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Extension Solutions for Homes and Gardens

by Paul J. Pugliese

“The County Fair: An American Tradition”

As leaves begin to turn color and the night time temperatures begin to cool, the changing of the season always brings back great memories of going to the local county fair. As a kid, I can remember every fall helping setup a booth for our Boy Scout troop, 4-H Club, or helping my dad with the County Farm Bureau booth. There were several years where I entered rabbits, 4-H projects, and a variety of garden produce to see if I could win 1st prize. The value of this education can't be found in books or the internet... it has to be experienced first hand.

There is nothing more American than county fairs. Fairs are about seeing the excitement of children, and experiencing the carnival rides, arts, crafts, giant vegetables, livestock, and the food. Who doesn't love a good funnel cake, boiled peanuts, or a giant pretzel? People come from all over to participate and have fun at county fairs. This year, give your children and grandkids a chance to see a popular American past-time close to home and make their own memories.

The Cherokee County Fair has a long running history and goes back over 84 years. Many newer residents to Cherokee County are unaware that we have a fair every September. This year, the Cherokee County Fair will be September 13-18. Gates are open at 5:00pm during the week and at 1:00pm on Saturday. The American Legion Fairgrounds are located at 160 McClure Street in Canton.

Another big part of the fair experience is competing in the exhibits. Maybe you grew the biggest, most beautiful pumpkin in your garden this year? Or, maybe you have a talent for flower arrangements, arts, crafts, photography, canning or cooking? There's a category for just about anything and good, friendly competition for all ages! There's even a chance to win a little prize money for all your hard work if you place in the top three.

Even if you don't compete in a fair exhibit, you should stop by to see what everyone else has entered. There are also educational booths from local organizations that give out all kinds of useful information from gardening, to beekeeping, to local youth programs and more. These exhibits represent activities from the farm, home, garden, local schools, and other projects in the community. This is an opportunity to see what's going on in your community and learn about new ideas and local resources for your family.

If you have an interest in competing in a fair exhibit, you can pick up a fair catalog for free at the Cherokee County Extension office in Canton or get more information on our website at www.ugaextension.com/cherokee . Feel free to call our office at 770-479-0418 with any questions.

Paul Pugliese is the Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent for Cherokee County Cooperative Extension, a partnership of The University of Georgia, The U.S. Department of

Agriculture, and Cherokee County. (770) 479-0418. For more information and free publications, visit our local website at www.ugaextension.com/cherokee

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