



Benton County Fair Foundation Fall 2024 Newsletter

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2024 Fair Auction



Donating through your Trust or Will

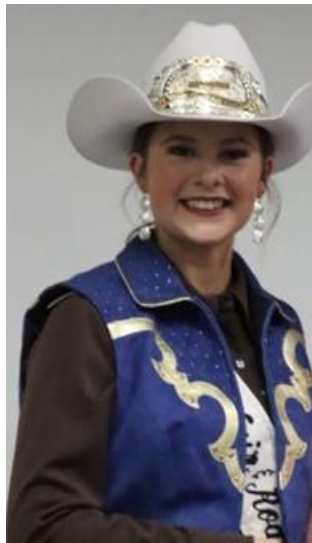
Benton County Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Friends of Benton County Fair and Fairgrounds gathered together at the Fairgrounds Auditorium October 22nd to celebrate all the great volunteers who are indispensable to the year-round functioning of the Fairgrounds. It was a great evening of food, friends, awards, door prizes, and fabulous desserts. [2023/2024 Awards](#)

Throughout the evening Benton County Fair and Rodeo Queen Naomi Bailey and Mason Luke, 4-H Liaison to the Fair Board announced the door prize winners. Prizes were donated by Fair Board members.

Dessert was a "Dessert Dash" this year. Each table combined individual bids to claim one of the delicious desserts for their whole table. The table with the largest bid got first chance at dashing to the dessert table and picking the dessert of their choice! Desserts were donated by Fair staff and Fair Board members. The money from the Dessert Dash paid for the Spaghetti Warehouse dinner.

The highlight of the evening's awards was the "Heart of Benton County," a new award this year. The first recipients are Jennifer Martin, Fair Manager and Queen Naomi Bailey. The award was created because of the incredible work both Jennifer and Naomi did for the Fair and Fairgrounds.



Queen Naomi Bailey
Winner of the Heart of Benton County award.

"Naomi's work as Fair and Rodeo Queen didn't fall into just one award category, so we made this new one," said Martin. "Naomi is so personable and gracious. She did a fantastic job as Queen."



Longtime Auction Committee member Darrell Oakes surveys the Auction crowd.

The 2024 Lee Allen Memorial Auction

The stands were packed and the bidding action was fast-paced. This year the auction started at 3 PM, three hours earlier than in the past. There were rave reviews from auction participants and the Auction Committee. Rick Wells, long time Auction Committee member said, "It was fabulous to start early!" Bidders were able to attend the evening concerts and carnival and Committee members were able to go home before midnight. Instead of a dinner, the Auction Committee sponsored a very popular

"The best part of the Auction is rewarding good kids for working hard," said Auction Committee President Bruce Ashenbrenner. "It is amazing how much support there is for these motivated kids. Here in Benton County the auction raised over one million dollars in 2023 and 2024 for the hundreds of 4-H kids who participated." Bruce has been part of the Auction for 30+ years. This year over 250 kids were involved.

The auction is named after Lee Allen who volunteered for decades along with Rich Guerber and Bill Dowless to sponsor, promote and organize the auction. Click here to learn about these auction supporters and their work. [The Original Three](#) The auction sale is an educational experience to select, raise, and sell the animals. It shows a very positive side of our young people in Benton County. These youths present rabbits, poultry, goats, steers, swine, and lambs for auction. Each participant is allowed only one sale and it is open to both 4-H and Future Farmers of America kids. To learn more about the Lee Allen Memorial Auction, please click here:

<https://www.bentoncountylivestockauction.com/> "Come support it" next year, said Rick.



Katy Rowley with her Grand Champion Market Hog.
Katy also took Grand Champion with her lamb and goat.
Congratulations, Katy!

Benton County 4-H



What do 4-H kids do in the winter? Lots of things! There are leadership trainings in Oregon and Washington DC. Winter is the time for rewarding the year's best work. It is also time to register for 2025 4-H groups and activities. Here's how to get involved with Benton County 4-H: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/benton/get-involved>

Volunteers are also needed. Volunteer with 4-H and discover another way you can make a difference in our community. Volunteers receive a comprehensive orientation and training specific to their role. No knowledge or experience is required. Opportunities are available in a wide variety of 4-H project areas. Next Trainings are December 12th and January 14th, from 6 PM to 9 PM. Registration is required. If you are interested, please call 541-713-5000.

Using your Living Trust or Will to donate to Benton County Fair Foundation

You believe in the mission and work that Benton County Fair Foundation (BCFF) does for the kids in Benton County and the Fairgrounds. You want to include BCFF in your will or trust.

It can be as simple as writing: "I would like to donate \$xxxx.xx to Benton County Fair Foundation, Federal ID # 93-1255130." Or the donation can be appreciated securities, tangible personal property, or a percentage of a specific bank account. It can be donated now or payable on death.

Your donation allows BCFF to focus on the youth of Benton County, to fund improvements to Benton County Fairgrounds, and to create an inviting atmosphere as a gathering place for the urban and rural citizens of Benton County as well as a refuge in times of disasters.

How to Get Started

- If you have questions, please contact Robyn Rice at 541-760-1656 or jrjrices4@msn.com. Click here to open the Confidential Bequest Intention Form: [Confidential Bequest Intention Form](#)
Get the advice of your financial or legal advisor.

- When you include Benton County Fair Foundation in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax identification number.

Legal name: Benton County Fair Foundation

Address: 110 SW 53rd, Corvallis, OR 97333

Federal tax ID number: 93-1255130

Thank you for your consideration!