



# Extension News Column

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**Date:** July 7, 2011  
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We quite often talk about saving money, but today let's broaden that to earning money. The Tanana Valley State Fair is upon us and if you play your cards right, you can get a free ticket, earn some money, and still have a good time.

The Fair is a wonderful community event that features the best handiwork, baked goods, livestock, and even the best singing in the area. This year we are celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> year of the Fair—oldest fair in the state, and the farthest north fair in the nation.

If you've never entered in the fair, consider doing it this year. You might even win a ribbon and a little premium money. All non-perishables (quilts, handiwork, pottery, art, etc) are entered on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 6 pm. Perishables (flowers, food, vegetables) are entered closer to the beginning dates for fair. Youth bring in their perishable items on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, and adults bring in their entries on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

How do you know what to enter? Do you make great biscuits or a special cake? Check out division 7a-culinary. Are you a gardener? Flowers go in division 11 and vegetables go in 3A. Even a pint of fresh picked wild berries can be entered in 3A. The fair premium book is available for download on the web at [www.tananavalleystatefair.org](http://www.tananavalleystatefair.org). This will give you all the rules and special requirements for each division.

If you don't know what to enter, give the fair office a call at 452-3750 or I'd be glad to help you out. Or just bring your prized items to the fair on entry day and someone at the fair office will help you figure out where it can be entered.

Your entries will be judged, ribboned, and displayed for all to see. I think one of the best parts of fair is going through the competitive exhibits to see all the beautiful things our residents have to show.

Those blue ribbons are mighty nice to have, but they also come with premium money (\$5 or \$3 depending on the division). So you can earn money to play when you visit at the fair.

I'm a long time volunteer at the fair. Our fair is run by volunteers. Every division has one or more superintendents that organize the division, recruit judges, set up the display, and answer lots of questions. Here's another way to earn a ticket to the fair, volunteer as a judge or as a worker for one day during the fair. There are lots of jobs that need to be done, and they all require willing helpers. Again, call the fair office or any fair superintendent and they'll be glad to have your help.

By the way, I'm recruiting judges for the Junior Art Division if you want to volunteer. This one division of the fair has between 700 and 800 entries each year--everything from a crayon squiggle on construction paper by a 4 year old to some serious art done by our older youths. I will need somewhere around 30 judges to help judge the division. So call me at 474-2426 to volunteer.

Many other division superintendents are recruiting judges as well. Call the fair office to volunteer if your skills are in photography, pottery, handiwork, or lots of other areas. At the Tanana Valley Fair, we love volunteers.

If you go to the fair with your family, be sure to check out the competitive exhibits and commercial booths. They are much less expensive than visiting the midway. That saves your hard earned money so you can splurge on that wonderful fair food.

Randi Carnahan, fair manager, sends this message to everyone in the community. "If you have never entered anything in the Fair, consider doing it this year. It's such a great way to share with the community! We love to help first timers on entry days, so there will be lots of help on hand!"

See you at the Tanana Valley State Fair, August 5-13!

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