



## MIDDLESEX COUNTY 4-H FAIR



### NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2025

Happy Easter friends! Although we thought it was spring and could have a fairgrounds cleanup day on April 13, Mother Nature had other thoughts and sent us some snow! We'll try again on Sunday, April 27, from 10-2. Please bring rakes, tarps, gloves and dress suitably for outdoor work.

Other upcoming events:

- April 26 – MAC Extravaganza at Hazel Grove Equestrian Center, Groton (Rain Date May 3)
- May 18 – GrotonFest Spring, Groton; the 4-H Fair will have a booth
- June 2 – Worknights begin at the fairgrounds.
- June 8 – 4-H Fair Benefit Horse Show run by the Board of Directors (see the HAC website for dates of other horse shows in 2025, [www.4hmiddlesexhac.org](http://www.4hmiddlesexhac.org))
- **August 22, 23, 24 – 2025 Middlesex County 4-H Fair**

**Administration Building Renovations:** The Middlesex County 4-H Fair is pleased to announce that we have received State grant funding through the Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs Infrastructure Grant FY25. This funding, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, is for a complete renovation of the restrooms in the Administration Building in order to add an ADA-compliant and accessible restroom. In addition to the work being done through the grant funding, the meeting and office space is also being renovated. This includes replacing windows, walls, floor, ceiling, and power and lighting. Renovations are on schedule to be completed by July 2025. Many thanks to Rick Gray for spearheading these projects, as well as the team working with him!

**4-H Fair Fun Fact:** The building next to the Dog Show ring, now known as the 'Kids Café', was the original Chicken BBQ Building. Built in the 1960's, the building was moved from its original location in 2001 when the new BBQ Building was constructed.

**Static Department Chairs:** Department Chairs are needed for the following departments: Art, Cat (Static), Dairy Products, Display and Workshop. If you have an interest and knowledge in these areas and are willing to assist, please reach out to us by email at [office@4hmiddlesexfair.org](mailto:office@4hmiddlesexfair.org).

**2025 4-H Fair Challenge Lots:** For the bakers in the group, the Food Department challenge lot for 2025 will be Peanut Butter Whoopie Pies. The recipe, along with all other challenge lots will be posted to the website soon.

**Robert J. Stokowski, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:** The Scholarships are awarded by the Middlesex County 4-H Fair, Inc. to senior 4-H members who have participated regularly in the Fair by assisting in the operation of the Fair and who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship, leadership and achievement in doing so. 4-H alumni who have maintained dedicated commitment to the Fair can also be recipients. Applicants must have been accepted by or be currently enrolled in a college or university, or, accepted by or be currently enrolled in a continuing program of higher education, including certificate and/or technical programs (such as trade schools, union apprentice programs, and EMS and other Public Safety programs). The application will be available later this week on our website and Facebook. Applications are due by Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

**Board Member Introductions:**

Greetings Middlesex County 4-H Fair enthusiasts, my name is Susan Hamilton. This year I am the Vice President of the Fair Board. The start of Spring always makes me excited for the fair season. I can't wait to get outdoors to start working on projects and planning for the fair.

I have been volunteering with 4-H since 2011 when my daughter, Julia, joined her first farming club. She eventually settled into the Backyard Poultry Club, and we have been poultry enthusiasts ever since. I have been a volunteer at the fair for at least 6-7 years and I joined the board 2 years ago. Now that Julia has aged out of 4-H, she has joined me in volunteering. She manages the Country Store while I focus on managing food services and running the Overnighter's Kitchen. Last year, we served an average of 180 people for each breakfast, lunch, and dinner option. I am learning more and more about food service, food allergies, Board of Health regulations, and how to prepare large meals. Like everything in 4-H, we learn as we go! As I get more confident in the kitchen, I am hoping to experiment with new menu choices. I am always looking for assistance in the Overnighter's Kitchen and suggestions for meals. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have suggestions or have an interest in helping in the kitchen or snack bars (susane.hamilton@gmail.com).

Fun fact - We still have the first bantam Ameraucana hen that Julia raised to show at the fair. She has survived multiple fox and hawk attacks. She is now over 10 years old – which is really old for a hen!

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<https://www.4hmiddlesexfair.org> / FB-Middlesex County 4-H Fair Inc. / IG-middlesexcounty4hfair