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**TOMATO PLANTS REAR UP** behind onions and carrots in a garden in Oberlin. Many county residents raise lots of their own vegetables.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

WELCOME TO  
**THE FAIR!**

Congratulations to  
our hardworking  
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# Produce provides ribbons, prizes for young and old

The county fair means food and fun for most folks and not all the food's found on the midway.

Each year fruits and vegetables find their way into the exhibit halls as ordinary folks show off their gardening skills with displays of produce.

Howard and Janette Votapka have been superintendents for the open class horticulture exhibits for several years.

The number of exhibits depends on the year, Mrs. Votapka said, if there is good weather and more rain, more people are able to bring in what they've grown.

The most popular exhibits are potatoes, onions, zucchini, beets, cucumber, carrots and peppers, she said.

Although there are classes for watermelons, pumpkins and other large vegetables, very few show up.

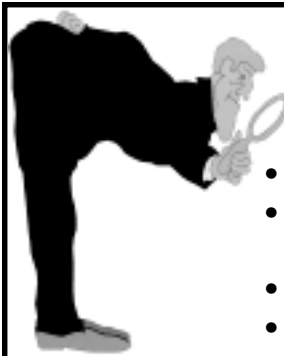
Mrs. Votapka urges everyone with a garden to bring in their produce. It's fun and it's free. You even get your exhibit back.

"They (friends) will come up there, and I'll say go home and get (your produce) and they'll say, 'OK,' Mrs. Votapka said. "They just need to be encouraged to do it."

There are 45 classes of horticulture exhibits and two divisions for those 15 and under and those 16 and over.

Mrs. Votapkas best tip — pick up a brochure on presenting at the Extension office in the courthouse. The brochure tells how the produce needs to look to be eligible to be judged and how many of each item you need.

Exhibits need to be to the fairground judging area on Tuesday and can be picked up Friday night between 9:30 and 10 p.m.



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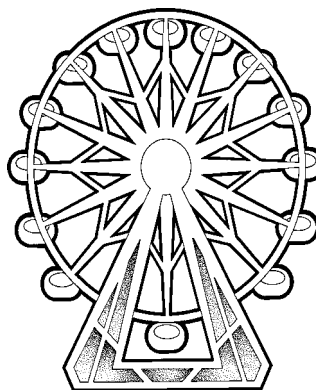


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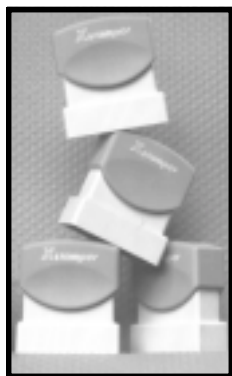
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**ELAINE MARCUSON** helped her daughter Sarah with her hair for the 4-H fashion revue last year.  
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

# Learning to model, their own clothes opportunity to study

Learning about clothes from how to make them, what they are made of, how to shop for the right outfit and how to model is what youth are learning from the annual fashion revue at the Decatur County Fair.

The revue, which usually occurs the week before the fair kicks off, draws boys and girls, who are interested in learning more about clothing.

One of those young people is Annamarie Larue, 13, in the Stick-to-It 4-H Club.

She has been in 4-H for the last four years and doing the fashion revue for just as long. Miss Larue said she enjoys buying clothes and likes to model them. She heard from friends that the fashion revue was fun and decided to do it and so far she agrees with those friends.

She said she normally takes part in the buymanship part of the revue, which is where

you go out and buy an outfit to model. She will also be sewing an outfit for the big day.

With the help from her grandmother, Joan Larue, she has learned to sew over the years. Miss Larue said her grandmother had taught her a few things and then started to teach her more when she decided to do this in 4-H.

This year, she said, she will be making capris and a shirt outfit.

The nice thing about sewing, she said, is if she can't find what she wants, when she goes shopping, she can always make the outfit. She said her grandmother has many patterns or she buys new ones as needed.

She said, through the sewing lessons, she is learning how different machines work, different stitches and ways to take care of clothes.

During the judging, she said, they ask how to take care of the outfit, what it is made of, what





**IN PREPARATION FOR THE FAIR** Annamarie worked on her capris at her grandmother's house.  
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

# sew or purchase allows girls and boys style and fashion

other things you can wear with that outfit, where you can wear it and why that outfit was chosen.

Besides the fashion revue, Miss Larue said she is going to do cooking and photography and is bringing a heifer to the fair.

Another young woman involved in the fashion revue is Sarah Marcuson, 16, a member of the Sappa Valley 4-H Club.

She said she has been in 4-H for about 10 years and got into the fashion revue because her older sister took part.

For a while, she said, she was making clothes for the revue, but now she only takes part in the buymanship part. She said she doesn't have the time to keep making clothes.

Miss Marcuson said to participate a person can buy an outfit at any store whenever. It doesn't have to be within a certain time limit.

When shopping, she said, she looks for com-

fort, things she will wear again, things she likes and quality clothes, something a little nicer.

Typically, she said, she spends about \$60 on an outfit with shoes and accessories included. She said she looks for accessories that match the outfit, but nothing too big because she wants the judge to focus more on the clothes than the other things.

Miss Marcuson said although she hadn't gone shopping yet she was planning to do so fairly soon. She said she likes to shop at the Buckle in McCook and Maurices in Colby. Both of which cater to younger tastes.

When talking with the judge, she said, you have to be able to tell them how to care for the outfit, how much it costs, what it is made out of and what it will be worn for.

Miss Marcuson is also bringing sheep to the fair, cooking and doing arts and crafts this year.



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