

2024 Public Competition Superintendents 2024 Commissioner Mary Pearmine Volunteer Group of the Year

Tonight, we are proud to recognize the dedicated team of Public Competition Superintendents for the 2024 Fair as the recipient of the Commissioner Mary Pearmine Volunteer Group of the Year:

Dan Black

Darrin DeCoster

Heidi DeCoster

Carla Haigh

Erin Haigh

Rebecca Kauffman

Sue Veenendall

These volunteers are the heart behind the exhibits and competitions that that allow local residents to showcase their talents in baking, quilting, photography, painting, gardening, and so much more.

They plan, promote, recruit, and manage every detail—welcoming entries, organizing judging, setting up displays, and assisting the public throughout the fair. In 2024 alone, this small group of seven volunteers contributed over 227 hours of service, with nearly 190 of those hours taking place during fair week.

What sets this group apart is their passion for community and their care for every exhibitor—especially first-timers and youth participants. They ensure every entry is safe, secure, and respectfully displayed, guiding participants with encouragement and helping them navigate entry categories. They've also helped update outdated rules and knock down barriers, like adjusting photography requirements to make entry more affordable and accessible. These volunteers go above and beyond to encourage participation and uphold the long-standing tradition of the county fair while continuously improving it.

Beyond their individual responsibilities, these superintendents work as a team—sharing supplies, lending a hand across categories, and uplifting each other's efforts. They are problem-solvers, innovators, and collaborators, all working toward the common goal of delivering a memorable and inclusive fair experience for the community.

The Marion County Fair is lucky to have this incredible group of volunteers who embody service with care, integrity, and heart. Please join us in celebrating the Marion County Fair Superintendents for their outstanding contributions and support of the Marion County Fair.

