

PIONEERS

2021 Pioneers Luncheon honors Pioneers & Supporters of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center and Fair with a special tribute to the Horse Department and The Magaha Family

Horse Department

The horse barn and arena at the fairgrounds was completed in the year 2000. For many years before this, horses were not really a big part of the fair as there was no place to house them. We were very fortunate to have a group of people come together during this time to create this area to showcase horses and 4-H.

During the week the barn is often filled with 4-H horses and ponies for spectators to view. There is always an information booth that is usually interactive for kids and adults alike. There are always 4-H'ers and adults around the barns during the day to speak with and answer questions for fairgoers and occasionally hold ponies and horses for petting.

On Saturday the 4-H horse show is held followed by the Draft Horse and Mule show on Sunday. Monday is Children's Day and the stalls are filled with ponies and often we have Therapeutic Riding Programs from the surrounding areas to do demonstrations and show some of their horses and riders. Tuesday, we cater to Seniors and have Draft horses and mules in the stalls whose owners will hold a Parade of Breeds in the arena to highlight their animals.

On Wednesday and Fridays during fair week the 4-H Gymkhana is held where the 4-H'ers compete in "games on horseback", - a fun and exciting way to enjoy their horses and ponies.

On the last Saturday of the fair the stalls are filled by Horse Rescues in the area who bring horses and ponies in need of new families to love and care for them. We have seen several horses go to new homes from these demonstrations and parades held in the arena.

The Horse Department welcomes families and fairgoers to the horse barn and arena area to watch the many activities and shows that go on during the week and talk to 4-H kids about the organization and their horses as well as the many other people, horses and organizations who come together to make this week possible.

The Magaha Family



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.