

County breakfast very dairy

By Pam Chickering Wilson, Union staff writer | Posted: Monday, June 2, 2014 10:01 am

JEFFERSON — Several-thousand people got up with the chickens to attend the Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast Saturday.

The annual event, held at Jefferson County Fair Park, drew an excellent crowd.

Coordinators said that this was a good year for the charity event, which supports local FFA and 4-H programs, agriculture-related scholarships and improvements at the fairgrounds.

Marlene Zick, public relations coordinator for the breakfast, said as the event wrapped up late Saturday morning that attendance appeared to be very good in terms of diners. In addition, she said, even more volunteers than usual — around 400 — signed up to assist in setting up, serving and cleaning up after the breakfast.

The annual dairy breakfast is a huge undertaking that requires lots of community support in the form of planning, donations and on-site volunteers, she noted.

“I think today has been fantastic,” Zick said. “We’ve had good weather, a great crowd, and it’s been very steady all day.”

“I don’t think we ran out of anything either,” added Sue Marek, event coordinator. “We got some extra pancake batter just in case, but we didn’t wind up needing it.”

The event had logged 1,800 people with one hour of serving left. Another 300 brought the total of breakfasters to 2,100.

Zick said that the money raised at the 11th annual event will go to promote agriculture in Jefferson County, with some going to grants to local FFA and 4-H clubs, some going to Fair Park improvements, and some going to scholarships.

“Thanks to this event, we were able to provide \$7,000 in scholarships last year,” Zick said.

The county tradition resumed 11 years ago after a hiatus and has been a start-of-summer highlight each year since, coordinators said.

“In last decade, we’ve raised around \$50,000 toward grants and scholarships,” Marek said.

“It’s been a ‘moooving’ experience,” Zick added with a chuckle.

On the menu for Saturday’s breakfast were two kinds of scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, cheese, milk, coffee



DAIRY DAY

DAIRY DAY — The Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast was held Saturday, drawing 2,100 people to the Jefferson County Fair Park, where visitors were treated to fair weather and a full breakfast. Shown here are scenes from the event. For more photos click [here](#).

and juice, “dairy cakes,” ice cream and a 300-pound banana split unveiled early in the morning. All of the food was prepared on site by volunteers.

The breakfast used an estimated 800 pounds of Jones Dairy Farm sausage, 3,000 cartons of milk, more than 160 pounds of butter and 500 pounds of cheese, along with countless eggs and dairy cakes.

Marek said that coordinators tried a few different activities this year which seemed to go over well.

Early in the morning, a dress-up contest featuring little “cowgirls” and “cowboys” from all around the county drew some “adorable” entries, Marek said.

A milk-drinking contest also was new, as was the pedal pullers pedal tractor contest.

For the second year in a row, the breakfast featured demonstrations by sheep-herding dogs.

Area band “The Variations” provided musical entertainment and the event also featured a petting zoo, an antique tractor display, and a commercial wing filled with activities, giveaways and vendor booths featuring local businesses. Another highlight was the presentation later in the morning of this year’s scholarships.

Also going on at the fairgrounds Saturday were a llama show and the Furry Friends 5K benefiting the Humane Society of Jefferson County, and the dairy breakfast saw a few people from each of those events pop over for some hearty farm chow in between their other activities.

“Overall, it has been a really successful year,” Zick concluded.