



2024 GRAND OPENING DEDICATION

Esther (Shaw) Waddle Pyles was born November 24, 1925 on the family poultry farm in Clark County. She and her sister and 4 brothers grew up gathering eggs and helping on the farm. She started in 4-H around 1935, doing cooking and sewing projects. She later became a 4-H advisor. She loved telling her great grandchildren how she slept in a tent when she went to 4-H camp.

In 1947, she married Glen Waddle and had two sons, Steve and Tom. They were both involved in 4-H and FFA. Her husband Glenn passed away in 1985 and she later married Floyd Carl Pyles.

Esther was an active member of the Clark County Porkettes and the Pork Producers. She entered numerous open class baked goods each year at the fair. She was also very involved in Husted Mothers Club, Airway Farm Bureau Council, and worked at the voting polls for over 25 years. She was an active member of Emery Chapel Methodist Church. Esther also belonged to the Green Special Homemakers Club for 60 years.

In 1974, she became a member of the baked goods department at the Clark County Fair. Esther's sons and their wives- Steve and Nancy, Tom and Rita- and her 6 grandchildren- Brian (Melanie), Tricia, Debbie (Sean), Jennifer (Jason), Jaye Lin (Brian), and Mark (Jessica)- were all active in 4-H and the fair in their youth and continue to be active volunteers today. Esther could always be found in the Women's Building overseeing the baked goods department or watching her 6 grandchildren show their animals. Every year she would be sure to ask her granddaughters "have you entered your baked goods at the fair yet?"

When her 20 great grandchildren- Austin, Kylie, Sarah, Mitchell, Ryan, Emily, Madelyn, Riley, Brayden, Reagan, Katie, Josie, Chase, Addison, Ellie, Lillian, Haylie, Clayton, Cooper, and Mason- started exhibiting their projects at the Clark County Fair you would find her again either watching them show or in the baked goods department. She tried to attend as many shows as she could. A highlight of the fair was the "pie day" auction. It became a competition for the 20 great grandchildren to bid on her black raspberry pie at the pie auction.

She continued to work in the baked goods department until she fell and broke her shoulder in 2018. During COVID, the livestock shows were streamed live so she could watch her great grandchildren show their animals, sharing how proud she was with the residents at the facility where she lived. For over 45 years, Esther was a staple in the baked goods department and the Clark County Fair. Her tradition and influence continues today through her family.