



Phil Boswood

Memorial Showmanship Sweepstakes

Five years ago, the 4-H Showmanship Sweepstakes was dedicated to the memory of Phil Boswood, an avid supporter of the Fair and 4-H. As a parent and a community leader, he believed in the concepts of the 4-H program and the value of the Fair.

Upon his death in 1997, the 4-H Showmanship Sweepstakes were dedicated in his memory. The Otsego County Sheriff's Posse and friends of Phil Boswood established a fund to create a memorial. The sweepstakes was chosen because it exemplifies Phil's efforts to encourage young people to try their best in everything they do.

The 4-H Showmanship Sweepstakes is a traditional contest held at the end of fair week. 4-H Grand Champion Junior and Senior Showman from all the animal shows are eligible for this competition. It encourages young people to develop new skills and sportsmanship and cooperation among exhibitors. Many exhibitors spend hours at the Fair learning the showmanship techniques for the types of animals they are not familiar with in preparation for the contest. Along the way they learn to appreciate the skills of other exhibitors.

A panel of judges score the contestants and by the end of the day, an Overall Grand and Reserve Champion is selected from the Junior and the Senior divisions. Savings bonds are awarded and the winners', names are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the MSU Extension office.

The Otsego County Fair Board extends its appreciation to the Boswood family, to the Otsego County Sheriff's Posse and to the friends of Phil Boswood for this memorial.