The 2020 Fayette County Fair Queen Aubrey Schwartz and the Fayette County Fair Queen Attendant Victoria Waits were crowned during the opening ceremony by 2019 Fayette County Fair Queen Abbi Pettit. All three are pictured following the ceremony. Pictured (top to bottom): Pettit, Waits and Schwartz.
Local buyers support junior fair participants

By Ryan Carter
rcarter@recordherald.com

Although it was a different type of fair this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, local buyers still supported Fayette County Junior Fair participants at the Saturday, July 25 sale.

The grand champion dairy steer, shown by Hunter Havens, sold for $1,250. The buyers were: SVG Toyota, McDonald’s of Fayette County, 5/3 Bank, Havens Family Landscaping, Miller Farm Partnership, and Chris Cottrill-Channel Seed.

The reserve champion dairy steer, shown by Bayley Thompson, sold for $650. The buyers were: Mayer Farm Equipment, 2019 Fayette County Fair Queen Abbi Pettit, and Kroger.

The grand champion beef steer, shown by Caitlin Cottrill, sold for $4,500. The buyers were: Bumpus Trucking, Ag Pro, Mike Vallery Crop Insurance, Hartley Oil, Sanders Show Cattle, Jerry Hagg Motors, Moshbarger and Smithson CPA, Reiterman Feed, Kirk Farms, Nutrien Ag, May Family Show Pigs, Anderson Equipment, Miller Grain, Fayette Vet Hospital, Kroger, Parrish Towing, Cummings Farm, and Farm Credit Services.

The grand champion beef feeder, shown by Victoria Waits, sold for $2,300. The buyers were: Fayette Vet Hospital, 5/3 Bank, McDonald’s of Fayette County, Chris Cottrill-Channel Seed, Riley Show Cattle, and Fayette County Finest Show Cattle.

The reserve champion beef steer, shown by Victoria Waits, sold for $2,500. The buyers were: 5/3 Bank, Fayette Vet Hospital, SVG GM-Toyota, and McDonald’s of Fayette County.

The reserve champion beef feeder, shown by Madison Riley, sold for $1,550. The buyers were: Fayette Vet Hospital, SVG GM-Toyota, McDonald’s of Fayette County, and Havens Family Landscaping.

The grand champion dairy feeder, shown by Quinton Marine, sold for $700. The buyers were: Bihl Farms, and Mark and Paige Bihl Farms.

The reserve champion dairy feeder, shown by Matthew Webb, sold for $550. The buyers were: McClish Land Company, Tony’s Welding, J.D. Sears Farm, McClish Plants, McDonald’s of Fayette County, and Jon and Melissa Custer.

The grand champion boer goat, shown by Weston Melvin, sold for $1,500. The buyers were: Vic Poutious, Faris Insurance, Buckeye Title, Fayette Vet Hospital, EZ Oil, Gustin Seed, and McDonald and Sons Feed.

The reserve champion boer goat, shown by Abigail Mick, sold for $1,000. The buyers were: GL Pettit, LLC, and JK Precast.

The grand champion dairy goat, shown by Kelsey Pettit, sold for $1,000. The buyers were: GL Pettit, LLC, and Bennett’s Barnyard.

The reserve champion dairy goat, shown by Elizabeth Webb, sold for $600. The buyers were: McClish Land Co., McClish Plants Plus, Robin’s Nest Flowers, Jon and Melissa Custer, McDonald’s of Fayette County, and Tony’s Welding.

The grand champion chicken, shown by Jonathan Mead, sold for $1,000. The buyers were: Fayette County Treasurer Susan Dunn, 5/3 Bank, Fayette County Auditor Brenda Moshbarger, McDonald’s of Fayette County, SVG GM/Toyota, Fayette Vet Hospital, State Senator Bob Peterson, Faris Insurance, Riley Family Show Cattle, Kirkpatrick Family Farm, and Ag Pro.

The reserve champion chicken, shown by Dylan Alltop, sold for $400. The buyer was Midland Acres.

The grand champion turkey, shown by Drew Black, sold for $450. The buyers were: SVG GM/Toyota, Sugarcreek Packing, Faris Insurance, 5/3 Bank, LeEl Lanes, Fayette County Treasurer Susan Dunn, and Mark and Linda Hiser.

The reserve champion turkey, shown by Andrew Amore, sold for $350. The buyers were: Amore Pizza, SVG GM/Toyota, Sugarcreek Packing, 5/3 Bank, and Robin’s Nest Flowers.

The grand champion rabbit, shown by Mackenzie Cory, sold for $600. The buyers were: State Senator Bob Peterson, Baxla Tractor, Havens Family Landscaping, Fayette County Treasurer Susan Dunn, SVG GM/Toyota, Faris Insurance, and 5/3 Bank.

The reserve champion rabbit, shown by Tori Peterson, sold for $475. The buyers were: Farm Credit Services and Ag Pro.

The grand champion lamb, shown by Katelyn Hicks, sold for $1,000. The buyers were: 2019 Fayette County Fair Queen Abbi Pettit, Farm Credit Services, and Fayette Vet Hospital.

The reserve champion lamb, shown by Jacob Hoppes, sold for $500. The buyer was Friends of the Jr. Fair.

The grand champion hog, shown by Aiden Knecht,
Schwartz named Fair Queen
Opening ceremony kicks off 2020 Fayette County Fair

By Martin Graham
mgraham@recordherald.com

Aubrey Schwartz was crowned as the 2020 Fayette County Fair Queen during the opening ceremony of the 141st Fayette County Fair Sunday, July 19.

The Fayette County Fair began with the annual opening ceremony at the grandstand, where members of the Junior Fair Board were celebrated and the Fair Queen was crowned. This year, two were vying for the position — Victoria Waits and Schwartz.

Schwartz is the daughter of Bret and Robin Schwartz. She recently graduated from Miami Trace High School and said she will attend Wilmington College to double major in agriculture and education to eventually become an agricultural educator at a high school or be involved in 4-H Extension work.

“This year has definitely not been normal, but it’s so heartwarming that all of these people came out today and that we get to have a fair this year,” Schwartz said following her crowning. “A lot has been taken from us (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) — which hasn’t been the easiest — but I am so grateful. (To the crowd) I know it has not been the greatest or a normal year, but all of your support really means the world to us 4-Hers and FFA members that get to come out and show at the fair again this year. Thank you guys.”

Waits will serve as a Fair Queen Attendant and is the only other member of the Fair Queen’s Court this year. Waits is the daughter of Daryl and Kristina Waits. She is a 2020 graduate of Miami Trace High School where she was active in the FFA, National Honors Society, Lead Out Loud, and the Drama Club.

Also during the opening ceremony, the annual Jim and Eddie Kirk Fair Supporter Award was given to Robin Beekman, who thanked the community.

Also during the opening ceremony, the annual Jim and Eddie Kirk Fair Supporter Award was given to Robin Beekman, who thanked the community.

Reach Martin Graham at (740) 313-0351 or on Twitter @MartiTheNewsGuy.
Pettit wins big at goat show

Weston Melvin wins grand champion meat goat

By Ryan Carter
rcarter@recordherald.com

Kelsey Pettit had a remarkable showing at the Tuesday, July 21 Fayette County Junior Fair goat show in both the meat and dairy goat competitions.

Pettit, who will be a sophomore at Miami Trace High School this year, won best overall showman in both the boer and dairy goat showmanship competitions, won the grand champion dairy goat, won the fourth overall dairy goat, won the reserve champion percentage doe, and had the fourth overall boer goat.

A member of Top Performers 4-H Club and of FFA, Pettit is no stranger to competing at the highest levels. “I’ve been fortunate to be able to show in some of the biggest stages in the nation, but Fayette County is still my favorite,” she said.

In the boer goat show, Weston Melvin, 16, won the grand champion prize. “It took a lot of work,” said Melvin, who is a member of the Lucky Leaf Livestock 4-H club. “I knew I had a chance because it’s a good goat, but it’s still very exciting.

Abigail Mick, 17, won the reserve champion boer goat prize. She is also accustomed to success in the local goat shows, as she won the grand champion boer goat in 2017. “It was exciting to win this year,” said Mick, who is also the goat ambassador at the fair. “I knew I had a chance with the goat I had.”

The reserve champion dairy goat went to Elizabeth Webb. Third overall was Ethan Steele and fifth overall went to Hayden Bartsuff.

Reach Ryan Carter at 740-313-0352.

Hicks, Hoppes take top sheep honors

Cory named overall sheep showman

By Martin Graham
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The Fayette County Junior Fair Market Lamb and Breeding Sheep Show was held on Thursday, July 23 with several exhibitors claiming the top prizes.

The first of these exhibitors to be named was the Overall Sheep Showman, Meghan Cory. Cory — who went on to compete in the Showman of Showman competition on Friday — was thrilled to claim the title. “It feels really good, I wasn’t expecting to win my age class,” Cory said. “It was a lot of work so it’s really rewarding to win today.”

Claiming another top prize during the show was Katie Hicks, whose project was named the Grand Champion Market Lamb. A roar in the crowd rang as the announcement came from the judge. “The hard work has definitely paid off, it feels good to be out here and get Grand Champion,” Hicks said. “It is really relieving for it to go so well, so that is nice. I want to thank my parents and family friends that have been there to help me. I also want to say if you are a younger exhibitor, you definitely need to work hard and it will pay off.”

Next, Jacob Hoppes’ project was named as the Reserve Grand

Reach Martin Graham at 740-313-0352.

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Champion Market Lamb. Hoppes — who is in his last year of 4-H — said this placing is special to him.

“This really means a lot to me, I have worked real hard for a few years,” Hoppes said. “My brother got reserve a couple of times, but this is my first time winning reserve. I would love to say thank you to my breeder, I got these lambs from Backwoods Farms in Johnstown, my parents, and everyone out there who has come out to help me over the years. Also my late grandfather, he was the reason I got started into lambs and how I got this far.”

Finishing out the rest of the top five Market Lamb competition was Corbin Melvin placing third overall, Delaney Roberts taking fourth overall and Weston Melvin finishing out the top.

Finally, two more classes were held for the Market Pen of Two, and Corbin Melvin was named the Grand Champion and Meghan Cory took home the Reserve Grand Champion prize.

Reach Martin Graham at (740) 313-0351 or on Twitter @MartTheNewsGuy.

Libby Aleshire was named the 2020 Overall Showman of Showmen Friday, July 24 following a tough competition between the best showmen the county has to offer at the Fayette County Junior Fair. Aleshire — who had won the Overall Turkey Showman earlier this week — said, “It feels really great, it feels like my hard work finally paid off and I am thankful for all of the help along the way. A lot of people helped me. (Showing the) cattle was a little uncomfortable,” Aleshire said with a laugh. “I want to say good job to all the other competitors, you all did great and I am so thankful for them helping with their animals as well.” Also placing in the top five were Kelsey Pettit placing second, Weston Melvin taking third, Hunter Havens receiving fourth place and finally, Madison Johnson rounding out the top showmen at the Fayette County Junior Fair. Pictured (L to R): Melvin, Pettit, Fayette County Fair Queen Aubrey Schwartz, Aleshire (seated), Fayette County Fair Queen Attendant Victoria Waits, Havens and Johnson.

Proud Supporter of the Fayette County Fair!
Cottrill wins Grand Champion Market Steer

Waite takes Reserve Grand Champion, showman award

Caitlin Cottrill had the Grand Champion Market Steer at the Fayette County Fair Tuesday, July 21, 2020. (l-r); Natalie Lindsey, Beef Queen; Jill Cottrill, Chris Cottrill, Joe Beckett (judge), Caitlin Cottrill and Fayette County Fair Queen Aubrey Schwartz.

By Chris Hoppes
choppes@aimmediamidwest.com

Caitlin Cottrill had an extremely productive morning Tuesday, July 25 at the Fayette County Junior Fair. The young lady, who will be in the eighth grade at Miami Trace this upcoming school year, won the title of Grand Champion Market Steer with her animal, “Bo.”

“A lot of work and preparation goes into raising the animal, leading up the fair, Cottrill said. “It’s a lot of early mornings,” Cottrill said. “Hard work; rinsing every morning and blowing out.”

Cottrill, a member of the Buckeye Land and Livestock 4-H club, is the daughter of Chris and Jill Cottrill. Caitlin has a brother, Cade, and a sister, Casey.

Victoria Waits found success Tuesday morning, coming away with the Reserve Grand Champion Beef Market steer at the Fayette County Junior Fair.

“This is the second year in a row that I have won Reserve Grand Champion,” Waits said. “It’s just really special. It’s something that proves I’m doing a good job raising my steers.

“Having this this year just means a lot to me,” Waits said. “Because everything has been so messed up with COVID and I’ve lost quite a few things due to that.”

Waits is a member of the Miami Trace High School graduating class of 2020. The 2019-20 school year came to a premature end due to the pandemic, depriving the senior students, especially, of a normal ending to their final year of high school.

“Just having the fair and winning this award means so much to me,” Waits said. “Having my family here with me, my mom and my dad and my brother, it just means a lot. It’s just the little cherry on top this year because COVID messed everything else up.”

Waits is the daughter of Daryl and Kristina Waits and her brother is Quinton Waits.

A bit later Tuesday morning, Waits won Overall Market Beef Showman.

“That will go against our overall Beef Feeder Showman and our overall Beef Breeding Showman for our overall Beef Showman who goes to the Showman of Showmen and competes Friday afternoon (at 5:30 p.m.),” Waits explained.

“I am planning on going to Oklahoma State University (home of the Cowboys, located in Stillwater) to study animal science and pre-veterinary medicine,” Waits said. “I will be leaving on Aug. 9 and moving in on Aug. 10.

“I’m really excited to go down there,” Waits said. “I’ll have a whole bunch of opportunities. I’ll be back here next year. I may not be showing, but I will definitely be back to see everyone and I’ll be taking a clothing project.”

The Fayette County Junior Fair Beef Feeder and Breeding Beef Shows were held Tuesday afternoon at the Sales Arena on the Fayette County Fairgrounds. Victoria Waits’ project was named the 2020 Grand Champion Beef Feeder. Pictured (L to R): Ashton Bain, Loretta Miller with Fayette County’s Finest Show Cattle, show judge Joe Beckett, Kris Waits and Victoria Waits.

By Martin Graham
mgraham@recordherald.com

The Fayette County Junior Fair Beef Feeder and Breeding Beef Shows were held on Tuesday, July 21 in the Sales Arena with two claiming the grand champion prizes in their respective shows.

Starting off the shows, Victoria Waits won the 2020 Beef Feeder Grand Champion prize after a tough competition.

“Rexie is like my little baby, I
Multiple champs named at Market Dairy Show

By Martin Graham
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The Fayette County Junior Fair Market Dairy Show was held on Wednesday, July 22 and a number of exhibitors were honored.

The show began about 10 a.m. with the Dairy Feeder portion of the show. Starting off the victories was Quinton Marine and his project, who claimed the grand champion prize. With a smile, Marine spoke about his work before the fair.

“I don’t really mind (being named Grand Champion) I just like to show — this is my first year — and I would’ve been alright not even placing in the overall drive, I was just glad to show,” Marine said. “We got (his project) in January and we started to walk him like two months after. I hope to keep placing well. We are going to bring him back next year as a steer.”

Following Marine, Matthew Webb took the Reserve Grand Champion prize with his feeder.

“I worked with him since he was a baby and brought him out,” Webb said as the judge continued to place the final exhibitors. “Last year I had a calf die at the beginning, same thing happened again this year and that was (his project’s) buddy. I told (my feeder) before we started to do it for ‘Chief’ and he started crying. I have two more years in 4-H and I plan to keep going.”

The next half of the show — the Market Dairy Steer portion — started immediately and with just a few classes to assess, the judge was quick and named River Havens’ project the Grand Champion Dairy Steer.

“It feels good, it feels great (to be named Grand Champion),” River Havens said on Wednesday. “We have walked them for a long time. I feel like I accomplished a lot today. I want to thank my parents for helping me with the project, my brother and my family just helps a lot!”

The Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Steer was selected next and the crowd roared as Bayley Thompson’s project was named Grand Champion Dairy Feeder.

“Because of this project — and earlier in the show. Havens was happy to sell, who won the Dairy Feeder Showman earlier in the show. Havens was happy to win and — just like his brother River — wanted to say, “thank you.”

“I want to thank my family — they are always there for me and help me — my brother and everybody,” Hunter Havens said. “It feels great to know all of my hard work paid off during the summer. I would say the fact my steer was calm really attributed to the win. It takes work every day — day and night — to get them that calm.”

Reach Martin Graham at 740-313-0351.
It was a “three-peat” for Zander Ivey on Tuesday, July 21 at the Fayette County Junior Fair hog showmanship contest as the 15-year-old took home the top prize for the third year in a row.

The winner of all 10 showmanship age classes took to the ring inside the hog arena shortly after 5 p.m., allowing the judge to get one final look at the exhibitors. The judge, Dustin Ehrman, shook Ivey’s hand first, signifying he was the overall winner.

Ivey, who will be a junior at Fayette Christian School, is a member of the Buckeye Land & Livestock 4-H club.

Rounding out the top five hog showmen from Tuesday were: second place showman Kylan Knapp, third place Drake Sharp, fourth place showman Dane Wilt and fifth place showman Konner May.

Ehrman, who was judging his first hog show in Fayette County Tuesday, said that Ivey’s “patience and deliberation really stood out” among the rest of the field.

“(Ivey) never goes too fast, he never goes too slow,” said Ehrman. “His demeanor is impressive and he’s just almost mechanical and very natural in the way that he shows the animal.”

As a collection of exhibitors, Ehrman also came away very impressed with the youngsters of Fayette County.

“They were wonderful…five stars,” he said.

The class winners included: Cassidy Lovett, Aubrey McCoy, Kylan Knapp, Zander Ivey, Drake Sharp, Konner May, Kaden Bryant, Dane Wilt, Alii Knecht, and Molly Wilt.

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Knecht wins hog grand champion

Aiden Knecht (middle) won the grand champion market hog prize at the Fayette County Junior Fair Market Hog Show on Wednesday, July 22. Knecht, 14, will be a freshman at Miami Trace High School. He is the son of Matt and Angie Knecht. Aiden is pictured with the judge of the hog show, Brett Beyers, Fayette County Fair Queen Aubrey Schwartz, Pork Princess Hunter Johnson, Pork Queen Laikyn Hughes and Pork Princess Emma Bower. Look for more coverage of the hog show inside.

Junior fair hog show winners named

During the Fayette County Junior Fair Hog Show on Wednesday, July 22, Maya McCoy (middle with trophy) won the reserve grand champion hog prize. McCoy, 11, is a member of Buckeye Land & Livestock 4-H club. She is pictured with the judge of the show, Brett Beyers, Fayette County Fair Queen Aubrey Schwartz, her brother Keaton, Pork Princess Hunter Johnson, Pork Queen Laikyn Hughes and Pork Princess Emma Bower.

Ivey ‘3-peats’ in hog showmanship

By Ryan Carter
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It was a “three-peat” for Zander Ivey on Tuesday, July 21 at the Fayette County Junior Fair hog showmanship contest as the 15-year-old took home the top prize for the third year in a row.

The winner of all 10 showmanship age classes took to the ring inside the hog arena shortly after 5 p.m., allowing the judge to get one final look at the exhibitors. The judge, Dustin Ehrman, shook Ivey’s hand first, signifying he was the overall winner.

When asked if these victories are starting to become commonplace for him after winning overall hog showman for the third time, Ivey said it is still exciting to be the winner.

“Yes, it’s still every exciting,” he said. “It was a little more challenging this time and it still takes a whole lot of work.”

Ivey, who will be a junior at Fayette Christian School, is a member of the Buckeye Land & Livestock 4-H club.

Roundout the top five hog showmen from Tuesday were: second place Kylan Knapp, third place Drake Sharp, fourth place Dane Wilt and fifth place Konner May.

Ehrman, who was judging his first hog show in Fayette County Tuesday, said that Ivey’s “patience and deliberation really stood out” among the rest of the field.

“(Ivey) never goes too fast, he never goes too slow,” said Ehrman. “His demeanor is impressive and he’s just almost mechanical and very natural in the way that he shows the animal.”

As a collection of exhibitors, Ehrman also came away very impressed with the youngsters of Fayette County.

“They were wonderful…five stars,” he said.

The class winners included: Cassidy Lovett, Aubrey McCoy, Kylan Knapp, Zander Ivey, Drake Sharp, Konner May, Kaden Bryant, Dane Wilt, Alii Knecht, and Molly Wilt.

Reach Ryan Carter at 740-313-0352.
Atkinson wins overall rabbit showman prize

By Jennifer Woods
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During the Fayette County Junior Fair’s rabbit showmanship competition on Monday, July 20, Alyvia Atkinson took the overall rabbit showman prize.

The event was held in the small animal barn and lasted from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 11:30 a.m. There were 10 classes in total.

Alyvia was originally part of class seven with six others. She will be going into sixth grade in the Miami Trace Local School District.

According to Alyvia, both Aubrey Schwartz (the 2020 Fair Queen) and her grandfather helped her the most with raising rabbits.

“The best part of the competition was probably... going against people like six years older than me,” said Alyvia.

When asked if she was nervous about the competition, Alyvia explained, “a little nervous but not much.”

Alyvia had placed as second overall rabbit showman last year. Aside from rabbits being one of her favorite animals, she also loves giraffes and elephants.

The judge for the contest was Kevin Bogan from Sabina. Bogan has been an ARBA judge for 28 years and is a director on the Clinton County Fairboard.

Bogan has been a 4-H advisor for 44 years and has been a judge for various national, state and local shows. He is also the owner of Bogan Cages and Supplies.

Reach Jennifer Woods at 740-313-0355 or on Twitter @JennMwoods.

Koski named ‘overall dog showman’

By Ryan Carter
rcarter@recordherald.com

Katrina Koski was named the best overall dog showman Monday at the Fayette County Junior Fair Dog Show.

The 18-year-old senior also was the overall off-lead winner and the high combined winner, which is the combined highest score in obedience and high score in showmanship. The overall on-lead winner was Laine Holstein.

This was the first overall showmanship prize for Koski, who showed two dogs, “Zoey,” an Australian Shepherd, and “Pumpkin,” a beagle mix, during this year’s show. Zoey, who Koski showed in the overall showman drive, recently recovered from a bout with cancer.

“Zoey took a couple of months off and she’s now missing part of her jaw, but she’s doing better,” said Koski. “She did a lot better showing than I expected her to….she is a really hyper dog.”

Koski, a member of the Perfect Paws 4-H club, said she was extremely excited when her name was announced as the overall showman. She has been showing Zoey and Pumpkin since 2017. Following the show that was held in the arena, Koski was presented with a chair and banner.

Along with Koski, the top five showmen were as follows:
Second place - Laine Holstein
Third place - Colton Osborne
Fourth place - Cassie Baird
Fifth place - Blake Walker

Several other exhibitors achieved a high level of success at Monday’s dog show.

In the showmanship classes: Colton Osborne won the Junior A class, Laine Holstein won the Junior B class, Thomas Smalley won the Intermediate B class, Cassie Baird won the Senior A class, and Katrina Koski won the Senior B class.

In the obedience classes, Cassie Baird won the Beginner Novice A class, Laine Holstein won the Beginner Novice B class, Katrina Koski won the Novice B class, and Katrina Koski won the Brace class.

In the rally classes, Cassie Baird won the Rally Novice A class, Laine Holstein won the Rally Novice B class, and Katrina Koski won the Rally Novice C class.

Reach Ryan Carter at 740-313-0352.
By Jennifer Woods
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Both the chicken market show and turkey market show were held on Wednesday, July 22 at the Fayette County Junior Fair small animal barn.

Grand champion of the chicken market show was Jonathon “Jack” Mead while the reserve champion was Dylan Alltop.

Jack won champion of the chicken market show for the first time this year. He is going into the 11th grade at Washington Court House City Schools. He is a member of the Buckeye All-Stars 4-H club.

This is the third year Jack has raised chickens, and the best part about raising them is first seeing them as chicks.

“My favorite part about raising them is probably getting them on the first day and seeing them as just little chicks. Put them in a little swimming pool. It’s just a good time that first day,” said Jack. “The most challenging part — it gets kind of stressful toward fair: making sure they’re keeping clean, getting them to the right weight you want since you are trying to win. Just have to do what’s best for the birds so you can make it all the way.”

According to Jack, his dad was a big help in the project especially with helping to make sure they were fed every day, and that the right items were purchased.

“It’s been a blessing,” said Jack. “This is my first time winning. Over the past two years I think I’ve placed in the middle of the first class, so making it this far has been really amazing.”

The reserve champion for the chicken market show was Dylan Alltop. Dylan is a member of the Young Atomic Farmers 4-H club.

He has been showing chickens for approximately three years and will be going into 11th grade this year at Miami Trace.

According to Dylan, watching the chickens grow is the best part of raising them.

The most challenging part to raising chickens is, according to Dylan, “trying to get them not to poop on you.”

“They grow pretty quick,” he said. “It’s exciting to win.”

In third place for the chicken market show was Cole Whiteside, in fourth place was Bryce Bennett and in fifth place was Molly Whiteside.

Grand champion of the turkey market show was Drew Black while the reserve champion was Andrew Amore.

Drew is a member of the Fayette Farm Life 4-H club and the Miami Trace FFA. He will be going into 11th grade at Miami Trace this coming school year. He has been showing turkeys for approximately six years and this year was his fourth time winning.

“I feel like all my hard work’s paid off,” said Drew. “Turkeys are similar to chickens, but with turkeys you have to work with them a little bit more. You have to walk them — usually everyday, sometimes twice a day. I walk mine twice a day toward the end. It’s just finding what works for you — you have to find the feed that works for you, the walking plan that works for you. Just finding the right combination to make the best bird you can.”

According to Drew, he walks his turkeys with a cane so they get used to it — as they have to use a cane when showing the turkeys at the fair.

Drew recognized his parents for helping him and always being there for him.

Winning reserve champion for the turkey market show was Andrew Amore.

Andrew is a member of the Funny Farmers 4-H club.

He just graduated from high school and is planning to attend Muskingum University in Concord with a major in business management.

Andrew has been raising turkeys since he was in seventh grade and has won reserve one other time — in 2017.

“It feels great to end on a high note,” said Andrew.

One of the best parts of taking part in the activities all these years, according to Andrew, is the friendships that come out of it.

“Id just like to say thanks to everybody who has helped me along the way,” said Andrew.

In third place for the turkey market show was Bryce Bennett, in fourth place was Noah Kelsey-Lane and in fifth place was Elizabeth Aleshire.

Both shows had the same judge — David Adkins.

Adkins is from Lucasville and is an American Poultry Association and American Bantam Association General Licensed Judge and APA Master Exhibitor, a past president of the American Bantam Association, and a former secretary/treasurer of the Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club and of the Scioto County Fair.

In the past, Adkins has worked as a 4-H Extension Educator, a math and science teacher, and as the secretary/treasurer of the American Poultry Association.

His experience includes years of breeding and exhibiting various breeds of poultry, including Plymouth Rocks, Australorps, Leghorns, Polish, and Cayugas. He has judged junior fair and youth shows in over 40 Ohio counties and in seven other states.

Reach Jennifer Woods at 740-313-0355 or on Twitter @JennMWoods.
By Jennifer Woods
jwoods@aimmediamidwest.com

Three top showmen were chosen during the Monday, July 20 Fayette County Junior Fair Poultry Showmanship event.

Those chosen were for overall chicken, turkey and duck showman.

Taking overall chicken showman was Jenna Goddard. Jenna will be going into 10th grade at Miami Trace. She is a member of the Fayette Farm Life 4-H club.

According to Goddard, she has been showing chickens since she was in fourth grade.

The best part of showing is, according to Jenna, “you get to see how much your work has paid off, and it’s just a really good experience overall.

“The most challenging part to showing is never knowing what questions the judge will ask.”

Taking overall turkey showman was Elizabeth Aleshire. She will be going into 11th grade at Miami Trace. Elizabeth is this year’s small animals queen and is a member of the Fayette Farm Life 4-H club.

Elizabeth has been showing turkeys for approximately four years. This year she also has market turkeys, market pen chickens, market pen rabbits and three hogs.

The best part to showing is, according to Elizabeth, “getting to be out there with your animals and being a role model to younger members.”

Taking overall duck showman was Drew Black. Drew will be going into 11th grade at Miami Trace. He is a member of the Fayette Farm Life 4-H club.

Drew has been showing ducks for approximately four years.

“Showmanship is just a test of knowledge and how well you can handle the bird. I think that’s a really important part to having animals,” said Drew.

The most challenging part to showing ducks, according to Drew, is “knowing as much as you can about your bird, the species and the variety. You just have to memorize a whole lot of stuff.”

Reach Jennifer Woods at 740-313-0355 or on Twitter @JennMWoods.

On Monday, Jenna Goddard won overall showman of chicken. Pictured are Goddard with runner-ups and fair royalty: (left-to-right, back) Queen Aubrey Schwartz, Goat Ambassador Abigail Mick, Small Animals Queen Elizabeth Aleshire, Kamika Bennett, Xander Cummings and Addyson Butts: (front) Goddard.
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