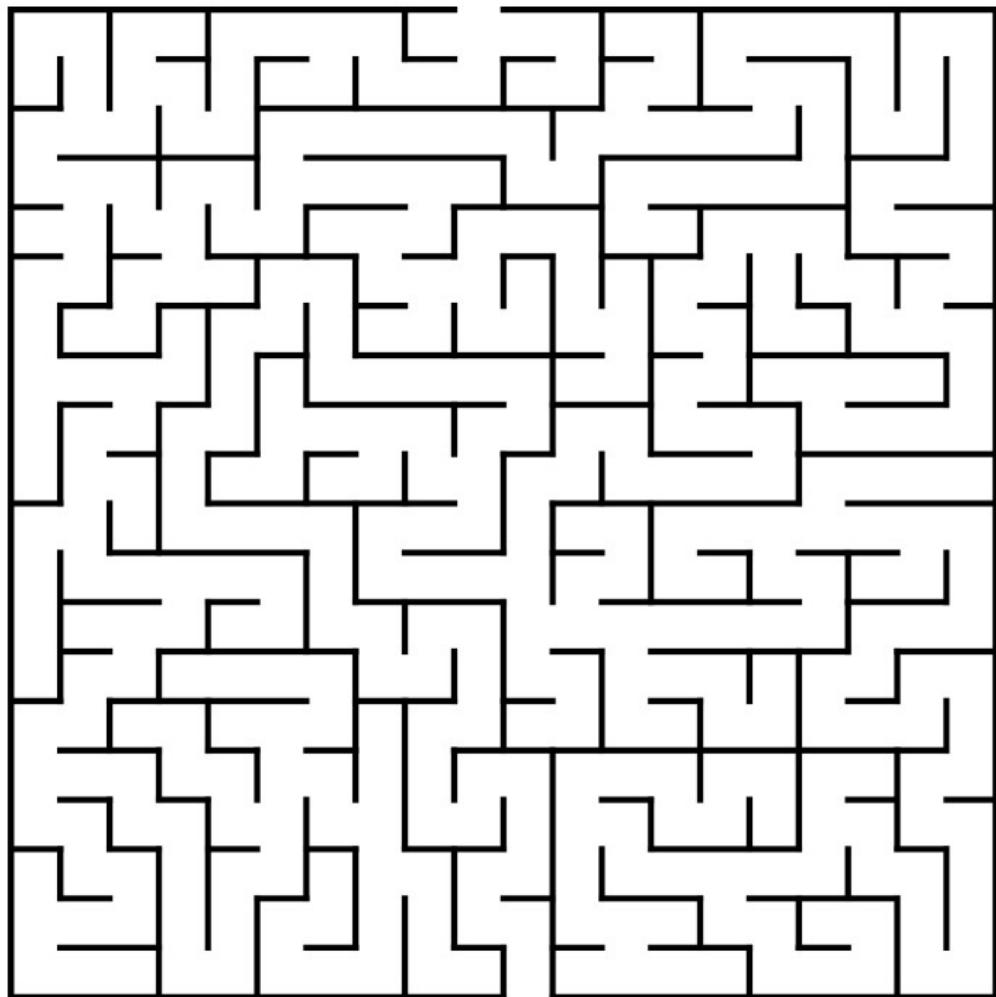




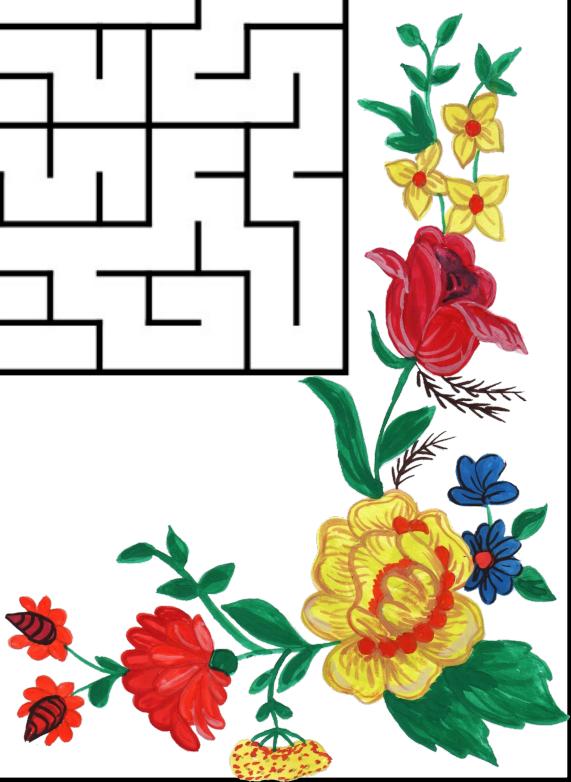
Sunday's Maze



Start



Finish



State Fair Mandatory Meeting

If there was a purple ribbon with a sticker in the center that says "Selected for State Fair" on any of your projects, you have the option of taking that project to State Fair to be judged at the state level. This is a great opportunity, which I would encourage everyone to take advantage of. In addition, 4-Hers can opt to take their animals to State Fair to show at a more competitive level. However, all who wish to take their project(s) or animal(s) to State Fair must attend the Mandatory State Fair Meeting on **Thursday, August 3rd, at 5:30pm**. This meeting will take place directly after the 4-H Fair Evaluation Meeting, at which we talk about things we liked or would like to improve on that happened at Fair. All 4-Hers and 4-H parents are encouraged to come to the 4-H Fair Evaluation Meeting before the Mandatory State Fair Meeting, whether your exhibits were selected for State Fair or not. This is a very important meeting, which helps decide what we're going to do at Fair next year. We'd love your input; we hope to see everyone there!

We miss you already, Fair! See you next year!



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