



## 2026 Fair Dedication

Steve Waddle has lived his entire life in Clark County, born on the family farm, son of Glenn and Esther Waddle Pyles. He graduated from Greenon High School in 1968 where he was involved in the band, was the FFA President and received his State Farmer Degree in 1967. He attended The Ohio State University graduating in 1972. He was hired by Northeastern High School as the vocational agriculture teacher until 1979 when he started farming full time and teaching adult education at JVS. Steve was married in 1972 to Nancy Ervin, also a 4-H alumni. They have 4 children, Brian, Debbie, Jennifer, and Mark, all who were active in 4-H and continue to be active at the fair as 4-H advisors, fair board members and they all help with the pork chop booth. Steve and Nancy have 15 grandchildren, also all members of 4-H with many of them serving as camp counselors, on the Jr. Fair Board, and Jr. Swine Committee.

Steve's involvement with the Clark County Fair began in 4-H at age 9 taking livestock and miscellaneous projects. In 1972, he became a member of the swine committee and pork producers. Upon seeing a need for improvement in the swine area at the fair, he requested support from the pork producers to begin selling pork chops. As money was raised from selling chops, they were able to pour concrete in the swine barns and purchase new hurdles. In 1985, he resigned as chairman of the swine committee and was put in charge of cooking and selling chops. Since then they have gone from selling 300 chops a day to 2000 chops a day. The pork chops sales have allowed for more improvements and additions to the barns. With so many volunteers cooking and selling the chops during fair week, the pork producers are able to donate money to the clubs and organizations for their participation. During his involvement on the swine committee and pork producers, he also helped start the pig scramble for girls. The first year, he even provided the pigs for the girls to catch from his own farm. He also helped start the county farrowed class, the Junior Swine Committee, and the commercial hog show. Steve and his wife Nancy, have been 4-H advisors for Crafty Critters 4-H Club since its beginning in 1985..

Steve has also served on the Landmark Board, Producers Livestock Board, and Farm Service Agency Committee. He has been a member of the Kith & Kin Farm Bureau Council for 54 years, has served on several church committees and is currently a member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Steve would like to thank the Clark County Fair Board for this honor. It would not be possible without the countless hours of those who volunteer to help.