



The Elizabethtown Fair 25 Years of Making Memories

A child's first taste of cotton candy . . . the wonderment of a newborn calf . . . the pride of a blue-ribbon entry — the Elizabethtown Fairgrounds has seen it all

The roofs of the Elizabethtown Fair go back to 1950 when the Elizabethtown Kiwanis Club hosted the first community Farm Fair. This event was first held in September 1950 along Poplar Street (with the midway behind the current Elizabethtown Community Center). Booths were located on a lot at the corner of Bainbridge and South Poplar streets.

In 1954 the Kiwanis club relocated the farm fair across from Lake Placida at Elizabethtown College. This property became known as Kiwanis Park. An office, public restrooms, and a large exhibit building were added to Kiwanis Park.

Due to dwindling support and community interest, the Kiwanis Club replaced its farm fair with a carnival and pet

parade in 1961. The event vanished completely sometime in the 1960s.

In the 1970s the fair was "reborn" as an added attraction to the Elizabethtown Jaycees Festival held in the Elizabethtown Community Park. As a result, the present fair was organized by the Jaycees in 1973 and operated under the name "Marketplace Fair"

In 1978, the event officially became known as the Elizabethtown Fair, and moved to the old Kiwanis Park grounds, which had become part of the Elizabethtown College campus. Under the leadership of the Jaycees, the fair continued to grow and the club decided an area was needed for just the agricultural portion of the fair. Elizabethtown Area School District's "land lab," the current site of the Elizabethtown Fair, was selected for agricultural exhibits. In 1981 the fair activities were split between the Kiwanis Park grounds and the current fairgrounds.

In 1981 Agricultural Hall was opened on the new site and the Jaycees ran the first livestock

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Farmers or homeowners looking to test-drive a new vehicle can cancel trips to car lots and head toward Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 18-20.

By visiting the expanded

competition on the current fairgrounds. In the same year the Elizabethtown Fair Association Ad Hoc Committee was formed and assumed the Jaycee duties. At this time, the fair was incorporated as Elizabethtown Community Fair, Inc. and a board of directors and officers was elected.

Many changes have taken place at the fair since that time. The dairy-beef barn was erected on the fairgrounds in 1983, and Sara Myer Hall in 1985. The main stage was built in 1988 to showcase the live bands and entertainers. The fair office building was renovated in 1989. A large commercial building was constructed adjacent to Myer Hall in 1995.

Under the current direction of the Elizabethtown Fair board of directors, the Elizabethtown Fair remains a permanent, prosperous community event which features many of the original events and contests held at the first fair in 1950. The Elizabethtown Fair now runs Monday through Saturday in late August each year.

This year, the Fair is scheduled Aug. 24-29 10 a.m.-10 p.m. with livestock shows, a midway, and plenty of food and fun.

Demonstrations

"ride and drive" area, you can test drive and compare the latest full-size tractor models from a variety of manufacturers. Homeowners with large yards or farmers looking to handle small jobs also may be interested in a separate compact lawn and garden tractor ride-and-drive, featuring gasoline- or diesel-powered machines with no more than 35 horsepower engines.

"We'll have products from three manufacturers for compact lawn and garden tractors and products from three manufacturers for full-size diesel tractors," said Bob Oberheim, manager of Ag Progress Days. "Visitors can experience firsthand the latest models and any changes that the tractor companies have made in the last year. The compact lawn and garden tractors are useful for part-time or hobby farmers and for smaller farm jobs such as mowing, pulling a small spreader or hauling bales of hay."

The product lines for compact lawn and garden tractors are John Deere, Cub Cadet, and Steiner. The product lines for full-size diesel tractors are New Holland, Case IH, and Agco.

The ride-and-drive site, located between 1st Street and Rt. 45, will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 18 and 20, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 19. All operators must be at least 18 years old and sign a waiver of liability. Company representatives will screen operators for eligibility.

In addition to the tractor ride-and-drive, more than 300 commercial exhibitors will display goods and services at Ag

Progress Days. Besides tractors and other heavy machinery, their wares range from seed, feed and fertilizer to insurance, consulting services, small power equipment, and many other products.

"Visitors can find information on state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge techniques, all in one convenient location," Oberheim said. "Ag Progress Days is one-stop shopping for farmers."

Because machinery accidents are the leading cause of farm injuries and deaths, another demonstration will focus on farm safety. A new attraction is a skid-steer rodeo for tractor operators. In addition, an exhibit of lighting and marking materials for agricultural equipment will be on display. Also, remote-controlled full-scale equipment will undergo mishaps while being operated under typical conditions.

Other planned field demonstrations will focus on corn chipping, silage bagging, sweet corn harvesting, high-moisture hay baling and combining with precision farm equipment.

In addition, various exhibits and workshops will feature information on the latest research-based production techniques, government programs and regulations, and various educational initiatives, ranging from health and safety to forest stewardship.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free through August 20 or visit the Ag Progress Days site on the World Wide Web at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu>.

ELIZABETHTOWN FAIR EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

1 00 p m 7 00 p m Animal entries received

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

9 00 a m 9 00 p m All domestic entries received at Church Fellowship Hall

9 00 a m 1 00 p m - Animal entries received

6 00 - 8 00 p m - Draft Horse Exhibit Sponsored by

Ruhl's Insurance (contest area)

6 00 p m Ride for One Price (\$9 00 6-10 p m)

6 00 - 8 00 p m Sand Sculpture Sensations

6 30 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

7 00 p m Talent Show (main stage)

7 30 p m - Dan & Galla (variety show)(Stage 2)

8 00 p m Animals of Distinction (Midway)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

9 00 a m 5 00 p m - Domestic exhibit area closed for judging

12 00 p m - Dairy Goat Show

4 00 p m - Ride for One Price (\$6 00 4-6 p m)

5 00 p m Rabbit Show

5 00 p m - Maytown Sport Parachute Club Drop Zone

5 30 - 8 30 p m - Pony Rides

5 30 p m - Dan & Galla (Patriotic Show)(Main Stage)

6 00 p m - Swine Show

6 00 - 8 00 p m Sand Sculpture Sensations

6 00 - 8 00 p m Obie the Clown (strolling)

6 00 p m - Fair Queen Competition (main stage)

6 30 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

6 45 p m Opening Ceremony

7 00 p m Pie Eating Contest (children & adult)

7 00 p m Firemen's Tug of War Elimination (horse ring)

8 00 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

8 00 p m Annual Baked Goods Auction (stage 2)

8 30 p m - The Wilkinsons (country) Z107 Night

9 30 p m - Z Country Dancers

SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

9 00 a m Beef Show

12 00 p m - Sheep Show

12 30 p m - Senior King & Queen Announced

4 00 p m Wheelbarrow Race (children)

4 00 p m Ride for One Price (\$6 00 4-6 p m)

5 00 p m - Bingo for Senior Citizens

5 30 - 8 30 p m - Pony Rides

6 30 p m - Calf Roping, Barrel Racing, Team Roping

6 00 - 8 00 p m - Obie the Clown (strolling)

6 30 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

7 00 p m - Country Spirit Dance Association (demo)

7 00 p m - Wheelbarrow Race (children & adults)

7 00 p m - Arcona Reel Band (Celtic music)(stage 2)

8 00 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

8 00 p m - Stu Huggens Susquehanna River Band (main stage)

9 00 p m - Country Spirit Dance Association (instruction)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

10 00 a m - Dairy Show

4 00 p m Milk Chugging Contest (children)

4 00 p m - Ride for One Price (\$6 00 4-6 p m)

5 00 p m Celebrity Milking Contest (contest area)

5 30 - 8 30 p m Pony Rides

6 00 - 8 00 p m - Obie the Clown (strolling)

6 30 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

5 45 p m - Supreme Champion

6 30 p m - Sale of Champions

7 00 p m - Milk Chugging Contest (children & adults)

7 00 p m - Firemen's Competition (field)

7 00 p m - Dreamaker Illusions (illusion magic show)

(Stage 2) Sponsored by Mellon Bank

8 00 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

8 00 p m - Mud Flaps (oldies)(main stage) Sponsored by

Time Warner Cable

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

4 00 p m - Sack Race (children)(contest area)

4 00 p m - Ride for One Price (\$6 00 4-6 p m)

6 00 - 8 00 p m - Obie the Clown (strolling)

6 30 p m - Pedal Power Tractor Pull

6 30 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

6 30 - 9 30 p m - Arcona Reel Band (strolling)

7 00 p m - Sack Race (children & adults)(contest area)

7 00 p m - Red Rose Country Dance Club

7 30 p m - Arts & Crafts Auction (stage 2)

8 00 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

8 00 p m - Buffalo Thunder (country)(main stage) WIOV

Night

9 00 p m - Red Rose Country Dance Club

FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

10 00 a m - Big Wheel Bike Race

10 00 a m - Horseshoe Pitch

10 00 a m - Horse Show

10 30 p m - Pet & People Caricatures by Marti Hess

11 00 a m - Steven Courtney (stage 2) Sponsored by

Kmart

11 30 a m - Pet Show (sheep show tent)

12 00 p m - Animal exhibits released

1 00 p m - Arm Wrestling (main stage)

2 00 - 4 00 p m - Obie the Clown

1 00 p m - Steven Courtney (stage 2) Sponsored by

Kmart

2 00 p m - Hay Bale Throwing Contest (contest area)

3 00 - 5 00 p m - Domestic exhibits released

4 00 p m - Garden Tractor Pull

5 00 p m - Dreamaker Illusions (illusion magic show)

(stage 2)

6 00 p m - Maytown Sport Parachute Club Drop Zone

6 30 p m - Tribute to Elvis Presley (stage 2)

6 30 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

8 00 p m - Autumn & QSB (Variety Show)(main stage)

8 00 p m - Animals of Distinction (Midway)

9 00 p m - Winners of Baby Photo and Pet Photo

Contests announced

11 00 p m - Fireworks

Animals of Distinction Sponsored by Penn Valley Shows

Sand Sculpture Sensations Sponsored by Union National

Community Bank

OPEN DAILY 10 00 a m to 10 00 p m

Children's Petting Zoo

Domestic Exhibits in Church

RIDES OPEN at 4 00 p m (Noon on Saturday)

Crops, Forage Information At Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — The latest developments in forage and crop production will be featured in the Crop and Soil Science Tent at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 18-20.

"We're featuring plots with an alfalfa-corn rotation into ryegrass stubble, new alfalfa seedlings with potato leafhopper-resistant varieties, Roundup Ready soybeans versus normal soybeans, and a weed control demonstration," said Marvin Hall, associate professor of forage management and coordinator for the tent. The demonstration plots are located outside the Crop and Soil Science Tent on East 5th Street.

Inside the tent, visitors can see educational exhibits and demonstrations from Penn State, the Corn Growers Association, and the Forage Growers Association. "The display of common weeds of Pennsylvania is always a big attraction," said Hall. "We have live weeds in pots, and specialists on hand to answer your questions on controlling specific weeds. If you have strange weeds on your property, dig them up, bring them in, and the specialists will identify them."

Exhibits also explore soil fertility and testing, nutrient management, pest control, forage quality testing, and other topics.

Farmers can visit the "Ask the Specialist" booth to find

solutions to problems with soil fertility, diseases, insects, corn, forages, small grains, and tillage practices. Specialists from the Pennsylvania Crop Management Association and Penn State's agronomy, entomology and plant pathology departments will be on hand to share research results and answer questions.

Visitors to the Crop and Soil Science Tent also can test their knowledge using an agronomy quiz board, with questions about small grains, soybeans, corn, forage, and soil fertility. "If you get 16 out of 20 right, you should take our jobs," Hall said smiling.

Also at this site will be the Hay Show, with displays of the state's best hay samples. Growers who would like to enter the show are invited to bring samples to the Hay Show drop-off point near the Ag Progress Days east entrance by 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18. All growers will receive the results of their hay's evaluation.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and commercial exhibits, tours and machinery demonstrations. It is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, with extended hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission and parking are free.