

...the growing season for the 1993 corn and soybean crops is coming to an end with a lot of uncertainty about

...agriculture extension agent with the Ohio State University Extension Service.)

## Weekly ag breakfast has fair officials as speakers

By MICHELE VAUGHAN  
The Eagle-Gazette Staff

Fairfield County agriculture and fair officials are ready for the Fairfield County Fair, scheduled Tuesday through Saturday next week.

At the Friends in Agriculture Breakfast Thursday morning, fair program director Elvin Strickler, fair manager Dave Benson, fair publicist Stan Robinson and Junior Fair representative Judy Schurtz gave an overview of things to look for at the fair next week.

"Every year I learn something different or something new," Strickler said. This is Strickler's 27th year with the fair, he said.

Fair officials have hosted many activities at the fair during the rest of the year to make money for fairgrounds maintenance costs, Strickler said.

The fairgrounds consist of about 70 acres and many buildings, all of which need constant care.

Most of the money (94 percent) made for upkeep at the fairgrounds is made during the fair, Strickler said. Only six percent of income for the fairgrounds is made outside of the fair.

"We like to make some money, or at least break even," he said. "It takes \$100,000 just to open the fair."

Entertainment celebrities are not a part of the fair because of the cost, Strickler said. "That's the question I get asked the most."

Fairfield County's farm community is what fair officials want to emphasize during the fair, Benson said.

"I realize we have to have games, rides and concessionaires to draw those who aren't interested in farming," Benson said. "But we try to highlight agriculture in Fairfield County."

Fair officials hope to attract more people to the fair with new features, including a kiddie pedal pull, tallest weed and tallest corn stalk in Fairfield County contests, and ribbons honoring those married 50 years or more, Benson said.

Schurtz said one unusual display in the animal barns this year should draw some people. A llama and two pygmy goats will be shown.

Robinson, who has been working on radio at the fair for 25 years, said publicity for the fair begins in July with press releases and information sent to television stations, newspapers and radio stations throughout Ohio.

Robinson said WBNS-TV in Columbus will be filming segments at the fair for its Saturday morning news show for children, which reaches 35 counties. Included in the filming will be the Adelphi Community Band, the oldest community band in the state, and the 4-H Panorama, during which the 1993 Fairfield County Fair Queen is chosen.

He said people know the county fair, which is the last scheduled fair in Ohio, as "the last of the year and the best of the year."

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