

# Maryland State Fair

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goers through the Maryland State Fair barns, and introduce them to exhibitors who will answer specific questions regarding their animals or exhibits. The tours will depart every half hour from the Birthing Center in The Cow Palace beginning at 10 a.m. with the last tour scheduled for 9 p.m.

The Fair is scheduled Aug. 22-Sept. 1 at the fairgrounds in Timonium.

"While many people understand the vital role of Maryland's food and fiber industries to its economy, we would also like to make them aware of the increasing impact of our 'fun' or recreational agriculture such as turf grass and horses," said director of the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture and Agricultural Fair Tours director Dr. Tom Hartsock. "We hope each fairgoer walks away with new information and a renewed appreciation for the diversity of Maryland agriculture and its direct benefits to them."

The Agricultural Fair Tours begin at the Birthing Center where many fairgoers will have the opportunity to witness the miracle of birth of calves and litters of piglets. Veterinarians will be with the animals at all times to oversee and assist with the deliveries. The veterinarians and students will narrate the birth events

that occur during Fair hours or explain the birthing process with video presentations. The tours will then proceed through The Cow Palace, The Milking Parlor, The Swine Barn, The Sheep and Goat Barn, The Horse Show Ring, and The Rabbits and Poultry Building.

The 122nd Maryland State Fair, which offers a variety of livestock and horse shows, midway rides, thoroughbred horse racing, arts and crafts, and home arts exhibits, runs from Friday, Aug. 22 through Monday, Sept. 1 at the Timonium Fairgrounds in Baltimore County. Early risers are welcome to attend livestock and horse shows at 9 a.m. Exhibit halls are open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. The midway opens at 10 a.m. on weekends and noon on weekdays.

Admission is \$5 for adults and children under 12 are admitted free. Rides are individually priced.

## 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale

For more than 50 years, community business owners and individuals have shown their support to 4-H/FFA youth through participation as buyers at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, among them Ad Layout and Design, Graul's Market, Hatfield, Papa John's Market, Pepsi-Cola, Padonia Station, Spring Meadow Farms, and The STOP Corporation. This



Alpine dairy goat intermediate kid class parades in the show ring at last year's Maryland State Fair.

year's auction will begin Sunday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Maryland State Fair's Swine Show Arena in the Sheep and Swine Building.

4-H/FFA youth will auction off their prize steer, lamb, goats, and market hogs. Each youth will receive the proceeds raised from the sale of their livestock to invest their education or a new livestock project.

The Livestock Sale is the culmination of a year's worth of hard work and competition by 4-H/FFA youth. "This is an excellent opportunity for the youth. They have invested a lot of time and money in their livestock in order to prepare them for competition and auction," said State Fair 4-H Program Coordinator Lynn Norris. "It teaches them responsibility for their animals, how to make wise management decisions, and provides the financial support and encouragement necessary to meet future goals."

In order to qualify for the auction, the livestock must compete in various shows conducted Friday, Aug. 23 through Sunday, Aug. 25. The livestock judges will name the grand champions and reserve champions and a selection committee of knowledgeable individuals will choose the allotted number of livestock to be sold based on quality.

The livestock sale will

begin at 7 p.m. with the sale of market goats, market steers followed by market hogs, and market lambs. Livestock is bid on by the pound. Last year's 1,182-pound grand champion dairy steer, purchased by Pearce Norris, sold for \$1.10 per pound (\$1300.20); the 1,200-pound grand

champion market steer, purchased by Jim Grimes, John Bare, Maurice Gladhill, Edward Mercer, and J.R. Remsburg, sold for \$3 per pound (\$3,600); the 122-pound grand champion market lamb, purchased by Marlow and Wyatt, sold for \$7.75 per pound (\$945.50); the 83-pound grand champion market goat, purchased by state 4-H program leader Richard Byrne, sold for \$7.50 per pound (\$622.50); and the 261-pound grand champion market hog, purchased by Deggeller Attractions, sold for \$5.75 per pound (\$1,518.75).

VISA and MasterCard will be accepted. Arrangements will be made for free delivery of the livestock to a selected local meat packer who will package the meat to the buyer's specification at the buyer's expense, or many buyers choose to donate their animals back to the Maryland 4-H Foundation or other specified charities following which the animal will be resold at market price.

## Cow Milking Lessons

Junior members of the Maryland Guernsey Youth Association will teach fairgoers how to milk cows by hand during their Guernsey Milk Clinic fundraiser, Friday, Aug. 22 through Sunday, Aug. 24 and Saturday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Maryland

State Fair's Cow Palace.

The Guernsey Milk Clinic will provide educational information about Maryland's dairy industry and this special breed of dairy cows. And, for a small fee, interested fairgoers can take a lesson and try their hand at milking a cow. All participants will learn a new skill and will receive a special treat.

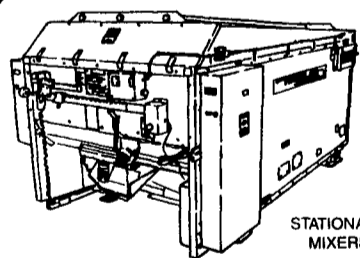
"Through this event, we hope to bring urban people closer to agriculture and introduce them to our favorite breed of cow — the Guernsey," said MD Cooperative Guernsey Breeders Association Board Member and Milk Clinic Director Jo-Ann Chason. "There are very few people who have ever hand-milked a cow. This activity will educate fairgoers about where their milk comes from, as well as the importance of milk in their diet."

All proceeds from the Milk Clinic will be used to enhance the association's youth programs, scholarships and the Quiz Bowl — a question and answer game about the dairy industry. "The Quiz Bowl program benefits youth by teaching more about science, math, social studies, and history (as they pertain to the dairy industry), time management, and communications skills," said Chason.

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At last year's Maryland State Fair, Joe Roberts, Dallas, Texas, right, won the hog calling contest, congratulated by contest coordinator Buddy Bowling.



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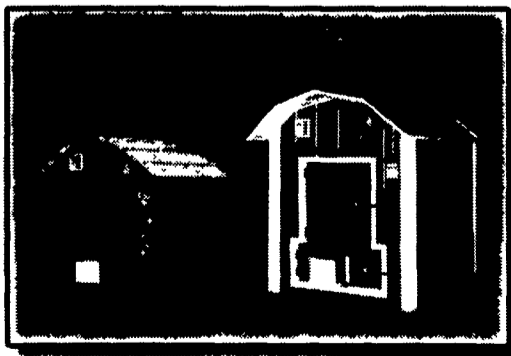
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