

62nd Annual Navajo Nation Fair
Horticulture Exhibit
Judy R. Willeto, Coordinator
(928) 871-7048

The Horticulture Exhibit at the 62nd Annual Navajo Nation Fair

This years' 2008 Irrigation Farmer of Year went to Claudia Gleason, Upper Fruitland, New Mexico. Claudia Gleason and her family brought in produce and crops for each product class. She had thirty-one (31) entries and won a total of \$284.00 in her category. She won the largest produce contest for her Hubbard Squash or Navajo Squash, it weighed in just below 20 pounds. Her Vegetable Basket won second place while her farm display took Best of Show. Yvonne Todacheene of Mesa Farm, near Shiprock New Mexico had a total of 35 entries, she came in second winning a total of \$195.00. Daisy Houser of Lower Fruitland, took third with a total of \$76.00. The following farmers also placed in this years event; Louann Badonie of Shiprock, New Mexico - \$74.00; Myra Benally of Upper Fruitland - \$29.00; Minnie Clani of Upper Fruitland - \$23.00; Martha Curtis, Upper Fruitland - \$16.00; Harold & Bertha K. Begay, Red Willow Farms, Tohatchi, NM - \$15.00. Also entering in this category were; Austin Benally of Fruitland, NM and Rita Bahe of Wheatfield, Arizona.

Top honors for the category of 2008 Dryland Farmer of the Year went to Fannie Silversmith of Lupton, Arizona. She entered a total of 25 varieties of fruits and vegetables and won \$136.00 in her category. Fannie Silversmith and her family make their home in Lupton, Arizona, there she grows a variety of fruits and vegetables; her grapes show a display of her time and effort she commits to her farming excellence. Fannie has won top honors in previous Navajo Nation Fairs. Dennis Jones, of Rock Point, Arizona came in second winning \$18.00. Enfamilio Billie of Greasewood, Arizona came in third winning \$15.00. Jennie Avery of Brimhall, NM - \$10.00; Helen Curley of St. Michaels, Arizona - \$8.00; Marilyn Help-Tulley, former Miss Navajo Nation of Toh lah kai, New Mexico got in on the action to win \$8.00 on her two (2) entries. Coyote Canyon Rehabilitation Center, Brimhall, New Mexico won a total of \$6.00. Delvin John of Gamerco, NM participated in the event.

2008 Home Gardener of the Year was won by Melissa Badonie, Shiprock, New Mexico taking home \$164.00. She was glad she came to the Fair, it enabled her to make some money to purchase books for school. Todd Arthur of St. Michaels, Arizona was our second place winner with \$61.00. Christy Garcia of Upper Fruitland - \$43.00, Irene Notah \$41.00; Evelyn Toadlena. Sawmill, Arizona - \$25.00; Marie Allen, Ft. Defiance, Az - \$13.00; Alice J. Benally, Lukachukai, Arizona - \$18.00; Kee White, Wheatfields, Arizona - \$13.00; Susan Deschine, St. Michaels, AZ - \$10.00; Edwina Tso, St. Michaels, Arizona - \$10.00; Branda Machain, Red Lake, NM - \$8.00; Devennie Wauneka, Red Lake Raod, Ft. Defiance - \$8.00; Kody Garcia, Upper Fruitland - \$8.00; Mary Tsinnie, Tohatchi, NM - \$8.00; Charles and Viola Rose, Ft. Defiance, Arizona - \$5.00; Erin Tapahe, Provo, Utah - \$5.00; Shaylyn Becenti, Lukachukai, Arizona - \$5.00; Darrell Watchman, Sanders, Arizona - \$5.00; Monique Louis, Crystal, NM - \$5.00; Eugene Tapahe, Provo, Utah - \$3.00. we also appreciate the following gardeners for their participation; Virginia Mann, Klagetoh; William Connell Jr. Hunters Point; Harali Garcia, Upper Fruitlan; Jessie Ross, St. Michaels; Chantel Becenti, Lukachukai; Dominic Becenti, Lukachukai; Roanna Todacheeney, St. Michaels; Dianne Shepherd, Tsaile; Tristan Wallace, Flat Rock, Nazlini; Techawn Tsosie, Flat Rock, Nazlini; Dion Tapahe, Provo, Utah and Mathew Curleyhair, Ft. Defiance.

Special Events

Largest Produce – Claudia Gleason, Upper Fruitland \$20.00

Best of Show - Claudia Gleason, Upper Fruitland \$50.00

Floral Arrangements

1st – Christy Garcia, Fruitland, Nm – \$20.00
2nd – Irene Notah, St. Michaels, Arizona \$10.00
3rd – Evelyn Toadlena, Sawmill, Arizona \$5.00

Creative Display

1st – Louann Badonie, Shiprock, NM - \$20.00
2nd – Alice J. Benally, Lukachukai, Arizona - \$10.00
3rd – Todd Arthur, St. Michaels, Arizona – \$5.00

Fruit and Vegetable Basket

1st – Melissa Badonie, Shiprock, NM - \$30.00
2nd – Claudia Gleason, Upper Friutland – 20.00
3rd - Todd Arthur, St. Michaels, Arizona – \$10.00

Best Tasting Watermelon – Daisy Houser, Lower Fruitland - \$20.00 and Louann Badonie, Shiprock, NM - \$20.00.

Farmers and Gardener of Year 2008

Irrigation Farmer of the Year – Claudia Gleason, Upper Fruiland, NM - \$50.00
Dryland Farmer of the Year – Fannie Silversmith, Lupton, Arizona - \$50.00
Gardener of the Year – Melissa Badonie, Shiprock, NM – \$50.00

We had a great time at the 62nd Annual Navajo Nation Fair, Horticulture Exhibit. We would like to extend our gratitude to all farmers and gardeners who participated in this years event. We also ask that you set your goals on next years event, we look forward to this years participants and winners entering in 2009. We welcome new farmers and gardeners in 2009. To enter your produce and crops is free of charge, the hardest thing about our event is getting through the gates into the Horticulture Exhibit. We look forward to working with the Fair Office next year for another successful event. Visit the navajonationfair.org website for further information on the Horticulture Exhibit.