

Dutchess County Fairgrounds
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For Immediate Release

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DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR CELEBRATES AGRICULTURE

Rhinebeck, NY.....For the last 170 years, the Dutchess County Fair celebrates, appreciates, and honors the farmer...with love. The fair will be held August 25-30th. The Dutchess County Fair continues to be the second largest agricultural county fair in New York State. Our liveliest location, Livestock Hill, brings in exhibitors showing dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, hogs, llamas, alpacas and horses.

Both dairy and beef cattle shows are held the Tuesday through Saturday of the fair with our Parade of Dairy Champions, Dairy Herdsman Award and 4-H Master Showmanship Awards on Sunday in the Livestock Pavilion. Dairy cattle breeds shown at the fair include Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernsey, Brown Swiss and Ayrshire with beef breeds including Red Angus, Hereford, Simmental and Belted Galloway.

The livestock judges also provide commentary during the show, explaining to spectators what they are based on the overall conformation of an animal, the condition of the coat, proportion of fat to muscle and overall showmanship, along with their judging responsibilities.

Sheep are also judged on condition and quality of wool along with similar criteria as the cattle. Breeds of sheep shown include Southdown, Dorset, Montadale, Oxford, Hampshire, Suffolk and Tunis. Sheep as well as goat judging can be found in the Sheep Pavilion on the far side of the Livestock Pavilion.

A special treat to the Sheep Pavilion is the volunteers who gather and offer demonstrations for spinning, weaving and dyeing. There is even a “Dyeing Garden” which features various plants used to make the dye for wool.

Young exhibitors can compete in the popular costume classes where both owner and animal dress up in coordinated outfits which is a comical show for everyone involved.

Livestock Pavilion is also the place to find the 4-H Livestock Auction which takes place on Saturday night. However, members of 4-H are the only ones able to sell their animals in the auction. The auction is a great source of community support for the 4-H children.

The Dept. of AG & Markets has banned poultry from NYS fairs for 2015 but the poultry barn will still include 4-H rabbits and cavies. The llamas and alpacas will be housed in the poultry barn this year.

Other events of Livestock Hill includes a Stick Pony Rodeo plus a Chicken Clucking and Rooster Crowing contest which takes place on Sunday.

Livestock Hill, while offering the incredible beauty, vitality and scientific knowledge of the area's best farms is not the only location on the fairgrounds where outstanding animals are on view. The infield offers the Salute to Agriculture and Dairy Birthing Center, the vegetable and field crops exhibits as well as the magnificent horse shows.

The Horse Arena has shows all week starting with the 4-H Horse show at 9am and the Antique Tractor Pull at 2pm. Wednesday is the day for The Local English Horse Show at 8:30am followed by a horse pull at 1pm. Thursday and Friday have two more Open English Horse Shows at 8:30am. The Open Western Horse Show begins at 8:30am on Saturday along with a Carriage Driving Show at 10am and a Miniature Horse Pull at 2pm. Sunday, the closing day of the fair features a Horse Shoeing and Forging Contest at 8:30am, Draft Horse Show at 9am, and Classic Six-Horse Hitch Show at 1pm.

For more information regarding all the agriculture and other animal shows at the Dutchess County Fair along with a complete list of livestock shows we invite people to visit our website at www.dutchessfair.com.