



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

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Welcome to the fair section

Okay, we know this year is a bust when it comes to community events, celebrations, festivals and perhaps most importantly, the Steele County Free Fair.

We should all be heading out to the fair this week to enjoy livestock shows, carnival rides, displays, entertainment and of course, the food. We will at least get a little taste of the fair through a Drive-In Fair Fest Thursday until Sunday at the fairgrounds. The Fair Fest will offer a few of the popular treats we have all come to love over the years. It won't be the same as nobody can get out of their vehicles, but why shouldn't that surprise us after the kind of year 2020 is turning into.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has basically brought our lives to a screeching halt

over the past few months, we still were able to find some life going on with the fair behind the scenes. We offer our findings this week in a special section devoted to the fair.

As you sit back this week with no fair to attend, take a moment to read this special section and relive some of the fairs in the past. This is a great time to remember your favorite fair memories of the past and dream about what's to come hopefully in 2021.

It's sad that we will be missing out on all the fun at Minnesota's largest county fair right in our back yard, but if it's any consolation, the fun is just being postponed until 2021. We hope by then all of us can kick the COVID-19 where we never have to worry about it again!

4-H Dairy showing becomes family tradition for Katzungs

BY RICK BUSSLER
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Showing dairy cows has become a family tradition for the Katzung family of Owatonna. And Jace Katzung wasn't about to let the COVID-19 pandemic get in the way of him showing this year.

Jace will be showing two dairy steers in 4-H competition this week at the Steele County Fairgrounds. It won't be anything like the 16-year-old has grown accustomed to over the past few years, but he's just glad to have the opportunity to show.

"I'm really glad it wasn't a virtual show," Jace says. "I'm glad we can do it in person. Just to not have the chance to show one time would be disheartening."

For Jace and other 4-Hers, parading around the show ring will be a little different this year than any other. They will be required to wear masks and extra scrutiny will be placed on cleaning and sanitizing everything. Volunteers will also be at the show performing health screenings.

Jace has served on the county's Project Development Committee that formulated plans for continuing 4-H livestock shows this summer in Steele County. The committee has been meeting since May at the height of the coronavirus to work out details. Jace's family has been involved with the committee for eight years.

The dairy show will be different this year as there are not as many 4-H members competing as normal. In Jace's division, there will be only



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jace Katzung of Owatonna shows a dairy steer at a past show. Katzung will be showing this week in 4-H competition in Steele County.

SEE 4-H DAIRY, C2