

Dear Junior Fair Families and Supporters,

In a few short weeks Junior Fair participants from all over Stark County will gather to proudly display all the hard work and dedication they have put forth over the past year. Without your guidance, support, work, and encouragement, many of these achievements would not be possible, thank you for your leadership. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you, as well as other members of the Junior and Senior Fair to achieve one of the best county fairs we have ever had.

As we gear up for another exciting Stark County Fair, I want to emphasize the vital role of respect, cooperation, and openness we all must strive for to achieving our shared goals. The Junior and Senior Fairs, together, work to create a powerful platform for youth development by promoting invaluable life skills such as agriculture, sportsmanship, leadership, and communication.

Your participation, enthusiasm, and hard work are the heart of the Junior Fair. I believe that by working together, and by being open to new people and ideas, we can create an even more enriching and positive experience for everyone involved. Letting go of old ways that no longer serve us and embracing fresh perspectives will allow us to grow and improve together. Holding on to negativity only stifles our collective objectives.

The Junior and Senior Fairs thrive when we all contribute to a supportive and inclusive environment. I am asking that we all remain mindful of how we communicate with one another. While we deeply respect the principle of freedom of speech, it is important to remember that postings on the internet are often permanent and can shape how others view you and our programs, potentially in an unfavorable light. I encourage thoughtful and respectful communication in all forums. Unfulfilled adult development should not be a goal of our organizations.

The Fair Board has been working diligently, including the development of new visions and welcoming new members, to continually improve the fair experience. Please remember that we are all volunteers, dedicating countless hours year-round because we believe in the importance of this event for our youth.

Part of the examples that we are setting for our youth is how to responsibly resolve conflicts and find mutual understanding. If an issue arises, I encourage each and every one of you to respectfully speak directly to the individual or group involved to resolve issues or concerns. Rumors and half-truths have no standing when we, as leaders, are striving to mold the leaders of the future. We come to the fair to exhibit our agricultural products, be they animal, products, or talent. Let us focus on project completion, goals attained, and the valuable life lessons learned, and then use those insights to improve for the next year.

To ensure a positive and productive environment for all, we must all adhere to a code of conduct that prioritizes respect. Please be aware that any disrespect shown towards a committee member, superintendent, board member, or employee of the Stark County Agricultural Society will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from participation. This expectation is in place to ensure that the focus remains on the positive development of our youth and the smooth operation of the fair.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication and passion within our Junior Fair community. By embracing respect, including thoughtful consideration of our online presence, fostering cooperation, and remaining open to growth and new ideas, we can collectively make this years' fair a resounding success, further strengthening our community, and nurturing the growth of our future leaders.

Thank you for your commitment to the Stark County Fair. We look forward to celebrating your achievements and working alongside you.

Sincerely, •

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jill E. Sterling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jill E. Sterling
Stark County Agricultural Society - President