

2009 Fairbook Honorees

Dick and Mary Reurink

Dick and Mary Reurink are this year's Fairbook honorees. They have been involved with 4-H and the Barry County Fair for nearly 30 years and have had the pleasure of seeing impressive growth and improvements in both programs.

Their participation began when good neighbors of the Reurink's encouraged their daughter to show an animal at the fair. They had no idea that suggestion would keep them involved for decades! The family was hooked the first year, and "The Fair" was looked forward to from one year to the next.

Their children, Andrea, Jim and Bob became involved with the Middleville Clovers 4-H Club, taking many projects to the fair. Swine, rabbits, beef, sewing, gardening, woodworking, crafts and a chicken were some of the things they showed at the fair, with the help of many dedicated leaders.

Being 4-H parents led Dick and Mary into helping with projects as well as serving on committees as time allowed. Mary was a sewing leader and served on the 4-H advisory council, helped with the livestock banquet, and is an assistant building superintendent with Carolyn Worth for the 4-H booth exhibits.

Dick has supported the livestock sale every year knowing how important buyers are to help keep youth involved in the livestock program. He especially enjoyed helping obtain trees for the campground and spent many hours keeping the trees watered. He also built the first wooden benches used at the new fairgrounds.

Mary has helped with fair advertising, was a founding member of the Expo Building Committee when the fair moved to its current location, and has been planting and caring for the flowers in front of the Expo building and livestock barns. She recently began serving on a fair endowment committee and looks forward to seeing new exhibits and improvements for the fair.

Dick and Mary have seven grandchildren and they all love the fair. The oldest four have already begun showing. Seeing so many of the 4-Hers that showed with Dick and Mary's children become leaders and parents of 4-H members has been especially rewarding.

All successful programs need volunteers giving their time and support. Dick and Mary feel they have only helped a little bit. They recognize the wonderful 4-H opportunities and beautiful fairgrounds which have evolved because of the hard work and dedication of countless 4-H leaders and fair volunteers over many generations.