

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Livestock Shows and Competitions at The Heart of Dutchess County Fair**

Rhinebeck, NY - The heart of the Dutchess County Fair is its commitment to remain one of the largest agricultural showcases in the East. Although the farming industry is dwindling, the fair features over 1600 head of stock, including just about any and every variety of farm animal one could imagine.

Sponsored by the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, the fair will also offer approximately hundreds of displays of flowers, plants, trees and shrubs, as well as a variety of vegetable exhibits. Fairgoers can expect close to 3000 exhibits of homemade culinary items, arts and crafts as well.

For winners and exhibitors at this event, the fair is not only one of the largest, but the atmosphere of friendly competition and renewed friendships make the fair a six-day vacation and for many, a family reunion.

Fairgoers can enjoy dairy and beef cattle shows in the Livestock Show Arena on Livestock Hill. The five dairy cattle breeds scheduled to compete include the Holstein, Guernsey, Jersey, Ayrshire and Brown Swiss shows as well as the Parade of Dairy Champions and Showmanship classes.

Angus steer and other beef cattle will be represented. The Fair will also host a Jackpot Steer Show and Youth Livestock Sale. The sale will be held on Saturday starting at 4pm in the Livestock Show Arena.

The goat barn offers breeds such as Toggenburg, Nubian, Oberhasli and Alpine competing in various classes and the ever popular Costume class.

In the Sheep Pavilion, numerous breeds of sheep will compete in the following events: Southdown, Dorset, Montadale, Oxford, Hampshire, Suffolk, Tunis, Corriedale, Border Leicester, Merino, Romney and Market Lamb shows.

Amidst the cackling and gagging of the Poultry Barn, poultry fanciers can view their favorite breeds. In addition to a selfie station and a few hands-on activities, a “hen house” is on display for people to watch chickens in a backyard setting. 4H rabbits and cavies are housed and available for viewing in the same location.

Although hogs seem to the average observer to be dull and unmotivated, their owners claim that they are extremely playful in nature and therefore a hand-full when it comes to the show ring. Show times for the hogs in Barn 38 are Tuesday Aug. 22 at 4pm, Wednesday Aug. 23 6pm, and Friday Aug. 25 6pm.

Weeklong activities on Livestock Hill culminate with Master Showmanship contest on Sunday at 10am. The atmosphere becomes a bit more relaxed after that prestigious award is given, when the show arena turns to a Championship Costume Class and the Stick Pony Rodeo to ease the tension of the week.

Livestock Hill, while offering all the beauty, vitality and scientific knowledge of our best farms, is not the only place for fairgoers to enjoy magnificent animals. The Infield will present the Salute to Agriculture & Dairy Birthing Center and host various horse shows throughout the week. A Youth Horse Show is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 22 and a Donkey & Mule Show takes place on Friday Aug. 25 at 10am. The Western horse show, Gymkhana and a Blacksmith Contest will take place on the Fair’s final day.

The amateur cut flower show returns on Tuesday and Friday during the fair. Flowers can be viewed along with the vegetables and field crops. Downstairs in the Horticulture building features Recycled Garden Art, spectacular landscape displays and floral displays following this year's theme Country Harvest.

Hundreds of entrants vie for ribbons in the ever-popular Arts and Crafts division. Amateur arts, hobbies, crafts, needlework, stitchery, and culinary will be represented in Building E, along with continuous demonstrations including the Hudson Valley Woodcarvers and the DC Rug Hookers.

On hiatus since the pandemic, the ever-popular AgriVenture will be housed in Building E. This agricultural exhibit is an interactive, educational experience for all ages.

The fair also boasts the largest antique display in the Hudson Valley in the Antique Museum Village located at the base of Livestock Hill. The indoor displays are artistically presented while right outside the building, antique machinery is used to demonstrate farming and other equipment from a bygone era.

With all the wonderful sights and sounds at the Dutchess County Fair, its proudest accomplishment continues to be the participation of the best in Dutchess County farms, gardens and homes.

The Dutchess County Fair opens on Tuesday, August 22 through Sunday, August 27. Hours are 10am - 10pm Tuesday through Sat, 10am – 8pm on Sunday. Rides operate at 11am. Parking is free; children 11 & under are admitted. Information and discount tickets are available online at [www.dutchessfair.com](http://www.dutchessfair.com).

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