

Delmarva Chicken Festival slated for June 7, 8 and 9

GEORGETOWN, DE - The Delmarva Chicken Festival, an annual celebration honoring the bird that made the Delmarva Peninsula famous, will be held June 7, 8 and 9 in Salisbury, Maryland.

With features ranging from hot fried chicken to hot air balloons, the festivities will be held in and around the spacious Wicomico Youth and Civic Center on Glen Avenue.

Expected to draw some 20,000 to 30,000 visitors, the 37th Chicken Festival is returning after a one-year absence from the scene.

For the first time since its inception in 1948, the Festival was canceled last year to protect Delmarva's multi-million dollar broiler industry from the threat of avian influenza, a disease which had reached epidemic levels in poultry producing areas surrounding the Peninsula.

With the 1985 Festival back on schedule, general chairman

Robbin Gray promises it will be an event well worth the wait.

From the 12 noon opening ceremonies on Friday, June 7, a full slate of activities is planned. Exhibits and displays will be open to Festival goers until Friday's closing hour of 8 p.m. Included will be an arts and crafts show, ultralight plane display, home and trade show, hot air balloon display and exhibits depicting the growth of Delmarva's poultry industry. Entertainment will feature a military band concert, The Sweet Adelines, Jimmy Charles at the organ and the Astrotones. A carnival with rides and games for all ages will remain in action until 10 p.m.

Food, and plenty of it, will be a major attraction throughout the three-day weekend. Delmarva's Giant fry Pan filled with Mazola corn oil, will turn out mouth-watering fried chicken as it has for the past 35 years.

Other food treats will include

barbecued chicken, chicken franks, french fried potatoes, ice cream, baked goods and more.

Saturday, June 8, will kick off at 10 a.m. with the Chicken Festival Parade. With Ronald McDonald as grand marshal, the parade will begin on Beaglin Park Drive and end at the Civic Center. Exhibits and displays will open at 10 a.m. and continue until 8 p.m.

Added attractions will include oxen and carriage rides; an antique auto display; Ronald McDonald's magic show; and parachute jump by the Maryland National Grand parachute team; an exhibition by the National Guard Cobra Team; entertainment by the Banjo Dusters, Crystal Creek, Stoney Creek Cloggers and The Country Grass; a karate exhibition and a drawing for \$1,000 cash. All food concessions, along with the carnival, will continue in operation.


"Chicken for Goodness Sake", a

consumer-oriented program of food demonstrations and displays, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and "Chicken Capers", a light-hearted series of competitions including an egg toss, chicken scratch and chicken plucking contest, will be staged between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Sunday's agenda will open with an Interdenominational Worship Service at 11 a.m. Beginning at noon, exhibits and displays will reopen, and an hour-long gospel concert will be presented by the Epworth Quartet. Later in the day, the Oceanwaves square dance

troupe will perform and other entertainment will be offered by the Delmarva Country Music Association. The Festival will officially close at 5 p.m.

The Delmarva Chicken Festival is sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. and is hosted this year by the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce. For a complete schedule of Festival events, contact Delmarva Poultry Industry, R.D. 2, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947 (302)856-9037, or the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 510, Salisbury, MD 21801.



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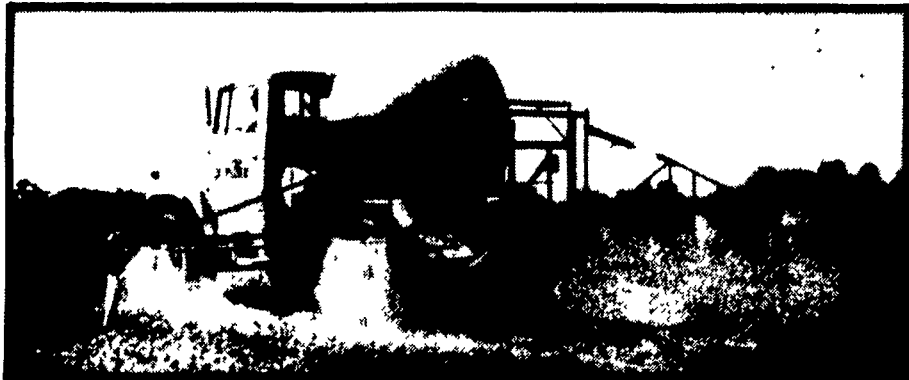
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