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4-H Competitors bring the heat during Marion County Fair

INDIANAPOLIS-The 81st annual Marion County Fair is the last step for the 13,000 4-H Marion County Participants before moving on to the Indiana State Fair. From arts and crafts', collections and photography, to animals, fashion, computers, and sports, 4-H has something for everyone!

The mission of the Marion County 4-H is to increase community vitality, build leadership capacity, enhance public decision making, resolve public issues and to increase diversity, equity and inclusion. As Indianapolis has transitioned from an agricultural to more of an urban area, 4-H has made the change along with it and remains one of the largest 4-H clubs in the nation.

The various 4-H events are scattered throughout the grounds and the duration of the fair. The projects are judged and those who qualify advance to the Indiana State Fair with little time to prepare between events. Competitions include the Poultry Display, the Small Animal Pets Show, the Goat, Sheep and Horse shows, the Public Fashion Revue, the Swine and Beef shows, the Livestock Skill-a-thon and last but not least the Dog Show. The 4-H Closing Celebration will take place on Saturday, July 30 at 4pm.

The Marion County Fair wants to make sure it's attendants, competitors and animals all remain as safe as possible during Indiana's heat wave. Misters and cooling fans have been stationed around the fair to help keep things cooler. Concession stands have water available, as well as other beverages and a spread of delicious fair food. Firefighters and EMTs are on location at all time to respond to any emergency.

Admission to the fair is \$5 per person with kids ages 5 and under getting in free. There is plenty of free, convenient parking available to all fair goers. For more information on the times and dates of events happening at the Marion County Fair, please visit MarionCountyFair.org

Marion County Fair 2011 sponsors are Citizens Energy Group, Gentle Dentist, Marion County Farm Bureau, PNC Bank, DreamItDoItIndiana.com, Central Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, JD Byrider, Smoke Free Indy, Advantage Health Solutions, Indiana Autobody Association Drew Amusements, Mikes Express Carwash, RadioNOW, Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, Meijer, Radio Disney and Circle City Pyrotechnics.

The Marion County Fair was established in 1930 as a street fair in New Bethel (now known as Wanamaker). Following several moves in the Wanamaker area, the fair's home was relocated to 123 acres at 7300 East Troy Avenue (corner of Troy Avenue and Fisher Road, near Five Points). There are presently 17 permanent buildings on the grounds. The event is owned and operated by the Marion County Fair Agricultural and 4-H Club Fair Association, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation. It is governed by a 14-member board of directors.