

Troy & Judy Falk

The 2012 Otsego County Fair is dedicated to Troy and Judy Falk, long time volunteers of the Otsego County Fair.

In January, at the 127th Annual MAFE Convention, held in Grand Rapids. Troy and Judy were presented with a plaque honoring them with the "Zone 5 Volunteer Award". Zone 5 is comprised of twenty one counties. They are the Otsego County Fair's Volunteers of the Year.

Congratulations, Troy & Judy!

Troy and Judy have one grown child Jennifer. They live on a small farm in Elmira with their three dogs Charlie, Katie and Ava and their horses Coach and Belle. Troy is employed by Bradford Supply Company and Judy is a seventh grade teacher at Gaylord Community Schools.



Troy and Judy no longer have children involved in the Otsego County Fair, but they are still very active with the Fair and Horse area. Their motto "It is for the Kids". They have been strong Fair supporters for many years. Troy and Judy have been Associate Members for twelve plus years and Judy was a board of director for ten years.

Judy has been the chairperson and a co-chair in the horse area with support from Troy. Judy is a peace maker and in the horse area that is exactly what you need. She would try to solve problems by listening and anyone that knows Judy; knows she is fair in her decisions and they respect that decision. Judy has announced at horse shows and she took the horse area contract and worked out the bugs. Judy decided not to Chair the horse area in 2011, but she was right there supporting the new Chair answering hundreds of questions and helping whenever asked. Troy was by her side helping no matter what he had to do; like working the arena, yolk raking the parking lot after a horse show, cleaning stalls or cutting grass. He took over the maintenance of the horse area. Troy judged the Chili & Rib Cook-off in 2011 and had a great time. Once, the bank gave us brand new fives for Fair week and where could you find Judy, sitting in the office putting an old bill between two new ones. Judy has taken on the responsibility of ordering the ribbons and trophies, she distributes ribbons to each building and if they run out she is only a phone call away. Troy and Judy have had bathroom duty in the horse area, not a pleasant job, but someone had to do it. Every evening, after eleven during Fair week, you will find them on garbage duty and they make it a FUN thing to do.

As a school teacher, Judy talks to her classes about the Fair and how they can get involved. A few years back we needed help with the Rodeo pens; Judy got a bunch of her students to help. Judy & Troy go above and beyond. At work bee's, you will find them working hard doing whatever needs to be done with a group of young volunteers by their side. Just ask those kids why they are helping Troy and Judy and their reply is "they make the work unbelievably FUN, not like work at all". When they are not busy in the horse area you can find them helping with mailings, pulling weeds and painting, whatever needs to be done. For many years, Troy has helped with spring and fall storage. They are a great couple working for the kid's.

The petting zoo did not have a coggins test on a mini horse and her baby when they showed up at the 2011 Fair, so Troy and Judy went out of their way, went home and got their horse trailer and took them to their barn until the coggins test arrived. They were very instrumental in getting the Ultimate Air Dog Show and the Disc Dogs of Michigan Show to the Fair. They took the dog shows by the tail wags, to make them successful shows. We have a Fair Agility Dog Show and they went after the equipment and made sure it was setup by show time. Judy took hundreds of pictures during all three Dog Shows and the pictures are all on the Fairs website. You will find them camping on the grounds the entire week of the Fair doing everything they possibly can to make sure Fair week is a success. If you happen to be going past their camper and it is lunch or dinner time and they know you haven't eaten, they will stop you and ask you to join them.

Troy and Judy are definitely a big part of our Fair Family. The Otsego County Fair Board of Directors and the Associate Members would like to **"THANK YOU TROY and JUDY"** for your countless hours of volunteering at the Otsego County Fair.