2020 Hancock County Fairgrounds improvement project for the exhibit hall.
Matt Strahl and family along with Don Strahl volunteered over 100 hours working on upgrades to the exhibit hall displays and ribbon box used during the fair. Their work is greatly appreciated by the Hancock County 4-H Ag Association and all the exhibit hall volunteers and committee. It made for a stable 4-H display area that has been used for many years and was needing some reinforcements to be used for many additional years.

Below are the improvements made for the 2020 fair. This is a project that many were unable to see during the fair, but improves the safety of the displays used to showcase 4-H projects during the fair.

Primary reasons for repairs/additions:

- Make safer by making the boards wider to prevent falling through gaps when walking on the bleachers
- Make safer by removing staples, and sanding edges to help prevent splinters, and cuts
- Help to prevent future damage to the boards by Increasing board strength & Stability
- Make it easier to handle and transport boards
- Make boards easier, and safer to stack

Below are the highlights of what was done:

Mini White Risers:

- Added bottom and back wood supports to two of the risers
- Drilled holes, glued, and screwed where boards had become separated
- Counter sunk and screwed sides and 90 degree joints on all three risers *(Risers can now be gripped anywhere and carried now without falling apart)*
- Removed all staples from risers
- Filled in all screw holes, and sanded to create a continuous smooth surface that will look nice once painted

Bleacher filler boards:

- Removed all vertical wood legs from all bleacher filler boards
- Cut one inch from height of salvageable wood legs *(This makes all bleacher boards flush with the bleacher seats creating a near continuous level surface, makes stacking for storage more compact height wise, and creates a lower center of gravity for stability)*
- Created new wood legs to replace broken, or legs that were too short in length *(Longer legs helps stabilize the boards)*
- Put screws in all wood legs from bottom *(Helps to prevent legs from splitting in future)*
- Built rigs, and templates *(This was to help ensure filler boards are uniform, and help speed up the repair and building process a bit)*

- Ground off/removed staples from all filler boards
- Countersunk, then screwed all wood parts together *(Helps to prevent wood parts from separating, and makes the boards stronger)*
- Cut 2X4's to custom length of various length repurposed 2X12 filler boards, drilled holes for screws, glued, then screwed/bonded them to one side of the 2X12 filler boards *(this created a 2X16 top surface to help fill a large gap helping to prevent falling through in the future)*
- Ripped 2X6's in half to create 2X3's, cut the 2X3's to custom length of various length repurposed 2X10 filler boards, drilled holes for screws, glued, then screwed/bonded them to both sides of the 2X10 filler boards *(this created a 2X16 top surface to help fill a large gap helping to prevent falling through in the future)*
- Glued all board pieces with all-weather Tightbond III all-weather wood glue *(Helps to prevent wood parts from separating, and makes the boards stronger)*
- Sanded/Rounded board edges. *(help to prevent splinters, and make easier to handle)*
- Created recessed rounded handles on ends of all filler boards to help with grasping when setting up and tear down *(Filler boards are laid end to end which made it difficult to set or pick up prior to creating the handle)*
- Reapplied and enhanced all filler board letter labels *(The process of removing staples by grinding/sanding them off removed most board letter labels, so we had to reapply the labels. We also filled in stenciled letter gaps for clarity)*

Made repairs to the white ribbon storage box in West arena:

Box was falling apart…

- Glued box sides, and screwed together
- Added wood battens for hinge screws
- Replaced missing screws, then screwed hinges to lid and box