



News from the Wilson County Fair

# The FIDDLERS NOTE



Friday, August 24, 2018

www.wilsoncountyfair.net

## mAGic memories found in history laden Fiddlers Grove



Photographer: Lounita Howard

A walk through Fiddlers Grove during the Wilson County Fair reveals any number of hidden gems: a view of the Ferris Wheel juxtaposed against historic log cabins, a beautiful, educational garden tended by the Wilson County Master Gardeners tucked between period buildings just over the fence from the midway, and pioneer craftsmen and artisans creating and selling their wares. Stop to chat with any of them and you will likely learn something old, but new to you. Broom-maker John Campbell is in his 21st year demonstrating his craft and selling his brooms (\$20 each). He operates the South Union Broom Shop in South Union Kentucky. Did you know brooms aren't made of straw? Straw is brittle and will snap if you try to bend it. Brooms are made from a plant called "broom corn" which is actually a variety of sorghum - but not sweet sorghum. An important crop in colonial times, it was gradually replaced in the U.S. for the most part by soybeans, starting in 1939. Broom corn now is grown mostly in Mexico with about 10% coming from Southern Europe, primarily Hungary, and the remaining 5% from Canada and a just

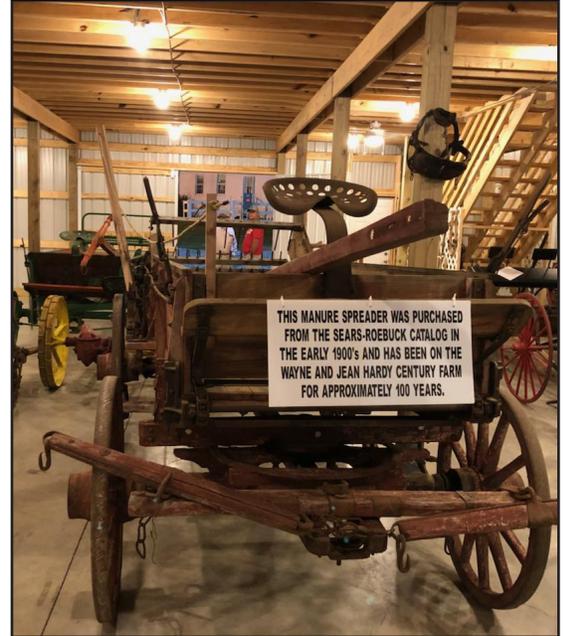


a bit from the U.S. The variety John uses dates back 2,000 years. Also, until 1798, all brooms were round. The Shakers developed a technique for crafting a flat broom at that time. And while some refer to such a broom as a "Shaker broom" it is accurately called a flat broom. Advice

from John's business card tells you how to extend the life of your broom: "Always Hang Up The Broom When Not In Use!"



The Fiddlers Note is produced for the Wilson County Fair by The Edge newspaper, Lounita Howard, Publisher



## New Heritage Barn brings together memories of the past

Photographer: Rick Thorne

The Heritage Barn, slated for dedication tonight, is shiny and new on the outside, while being steeped in history on the inside. A wide assortment of antique plows fills one corner upstairs. In another section of the loft are household items, including a pie safe, wood cook stove - even a wooden hand cranked clothes washing machine! On the main floor, you find a wide assortment of hand tools and an extensive collection of wagons and farm equipment. Pictured on the right is a manure spreader purchased from the Sears-Roebuck catalog in the early 1900s. It has been on the Wayne and Jean Hardy Century Farm for approximately 100 years.

## Cow milking tradition with Fairest of the Fair



Photographer: Lounita Howard

A longstanding tradition at the Wilson County Fair is having the Fairest of the Fair pageant winner milk a dairy cow - for some farm girls, not necessarily a new experience, but for most, it's comes with a learning curve. 2018 Fairest of the Fair Addison Grace Oakley joined the club Thursday night as she milked a Holstein Dairy Cow from Turner Farms following the Open Dairy Show. Showing Addison the, ah, "ropes" is Roy Major of Major Dairy Farm. The Turners and Majors have two of only three remaining dairy farms in Wilson County. The third is owned and operated by Larry Eastes.



Photographer: Rick Thorne

## Lots of Fair fun for the little ones

Children and parents line up for the Battery Power Ride Toy Race during Kids Night Events on Thursday. Children brought their own toys for the battery power event. A Pedal Push Tractor Pull for children was also held with tractors furnished by the Fair. Battery power classes are ages 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. Pedal push is done by weight: 40-55 lbs. and 56-70 lbs.