

Seven vie for 2017 'Fairest of Fair' title

By Alexa Zoellner azoellner@dailyunion.com | Posted: Friday, June 24, 2016 8:09 am

JEFFERSON — Seven young women will vie for the title of 2017 Jefferson County Fairest of the Fair when this year's fair takes place July 6-10.

The contestants are Ann Schroeder of Lake Mills, Emiley Stade of Watertown, Rachal Mark of Ixonia, Alexis Timmel of Johnson Creek, Josie Schreiner of Jefferson, Amber Ziebel of Johnson Creek and Lauren Rockney of Lake Mills.

One contestant will be crowned and then will reign over the 2017 fair. Following that, the winner will go on to compete in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs final slated for January 2018.

The Jefferson County Fairest of the Fair program provides the opportunity to serve as a host/hostess to the Jefferson County Fair, as well as the chance to participate in promotional programs and media events.

During fair week, Fairest of the Fair contestants go through an evaluation given by three judges. By the end of that week, they will have completed individual and group interviews, created posters, speeches, radio commercials and about 80 hours of volunteering and promoting the fair.

Trent Topel of Lake Mills, Staci Hoffman of Jefferson and Yvonne Habermann of Watertown will serve as judges for this year's Fairest of the Fair competition.

Final questions will be asked on Sunday, July 10, at 11 a.m. in the Activity Center Stage. Crowning of the 2017 Fairest of the Fair will take place at the grandstand at 1 p.m., just prior to the demolition derby.

The 2016 Fairest of the Fair, who will reign over this year's fair, is Jennifer Michel.

Michel is the daughter of Mark and Emily Michel. They



FAIREST OF THE FAIR

FAIREST OF THEM ALL? — The Jefferson County Fairest of the Fair program provides the opportunity to serve as a host/hostess to the Jefferson County Fair, as well as to participate in promotional programs and media events. One contestant will be crowned the 2017 Jefferson County Fairest of the Fair. She then will reign through next year's Fair, July 12-16, 2017. Following that, she will go on to compete in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair Finals held in January 2018. Shown above, left to right, are this year's contestants: Front Row — Josie Schreiner of Jefferson, Amber Ziebell of Johnson Creek and Lauren Rockney of Lake Mills; Back Row — Alexis Timmel of Johnson Creek, Emiley Stade of Watertown, 2016 Fairest of the Fair Jennifer Michel, Rachal Mark of Ixonia and Ann Schroeder of Like Mills. — Contributed photo.

live and work on their dairy farm outside of Lake Mills.

This fall, Michel will be entering her senior year at University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she studies animal science. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2017 and hopes to have a career in the agriculture field working either with animals or promoting agriculture.:

Ann Schroeder

Schroeder graduated from Lake Mills High School in 2015. She currently is attending Lakeland University, where she is pursuing a degree in marketing with an emphasis in accounting.

On her application, Schroeder indicated that she wants to be Fairest of the Fair because, while showing at the Jefferson County Fair in past years, she has looked up to all the Fairests as great role models. She would like to be the same role model and face of the Jefferson County Fair.

Emiley Stade

Stade graduated from Lakeside Lutheran High School. Currently, she attends the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she is pursuing a degree in special education. Upon graduation, she hopes to teach in or near Jefferson County.

Stade wrote that she wants to be Fairest of the Fair because coming to the fair was the highlight of her childhood. She would love to give back to the organization that made her childhood so magical. Being Fairest would give her a chance to communicate to everyone who attends the fair and share her experience while representing the county fair, she noted.

Rachal Mark

Mark was home-schooled and graduated in 2015. She is attending Waukesha County Technical College and her plan is to become a registered nurse.

She wants to be Fairest of the Fair because she loves being involved in all of the activities during the fair and the fair park throughout the year. Mark believes that her kind and firendly personality will help her communicate with fairgoers of all ages.

Alexis Timmel

Timmel is a graduate of Fort Atkinson High School. She attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is pursuing a degree in life science communication and agriculture journalism.

“Being the Fairest of the Fair will allow me to continue to advocate for agriculture while working hand-in-hand with the youth of the county,” Timmel said. “I can positively affect an exhibitor or fairgoer and leave them with a positive image of agriculture and 4-H. I would love nothing more than to contribute back to Jefferson County in this way.”

Josie Schreiner

Schreiner graduated from Jefferson High School and the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course.

She hopes to continue her education and achieve a degree in agriculture business.

When Schreiner was young, she wrote, she saw the positive impact that the Fairest of the Fair made on the community. She wants to be Fairest of the Fair because she strives to achieve that same goal and give back to the Jefferson County Fair through the position.

Amber Ziebell

Ziebell is a graduate of Lake Mills High School. She currently is attending Globe University to pursue a veterinary technician degree.

She wrote that she wants to be Fairest of the Fair because fair friends are like family to her and she wishes to give back to them. Ziebell has many new and bright ideas to help interact with the community and hopes to inspire others to “just come and enjoy the fair!”

Lauren Rockney

Rockney graduated from Lake Mills High School and currently is attending UW-Platteville, where she is pursuing a degree in agriculture science with an emphasis in management.

“Being Fairest of the Fair means that I can be a leader and a representative for Jefferson County Fair and a role model for the youth,” Rockney said. “I hope to be a positive influence on other youth in the community and to show them how beneficial being a part of the 4-H and the fair can be.”

Fairest of the Fair is sponsored by B.E. Hive Hair Salon and Spa; Humphrey Floral and Gift; Smiles by Turley; Brantmeier Law Office; and Jefferson County Agri-business Club.

See www.jcfairpark.com for more information on the Jefferson County Fair.