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# PIONEERS

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## 2016 Pioneers Luncheon honors Pioneers & Supporters of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center and Fair with a special tribute to the Open and 4-H Dairy Goat Departments, Open and 4-H Meat Goat Departments and The Hogan Family

### Open and 4-H Dairy Goat Department

The 1st Dairy Goat Show was held in 1951 under a tent in what is now Racing Park. The show was organized and run by members of the Capitol Dairy Goat Coop. It was members of the Coop that helped build the Dairy Goat Barn (38) the following year. The middle of the barn had a block milking stanchion that you could milk 4 goats in. A teenage Pat Rooney would stay all fair week and care for all the goats. Owners would just arrive for show day and to pick up their animals on Sat. night.

Like many shows the numbers in the dairy goat dept have varied over the years. They peaked in the 90s to over 400 head and have leveled out to currently exhibiting about 200 head. Notable superintendents over the years have been JW Potter, Bill Maxwell, Pat Rooney, Diana Patton and Randy Conlan. The current superintendents are Laurie Gill and Daniel Hernandez.

The 1st 4-H Dairy Goat Show in 1972, was organized by Diana Patton and Randy Conlan. Superintendents of the department were Patricia Patton and Jim Conlan. Diana Patton replaced her mother as superintendent in 1974 and has continued in that position to date. Numbers for the 4-H Show have varied over the years; the 1st show had about 30 animals exhibited, they peaked to about 60 in the 90s and have leveled off to about 40 for current shows.

Other highlights from the Dairy Goat Department are the first costume contest was organized by Diana Patton and Brad Wigle. This was called the Pretty Goat Show. 1977 was the Year of the Dairy Goat; as a special event the Dairy Goat Dept worked with the Livestock Committee to have a wethered kid be sold as meat at the Livestock Auction. Owner of that winning animal was Anna Waterman.

We are excited about the leasing program that encourages 4-Hers to work with the dairy goats. The 4-H Dairy Goat Barn continues to be 1 of the fair's most popular barns; the 4-Hers work hard at decorating and giving exhibits to the public to educate them about dairy goats and Md. Agriculture.

### Open and 4-H Meat Goat Department

Was also honored.

"The Hogan family has been volunteering for over 50 years at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center and Fair. It started when the children joined 4-H. To be able to show our animals and sell at the auction, the 4-H members had to volunteer throughout the year at the Ag Center. We served dinners, attended Fair workdays and helped during the Fair at the Coke Booth and the Big Cheese. Ed, Sr. and Blanche also volunteered as 4-H leaders. More and more opportunities to volunteer became available as the years went on eventually Ed, Sr. and Blanche became superintendents at the Big Cheese. Currently, Shannon and Ed, Sr. currently share the leadership responsibilities at the Big Cheese. Ed, Jr. became superintendent of the parking and co-superintendent of security. Ed, Sr., Ed, Jr. and Sue have all held Board member positions and 3 family members have worked in the office at different times. Sue is superintendant of the information booths and announcements. Debbie started the Community Square which has now become the Kid Zone and her daughter Jennifer is now the current superintendent. George is a past Jr. Board member and volunteers at the Big Cheese, Kid Zone or information booths. Mary is the chair of the "Project G Street" Fair competition. Charlie has done building security and now is the game show host at the Kid Zone. Our fourth generation is already involved in 4-H. Logan with the goat club and Alyah in the Goshen club. The family has 4 honorary members, 10 life member and 5 that have over 100 hours of volunteer service. The Hogan family enjoys volunteering and educating the community at the Fair. The family will continue this tradition for years to come."

### A Little History

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc. (MCAC) was formed as a privately operated 501(c) (3) non-profit organization on January 7, 1949, when a group of local farmers were elected as the first Board of Directors by the volunteer membership of the organization. The MCAC had recently purchased 64 acres of land adjacent to the railroad tracks from Herman Rabbitt, a successful farmer and landowner in Gaithersburg. On June 4th, 1949, hundreds of volunteers participated in after an old-fashioned barn raising and 12 outbuildings were constructed in one day. The site of the new Montgomery County Agricultural Center was created. Dedicated volunteers donated time, materials and talent to construct and continue operation of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds would not be what it is today if it were not for those visionary pioneers who were committed to agricultural education and family entertainment.

As is true today for the agricultural center, the volunteers were, and still are, necessary to the successful operation of the Fairgrounds, through continued contributions of materials and free labor for the construction of the new facilities, as well as upgrading the old. A network of more than 2,000 volunteers continue providing their time, making the agricultural center a vital part of the business community in Montgomery County. The nine day Montgomery County Agricultural Fair that is held in mid-August requires support from over 800 volunteers who assume the responsibility for organizing and producing the single largest annual event in Montgomery County.

Thank you to all our pioneers who have helped make the Fair what it is today!

### **The Pioneers Luncheon is sponsored by: Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc.**

The Montgomery County Fair officially opened in 1949. It was made possible by many volunteers, contributors, families, and government officials who, over the years continue to make the Fair a place for youth and others to gather and show results of their work, to enjoy camaraderie and to educate others about agriculture.