

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

Bedford 4H Club Rocks the Middlesex County Fair Through Sunday

2014 August 22



Dante, a rising second grade student at Davis School, visited his calf every morning before school – Image (c) JMcCT, 2014

By Julie McCay Turner

Bedford 4H coordinator Sandy Couvee, AKA Farmer Sandy, of Chip-In Farm and the other adult volunteers who keep 4H alive have a lot to be proud of this weekend. Bedford 4H club t-shirts were in evidence all around the Westford Fair Grounds this afternoon, and Bedford club members have earned dozens of blue ribbons.

If you're looking for a wholesome family activity this weekend, there's hardly a better option. A step back in time, the 4H Fair is kids, farm animals and all the classic accoutrements of an old-tyme country fair.

Many of the 4H families camp on the fairgrounds; several of the clubs bed down in the livestock barns, along with their animals. According to Farmer Sandy, Bedford's contingent sleeps in a warm and dry sanctuary in the middle of the cattle barn.

Carol Hand, an experienced 4H parent, offered a tour of the displays and emphasized that 4H activities are not limited to agricultural pursuits. There is an immense and outstanding photo display, a sewing exhibit that includes duct tape clothing and accessories, evidence of homemaking skills, fine artwork and poetry, along with the requisite jams, jellies and produce.

The Middlesex County Fair takes place on the county's fair grounds on the Westford/Chelmsford border. Click this link to learn more about the fair: www.4hmiddlesexfair.org/ From the Chelmsford Center rotary, follow Acton Road (Rte 27) and bear right on Parkerville Road. The fair will be on your left, about a mile ahead.

According to Pam LeFave, a member of the 4H Middlesex Advisory Council, more than 500 4H members participated in the fair. Although the fair's opening ceremony was doused with rain for the first time in LeFave's 15 years at the event, none of the members' enthusiasm was dampened.



It's not easy to get a pig to pose for a portrait!



Victoria Hand won a Best-in-Show blue ribbon for her nearly-perfect carton of eggs, in addition to ribbons in several other categories. The eggs were judged on uniformity of size, weight and color, earning 99 of a possible 100 points.



Another Best-in-Show blue ribbon was earned by 10-year-old beekeeper Audrey Mendenhall. The honey she submitted was a perfect pale gold, and aced its taste test.



Victoria Hand with one of her hens



Farmer Sandy with a member of the Bedford 4H club

There were plenty of fancy fowl at the fair:



And lots of 4H craft displays



And even a horse show!

