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He's a Fixture at the Fair

For many folks in Macon County, Wayne Proffitt doesn't just help out at the Macon County Fair, he is the fair.

Proffitt, who was on hand when the agricultural event began in 1953, has been a mainstay of the county's farming community for longer than he says he cares to remember. A retired agricultural teacher, he spearheaded the local Future Farmers of America as well as the Macon County Fair from their earliest days to the present. And there's been

quite a lot of change from that time to this, he says.

"We had the first fair at the Franklin High School, with exhibits in the classrooms," Proffitt recalls. "We showed the livestock on the football field. If you tried that now, they'd have a fit."

The county fair has grown quite a bit since then. Now fully incorporated and operated by a 28-member board of directors (Proffitt's been the secretary/treasurer since 1968), it's held during

the second week of September every year. Drawing some 8,000 people annually, the fairgrounds cover five acres and now have 12 buildings including exhibit halls, a multipurpose stall with conference room, concession stand, show arena and barns.

And even though he's left the classroom, he is still very much involved in livestock activities.

"I still take care of the steer and hog programs for the county youth," he says. "This year we showed 115 pigs and had about 30 steers."

Keeping involved with the fair and the area's future farmers never gets boring for Proffitt, even after 44 years in the classroom and many more than that with the fair.

"I'll be there until I can't do it any more, but I'm 78 years old and I still get about pretty good," he says.

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Wayne Proffitt has been involved with the Macon County Fair since 1953.