



174th

Walworth County Fair



WALWORTH COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

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IF YOU GO...

WHAT: 174th Walworth County Fair
WHERE: 411 Court St., Elkhorn
WHEN: Aug. 30 to Sept. 4
COST: \$12 for adults, \$7 for kids
INFO: www.walworthcountyfair.com



'There's no place like home'

Walworth County Fair ready to welcome all

The 174th annual Walworth County Fair will be at the county fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn, from Wednesday, Aug. 30, through Labor Day, Sept. 4. The grounds will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., daily. The fair office hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the fair.

The County Fair celebrates the area's youth and agriculture with numerous contests, animal shows and projects. The family-friendly event attracts large crowds during its six-day run, offering people of all ages – from kids to the young-at-heart great food, fun rides, interesting displays, live music and more.

The 2023 Fairest of the Fair is Lillienne Cauffman and Fair Royalty is Josie Vance. The 2024 Fairest will be crowned the

evening of Wednesday, Aug. 30.

A few highlights

Sensory Friendly Time – being sponsored through a partnership between the Walworth County Fair Association and North American Midway, will allow kids and adults between the ages of 3 and 21 who have special needs (and are county residents or attend a school in the county) special time to enjoy the fair. "This opportunity aims to provide a more calming and comforting atmosphere for young people with neuroadversity who may be especially sensitive to lights and sound," representatives said. On Friday, Sept. 1, between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon, the carnival will shut down the flashing lights and music. Additionally, ride staff will take extra time and care to load rides and a guardian or caregiver will be allowed to ride along. This was an event requiring pre-registration but if it's a success, check the fair website for details in advance of next year's fair.

Pies in the Park, sponsored by Seymour Kremer Koch LLP, will be held Saturday, Sept. 2, beginning at 10:30 a.m. for pies in place and judging, followed by the pie auction at approximately 11:30 a.m. This is open to all bakers and bidders to the best of homemade, delicious pie fun with prizes for the top three bakers. No pre-registration is required for pie bakers/creators. All pies (except frozen ice cream) qualify. Simply bring your pies to the park!

Kids between the ages of 9 and 17 can win big in a Bird House Build Off, sponsored by Tanis Construction with top prizes of \$3,000 for first place, \$1,500 for second place and \$500 for third place. The registration deadline was Aug. 18 and bird house entries will be delivered to the fairgrounds prior to the start of the fair.

The Plein Air at the Fair competition is returning for a second year. Fairgoers can see participating artists create art inspired by and created solely the Walworth County Fair. The top two will be named Grand and Reserve champions and their paintings will

be auctioned off Sunday, Sept. 3.

Judging and demonstrations

For the area's youth, the fair is a culmination of a year's worth of work, whether it be with animals or agriculture projects and displays. From baking to vegetable growing to animal raising, the county's best and brightest proudly display their work at the fair.

One of the highlights of the fair is the annual Meat Animal Sale, which is the

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'There's no place like home' is the theme of the 2023 Walworth County Fair and this year's event aims to county residents and visitors alike. Allow enough time to see and take part in all of the many features, from the animal barns and product pavilion to harness racing and rides. There are also countless contests, auctions, live entertainment and an endless array of food options to be found throughout the fairgrounds for the five-day run.

PHOTOS BY DAVE DRESHOW/TOM GANSER Walworth County Fair

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Walworth County Fair 2023

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on the cover: The Walworth County Fair features everything from a variety of carnival rides to horse hitch competitions to food, surely to satisfy people of all ages. This year's fair runs from Wednesday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 4.

PHOTOS BY BOB MISCHKA/CHAD HENSIK/TOM GANSER Walworth County Fair

WELCOME • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

largest in the state, according to Larry Gaffey, manager of the fairgrounds. "It's even bigger than the State Fair," he said, adding that the area's youth are key to the fair. "The level of participation in fair exhibits by youth in the area is second to none. The number of open class exhibits is overwhelming. The total number of exhibit entries for the fair is usually over 15,000," Gaffey explained. He said in his opinion, the Walworth County Fair is one of "the most wonderful family events in the upper Mid-west. The hundreds of volunteers including volunteer board members, superintendents, committee members, businesses and the fair staff that pull this event together are some of the finest people in the world." More than 55 non-profits, including

civic organizations, churches and more, benefit from the fair, he said, and for many, it's their largest fundraising event of the year. Those non-profits range from local churches and other organizations that run food stands to the Walworth County Historical Society's annual book sale in the park. Gaffey said each year he looks forward to welcoming people back to the fair and maybe getting a chance to enjoy his favorite activities. "The Horse Pulls on Labor Day morning, Home Economics exhibits, seeing families smiling and laughing and of course, the food!" he said. For more information and discounted advance admission tickets, visit www.walworthcountyfair.com.



Who's running the show?

The Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc. puts on the annual County Fair.

Rita Jasurda, office staff
Kerry Trampe, IT and photography

Fair superintendents

- Cultural Arts - Megan Rassmussen-Silman
- Barnyard Adventure - Kathy Papcke
- Campgrounds - Jennifer Hadley
- Beef - Chuck Kopsell
- Dairy - Tony Fincutter
- Discovery Barn - Shawn McCarthy
- Draft Horse - Mike Deneen
- Horticulture - Cheri Lasch
- Goats - Jamie Bowey
- Home Economics - Jodi Swatek
- Machinery - Don Henningfeld
- Privileges/Vendor Services - Ken Meinel
- Saddle Horse - Jerry Fassbender
- Security - Jim Hansen / Tom Reichert
- Sheep - Kevin Slack
- Swine - Jess Clapper

Board of Directors

- David Adams, director/board president
- Jacob Polyock, director/board vice-president
- Susan Earle, director/board treasurer
- Eileen Walsh Grzenia, director/board secretary
- Loretta Meinel, director
- Gregory Sawtelle, director
- Jon Tanis, director
- Thomas Cook, director

Fairgrounds management staff

- Larry Gaffey, general manager
- Peggy Fraser, office manager
- Clare Doane, grounds and maintenance manager

Fairgrounds staff

- Max Lindsay, Elkhorn Equine Events Center coordinator/grounds and maintenance department
- Kristina Nacke, office staff
- Melody Judge, assistant marketing manager/office staff
- Susan Clark, office staff
- Dianne Kegley, office staff
- Patti Hall, office staff

Junior Class superintendents

- Beef - Leon (Doc) Stern
- Dairy - Tony Fincutter
- Junior Exhibit Building - Caroline Cornelison
- Dairy Goats - Jordann McPherson
- Meat Goats - Chris Schleicher
- Horse & Pony - Jeff Markham
- Poultry - Jeff Schmalfeld
- Rabbits - Brenda Wade / Tim Ehlen
- Sheep - Trisha Knipper
- Swine - Jess Clapper

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SCHEDULE of EVENTS

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ADMISSION

Adult admission, \$12
Junior (ages 5-12), \$7
Children (younger than age 5), admitted FREE
Adult season ticket, \$45
Senior Days: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (age 62 years and older), \$8
Lifetime memberships, \$350
Prices are "at the door" admission.

Free general parking
VIP parking, \$50 (VIP Parking is a reserved spot for the entire fair season.)
General parking is free to the public.
For more information, call 262-723-3228 or visit www.walworthcountyfair.com.

DAILY EVENTS

Antique Tractor Display, Machinery Lot
HCE Exhibits and Demos, Log Cabin
North American Midway Entertainment
Barnyard Adventure
Kiddieland
Midway Area
Discovery Barn
Music on the Park Stage
Walworth County Historical Society Used Book Sale in the park, daily 10 a.m. - to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

*Honorary Marshals Day
Senior Citizens Day, 62 and older, \$8
Oz The Great and Powerful:
Wear Green & Bling!
North American Midway Entertainment
Wristband Day, 3 to 11 p.m., \$30*

Judging and demonstrations

8 a.m. – Junior Swine Barrow Show, Swine Barn
9 a.m. – Open Farm Products, Horticulture Building
9 a.m. – Dog Obedience and Showmanship, Activity Center
9 a.m. – Junior Garden and Fruit Crops, Junior Exhibit Building
9 a.m. – Junior Flowers, Junior Exhibit Building
9 a.m. – Open Antiques, Antiques Building
9 a.m. – Open Flowers, Horticulture Building
9:30 a.m. – Open Photography, Cultural Arts Building
Noon – Open Foods, North Hall
4 p.m. – Junior and Open Honey Show, Barnyard Adventure Barn
6:30 p.m. – Open Adult Dairy Showmanship, Activity Center

Park Stage

10 a.m. – Opening Ceremony, Honorary Marshals
Noon – Underground Sound Jazz Band
3 p.m. – Gravity of Youth
6 p.m. – Fairest of the Fair Finals

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. – Oz the Great and Powerful: Wear Green & Bling!

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

1 p.m. – Frank Whiting
6 p.m. – Georgia Rae

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. – Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. – and roaming throughout the day Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – Matthew Jensen, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – The Birdman, World Class bird shows

Barnyard Adventure Tent and Garden

10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Conserv FS Combine Simulator, Grain Bin
10 a.m. – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, Tent
5 p.m. – Surprise Make & Take for Kids, Tent

5 p.m. – Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop

10 a.m. – Herbs for the Harvest by Bella Botanica
11 a.m. – Marvelous Mushrooms by Matt's Wild Foods
Noon – Growing Herbs with Pesche's Greenhouse
1 p.m. – Tomatoes on the Vine by Blue Barn Farms
2 p.m. – Pumpkin/Watermelon Carving by Studio Dori & Pumpkin Passions

Grandstand

7 p.m. – Rice's Pro Rodeo, sponsored by Jake Leiser Painting

Thursday, Aug. 31

*Senior Citizens Day
Admission for 62 and older, \$8
Which Witch is Which? Twin Day!
North American Midway Entertainment Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$30*

Judging and Demonstrations

8 a.m. – Junior Beef, Activity Center
8 a.m. – Junior Sheep, Sheep Barn
9 a.m. – Junior Cavies, Discovery Barn
9 a.m. – Open Crafts, Cultural Arts Building
9 a.m. – Open Woodworking, Cultural Arts Building
9 a.m. – Open Canned Goods, North Hall
9 a.m. – Open Antiques, Antiques Building
6 p.m. – Junior Meat Goats, Activity Center

Park Stage

10 a.m. – Outstanding Seniors, Vendors, Exhibitors and Friend of the Fair Awards
Noon – The Phenix Band
3 p.m. – The Thompson Duo
6 p.m. – In the Stix

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. – Which Witch is Which? Twin Day!

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

1 p.m. – Grant Milliren
6 p.m. – Gebel Girls

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. – Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. – and roaming throughout the day Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – Matthew Jensen, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – The Birdman, World Class bird shows

Barnyard Adventure Tent and Garden

10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Conserv FS Combine Simulator, Grain Bin
10 a.m. – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, Tent
5 p.m. – Surprise Make & Take for Kids, Tent
5 p.m. – Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop

10 a.m. – Amaryllis and Paperwhites by Pesche's Greenhouse
11 a.m. – Flower Farming with Dogwood Farms
Noon – Unique & Fun Cheese Boards with Hill Valley Dairy
1 p.m. – Make & Take, Stampin' Up
2 p.m. – Burgers More than Beef by Lake Geneva Country Meats

Midway Area

4 p.m. – Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls registration
5 p.m. – Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls

Grandstand

Noon – Antique & Stock Tractor and Truck Pulls
5:30 p.m. – American Legion VFW Flag Ceremony
7 p.m. – PI Motorsports Tractor & Truck Pulls, sponsored by Pete's Tire

Friday, Sept. 1

*Senior Citizens Day, 62 and older, \$8 admission
You Had The Power All Along: Dress Like Your Favorite Super Hero!
North American Midway Entertainment Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$30*

Judging and demonstrations

8 a.m. – Open Sheep, Sheep Barn
8:30 a.m. – Junior Dairy Showmanship, Activity Center
9 a.m. – Open Arts, Cultural Arts Building
10 a.m. – Draft Horse Halter Class, Draft Horse Arena
10:30 a.m. – Junior Rabbit Showmanship, Small Animal Barn
1 p.m. – Dairy Auction/Miss "Q" Contest, Activity Center
(Little Britches Contest to follow Supreme Champions)
2:30 p.m. – Junior Non-Rabbit Project, Small Animal Barn
4 p.m. – Junior Rabbits Pet Show, Small Animal Barn
6 p.m. – Junior Poultry Non-Animal, Small Animal Barn
5:30 p.m. – Plein Air Art, Cultural Arts Building

Wiswell Center

10 a.m. – Meat Animal Sale
3 p.m. – Meat Sale of Champions

Horse Arena

8:30 a.m. – SMILES Open Benefit Horse Show

Park Stage

Noon – Banana Wind, the music of Jimmy Buffet
2 p.m. – Judson Brown Band
4 p.m. – Indigo Canyon
7 p.m. – Doo Wop Jukebox

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. – You Had The Power All Along: Dress Like Your Favorite Super Hero

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

1 p.m. – Cesare Salad & the Spicy Croutons
6 p.m. – Billy Farmer

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. – Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. – and roaming throughout the day Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – Matthew Jensen, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – The Birdman, World Class bird shows
CONTESTS: Barnyard Stage
11 a.m. – Infant/Toddler Wizard of Oz Inspired Costume Contest
1 p.m. – Cupcake Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure Tent and Garden

10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Conserv FS Combine Simulator,



PHOTO BY CHAD HENSIKAL Walworth County Fair

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SCHEDULE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Grain Bin
10 a.m. – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, Tent
5 p.m. – Surprise Make & Take for Kids, Tent
5 p.m. – Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop
10 a.m. – Good Vibes & Great Coffee, Stillwater Coffee
11 a.m. – You CAN Do It, Stephanie Slater
Noon – Making Lip Balm, ABCD Farmhouse
1 p.m. – Make & Take, Stampin' Up
2 p.m. – Lavender 101, Creek Farm

Midway Area
10 a.m. to noon – Sensory Friendly Carnival Experience *Pre-registration required, sponsored by Tanis Construction
4 p.m. – Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls registration
5 p.m. – Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls

Grandstand
7 p.m. – Chris Young with special guest Dillon Carmichael Sponsored by Great Lakes Components

Saturday, Sept. 2

*Kunes Auto/RV Day
Best Gingham Outfit
North American Midway Entertainment
open Noon to 11 p.m.*

Judging and Demonstrations
8 a.m. – Junior Poultry, Small Animal Barn
8 to 11 a.m. – Pinewood Derby Check in, North Hall
8:30 a.m. – Junior Dairy Goats, Goat Barn
8:30 a.m. – Open Dairy, Activity Center
9 a.m. – Junior Rabbit, Small Animal Barn
10 a.m. – Draft Horse Cart/Hitch, Draft Horse Arena
10:45 a.m. – Pies in the Park, Pie Judging, Park Stage, Open to Everyone
6:30 p.m. – Master Showman Contest, Activity Center

Wiswell Center
5 p.m. – Walworth County Cloggers

North Hall
Noon – Pinewood Derby sponsored by Advanced Auto Clinic

Horse Arena
8:30 a.m. – Boots and Saddle Open and Speed Show
9 a.m. – Walenton's Rocking "B" Ranch Speed Show

Park Stage
10:45 a.m. – Pies in the Park - all welcome!
1:30 p.m. – KR Bluegrass
4 p.m. – Lara Bell Band
7 p.m. – Livin' the Dream

Gazebo in the Park
2 p.m. – Best Gingham Outfit

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. – Kyle Young
6 p.m. – Un-Hich'd

Family Adventureland
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. – Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. – and roaming throughout the day Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – Matthew Jensen, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – The Birdman, World Class bird shows
CONTESTS: Barnyard Stage
11 a.m. – Milk Chugging Contest
1 p.m. – Bale Toss

Barnyard Adventure Tent and Garden
10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Conserv FS Combine Simulator, Grain Bin
10 a.m. – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, Tent
5 p.m. – Surprise Make & Take for Kids, Tent
5 p.m. – Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden
5:30 p.m. – Rabbit Hopping, Barnyard Stage

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop
10 a.m. – The Wisconsin Honey Queen
11 a.m. – Honey Confections Contest
1 p.m. – Make & Take, Stampin' Up
2 p.m. – Make & Take, Milwaukee Mandalas

Grandstand
9 a.m. – Combines for Kids - Combine Rides

Sponsored by Rote Oil
12:30 p.m. – Harness Horse Races
7 p.m. – STYX, sponsored by Kunes Auto Group

Sunday, Sept. 3

*Edge Broadband Family Fun Day
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Family Costumes!
North American Midway Entertainment open Noon
to 11 p.m.*

Judging and Demonstrations
7:30 am Open Rabbit Show Registration, tent near Small Animal Barn
8 a.m. – Open Beef, Activity Center
9 a.m. – Open Goats, Goat Barn
9 a.m. – Open Rabbit Show Judging, tent near Small Animal Barn
10 a.m. – Draft Horse Hitch Class, Draft Horse Arena (Draft Horse Parade to follow at Grandstand)
10 a.m. – Tanis Construction Birdhouse Build Off Judging, North Hall tent
10 a.m. – Carved Pumpkin Contest, Green Horticulture Building
Noon – Wool Fleece Contest, Sheep Barn
3:30 p.m. – Dairy Futurity Show, Activity Center

Wiswell Center
10 a.m. – to Noon / 1 to 3 p.m. – Antique Appraisals by Barbara J. Eash (Certified Appraisers Guild of America)

North Hall
1 p.m. – Presentation of winners of the Tanis Construction Birdhouse Build Off

4-H Centennial Picnic Pavilion
2 p.m. – Poultry Awards

Horse Arena
8:30 a.m. – Linn Youth Benefit Open Horse Show
9 a.m. – Walenton's Rocking "B" Ranch Speed Show

Park Stage
10 a.m. – Ecumenical Church Service
Noon – The Spectaculars
3 p.m. – Woodcarving Auction to Benefit the Walworth County Fair Foundation
5 p.m. – Kickin it with Carol
7 p.m. – In with in Black

Gazebo in the Park
2 p.m. – The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Family Costumes

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. – Carly Cooper
6 p.m. – Karen Shook

Family Adventureland
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. – Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. – and roaming throughout the day Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage

12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – Matthew Jensen, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – The Birdman, World Class bird shows
CONTESTS: Barnyard Stage
11 a.m. – Egg & Spoon Race
1 p.m. – Sweet Corn Eating

Barnyard Adventure Tent and Garden
10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Conserv FS Combine Simulator, Grain Bin
10 a.m. – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, Tent
5 p.m. – Surprise Make & Take for Kids, Tent
5 p.m. – Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop
10 a.m. – Cookies by Farmhouse Sweets
11 a.m. – Wheat Weaving Demonstration
Noon – Owls with Jill Roberts
1 p.m. – Succulents by Planthropology
2 p.m. – Poultry 101 with Karen Gefvert

Grandstand
11 a.m. – Antique Tractor & Car Parade
7 p.m. – Casting Crowns, sponsored by Thrivent-Shoreline Group

Monday, Sept. 4

*Demo Day
Twister Day: Wacky Day!
North American Midway Entertainment Wristband
Day, Noon to 8 p.m., \$30*

Wiswell Center
10 a.m. – Fur and Feather Sale

Horse Arena
8 a.m. – Wisconsin Open Horse Show
9 a.m. – Walenton's Rocking "B" Ranch Speed Show
11 a.m. – Equestrian Drill Team Competition In memory of Rick Welch

Activity Center
10 a.m. – Bale Throwing Contest

Park Stage
11 a.m. – Sam Barrett
2 p.m. – BB & The Honey
5 p.m. – Gary McAdams Band

Gazebo in the Park
2 p.m. – Twister Day: Wacky Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. – Phil Calkins
6 p.m. – The Thompson Duo

Family Adventureland
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. – Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. – and roaming throughout the day Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. – Matthew Jensen, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – The Birdman, World Class bird shows

GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday, Aug. 30
Rice's Pro Rodeo, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 31
Noon – Antique & Stock Tractor and Truck Pulls
5:30 p.m. – American Legion VFW Flag Ceremony
7 p.m. – PI Motorsports Tractor & Truck Pulls

Friday, Sept. 1
7 p.m. – Chris Young

Saturday, Sept. 2
9 a.m. – Combines for Kids - Combine Rides
12:30 p.m. – Harness Horse Races
7 p.m. – STYX

Sunday, Sept. 3
11 a.m. – Antique Tractor & Car Parade
7 p.m. – Casting Crowns

Monday, Sept. 4
8:30 a.m. – Horse Pulling Contest
12:30 / 3 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. – Demolition Derby

Some grandstand events require tickets:
www.walworthcountyfair.com.
Wheelchair rentals: Limited availability - call 262-723-3228.

CONTEST: Barnyard Stage
11 a.m. – Cream Puff Eating

Barnyard Adventure Tent and Garden
10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Conserv FS Combine Simulator, Grain Bin
10 a.m. – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, Tent
5 p.m. – Surprise Make & Take for Kids, Tent
5 p.m. – Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop
10 a.m. – Fibers with a Twist, Alysia Kniaz
11 a.m. – Developing a Strong Biodiversity in your Garden, Blue Barn Farms
Noon – Intro to Spinning, Alysia Kniaz
1 p.m. – What about Bats, Jill Roberts
2 p.m. – A Glass of Art & More, pottery wheel demonstration

Grandstand
8:30 a.m. – Horse Pulling Contest
12:30 / 3 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. – Demolition Derby
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PHOTO BY CHAD HENSIK Walworth County Fair

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441869

Meat sale a fair favorite for many

Countless hours of work lead to moments in the arena for area youth

By **Tom Ganser**
CORRESPONDENT

The annual Walworth County Fair Meat Animal Auction is a fan favorite for many fairgoers. It's held in the Wiswell Center, which is generally packed to the point of standing room only by the time the sale begins. The excitement is palpable as 4-H and FFA kids from throughout the county parade their ag market animals around the ring, in front of a stadium full of bidders ready to support their hard work.

For Landon Rehberg, the Wiswell Center was the site for two sets of smiling victory laps during last year's sale.

The top bid for Rehberg's 1,395-pound Grand Champion Crossbred steer was \$40 a pound from West Air Heating and Air. Southern Lakes Plumbing & Heating teamed up with Ted Grant Farms for a high bid of \$17 a pound for Rehberg's 1,380-pound Grand Reserve Maine-Anjou steer.

Rehberg's 2022 Grand Champion made the top 5 in three different shows and was also shown at the Wisconsin State Fair.

"(It's) a very impressive animal and I was a very lucky person to be able to have that one in my barn," he said.

The Grand Champion was acquired the previous December on a trip to Oklahoma, Rehberg explained.

"We sorted through about 500 head in three hours, and we picked out seven or eight, and he was one on our list that fit our price range that we liked the best."

The Reserve Grand Champion came to his attention through a Facebook posting.

Rehberg said after the 2022 sale he didn't face too many challenges in raising the Grand Champion but admitted that after spending several hours a day with him, it was going to be tough to let him go. He also said the Grand Champion had been in an air-conditioned cooler room since April 15 to promote hair growth.

For Rehberg, raising the Reserve Grand Champion was more challenging.

"His genetics aren't as good for growing hair, so you had to work a little harder on that one, and that was harder since he wasn't as special (as the Grand Champion)," he said.

Rehberg, like many area youth, also showed other animals at the fair including two pigs. One earned the title of Reserve Heavy Weight Crossbred and the other finished fourth in its class. In addition, because he was awarded Beef Senior Showmanship, Rehberg participated in the Master Showmanship Contest last summer.

He shared some of the lessons he's learned en route to raising champion animals.

"It's taught me how to be disciplined with how I spend my time. We tried to do everything within the same time period every day, seven days a week. There weren't too many times that we missed either rinsing, blowing, or working on him. It's taught me to be dedicated, work hard, and good things will happen," Rehberg explained.

His future plans after last year's fair included continuing to show livestock for a few years. He said the proceeds from the sale of his animals would be toward his college fund and help support the purchase of his next project steer.

"I haven't really thought about if I'm going to raise, breed, or trade cattle yet, but I'd like to do something with the livestock industry. One of my goals since seventh or eighth grade is I wanted to go to Milwaukee School of Engineering for mechanical engineering and someday hopefully work at John Deere," Rehberg said.

This year's Meat Animal Sale will be held Friday, Sept. 1 beginning at 10 a.m. in the Wiswell Center at the Walworth County Fairgrounds. The Sale of Champions is at 3 p.m. Several local meat processors generally team up with the auction including Wilson Farm Meats, Lake Geneva Country Meats, Sorg's Farm Packing, Country Pride Meats and Pinn Oak Ridge Farm.

The 2022 auction featured more than 300 livestock sold and more than 100 potential bidders – local individuals and businesses – according to auction representatives. The sale broke a new record, raising \$986,000.

Heather Ruenz contributed to this story.



Landon Rehberg, representing the Spring Prairie 4H, won both Grand Champion Crossbred (pictured) and Grand Reserve for his steers at the Walworth County Fair in 2022. This year's event will be Friday, Sept. 1 beginning at 10 a.m. with the Sale of Champions set for 3 p.m.

TOM GANSER FILE PHOTO Walworth County Fair



A youngster leads out a cow from the show barn, with the cow looking a little shifty about having its photo taken.

FILE PHOTO
Walworth County Fair



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• PHOTOS BY CHAD HENSIK Walworth County Fair •



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Fairest & Fair Royalty wrap up busy year

The 2024 Walworth County Fairest of the Fair will be crowned at a ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 30, after the finals at 6 p.m. on the Park Stage.

According to organizers, the Fairest of the Fair and Fair Royalty serve as the official hosts/hostesses and brand ambassador/representatives of the Walworth County Fair for their year of service.

"The opportunity to work with the fair board, Walworth County Agricultural Society, fairgoers, youth of Walworth County, and other community members is a privileged position that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behaviors that fulfill this trust," the Fairest of the Fair application states.

Wrapping up a busy year as 2023 Fairest of the Fair is Lillienne Cauffman, who lives in Elkhorn and is the daughter of Caroline Cornelison and Todd Cauffman.

She graduated from Elkhorn Area High School in 2019 and is a nursing student at Gateway Technical College. She works as a caregiver at a memory care unit and in her free time, she said she enjoys hiking, camping, traveling and kayaking.

"I would like to one day become a pediatric or neonatal intensive care unit nurse," she wrote as a goal in her application.

Cauffman was reduced to tears after her name was announced as the winner on the Park Stage on the opening night of the 2022 fair.

"This is a really big moment for me," Cauffman said at the time. "I feel so happy and proud of myself."

Cauffman had hoped to become Fairest of the Fair as a child. When she was a little girl, she tried the "Future Fairest of the Fair" competition at the fair – and was hooked immediately.

She said she saw the competition as a chance to provide someone with the role model, like the Fairests were when she was young.

"When I say role model, I mean being

a representative of the county fair is something that some little girls always want to do," she explained. "When you grow up in 4-H like I did, when you grow up showing animals, showing exhibits in the fair, you always want to be a representative of it.

"Now you get to do it with a crown," she added. "This has been a dream of mine."

After being a second runner-up two years in a row, Cauffman admitted that she almost didn't come back for another try.

"This has been a dream of mine," she said last year. "I don't give up."

Cauffman was a member of Sugar Creek 4-H for 12 years, Wisconsin Leadership Council for two years and was a 4-H exchange student in Norway in 2016. She was also part of the Walworth County Junior Leaders for six years, according to her application.

In a post on the Walworth County Fairest of the Fair Facebook page, Cauffman talked about what it means to her to serve as Fairest.

"My favorite time of year has always been the Walworth County Fair and I can not wait to be able to share with you the Homey feel that the Walworth County Fair has to offer. I have been in both roles now royalty and Fairest of the Fair. Let me tell you it has been three of my most favorite years of my life," she said.

"I have met so many people and been able to represent the county fair and county agriculture in the best way possible. I encourage anyone who has a passion for the county fair and agriculture here in Walworth County to run for this position," Cauffman said.

Fair Royalty Josie Vance lives in Elkhorn and is the daughter of Brian Vance. She graduated from Elkhorn Area High School in 2020, attended the Professional Institute of Dental Assisting and is employed at Midwest Dental in Twin Lakes as a dental assistant.

"(I want) to be a good role model for



The 2023 Fairest of the Fair was crowned Aug. 31, 2022 at the Walworth County Fair, as Lillienne Cauffman earned the title. Below, from the left are: 2022 Fairest Jessica Markham, 2023 Fairest Cauffman and 2023 Fair Royalty Josie Vance at the crowning ceremony. Above: Vance and Cauffman have fun at Ribfest, held at the fairgrounds in July.

FILE PHOTOS Walworth County Fair



younger generations. I love helping children and showing them things they have not seen, especially in the ag industry," she wrote in her application.

She was a member of the Sugar Creek 4-H and Elkhorn FFA and showed junior beef and dairy goats at the Walworth County Fair, as well as entering artwork and baked goods.

Vance, in a post on the Facebook page, shared a bit more about herself including hobbies, favorite food and of course, her favorite things about the fair.

"My hobbies are traveling, spending time with family, and photography. I started my own photography business last fall," she said.

Vance said her dream vacation is going to Alaska.

"My favorite fair food cheese on a stick. My favorite thing of the fair is seeing all the hard work the kids put in their projects throughout the year. It's truly a special experience," she said. "I can't wait to see everyone at 2023 Walworth County Fair!"

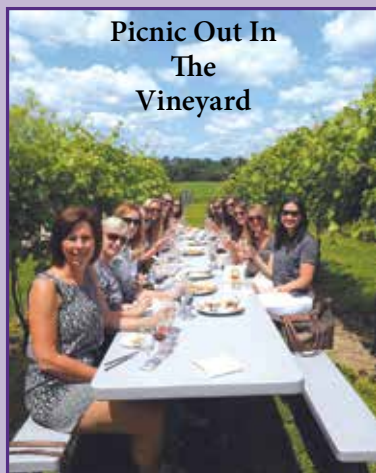


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Chris Young

Check out the grandstand at the **WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR**

The grandstand will be a busy place at the Walworth County Fair, which runs Aug. 30 through Sept. 4.

At the heart of the fair, which features the best crafters, cook and animals that the county has to offer, is the entertainment.

Tickets for grandstand events are sold separately, and do not include fair admission. Tickets can be purchased at walworthcountyfair.com.

Here are the major events:

PI Motorsports Tractor & Truck Pull

On Thursday, Aug. 31, PI Motorsports Tractor & Truck Pull will begin at 7 p.m.

Rice's Pro Rodeo

Opening night of the fair will see Rice Pro-Rodeo and Bullriding bringing a full-on bronc bustin, bullriding steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing to the grandstands at 7 p.m., presented by Jake

Leiser Painting.

Chris Young

Chris Young (with special guest Dillon Carmichael) will perform Friday, Sept. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

The show is presented by Great Lakes Components and FM106.1.

Styx

Styx, presented by Kunes Auto Group, will take to the grandstand Saturday, Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Casting Crowns

Casting Crowns will perform at the fairgrounds Sunday, Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The show is presented by Thrivent Financial.

Demo derby

The annual demolition derby will wrap up the grandstand entertainment Monday, Sept. 4, starting at 12:30 p.m., sponsored by AM Towing.

Three events will be held, at 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

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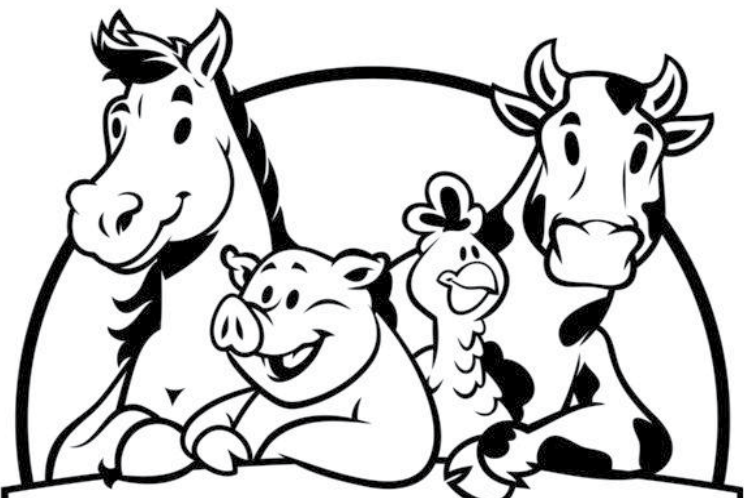


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What's free at the fair?

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The Walworth County Fair offers many events at no additional cost after the price of admission, including:

- Junior Class Competitive Exhibit Areas, showcasing Junior Class non-livestock and livestock exhibits;
- Open Class Exhibit Areas, featuring displays of Open Class non-livestock and livestock exhibits;
- Harness Horse Racing;
- All Park Stage Entertainment;
- Discovery Barn Agriculture Education;
- Barnyard Adventure Agriculture Education Area;
- Barnyard Adventure Stage, featuring the ever-popular "Nick's Kids Show;"
- Chainsaw artist Matthew Jensen;
- Daily fair guest contests;
- Draft Horse Pulls;
- Open Horse Shows;
- Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls;
- Combine Rides for Kids (thanks to many sponsors and farmers);
- The Magical World of Magic Mike the Magician;
- Plein Air Art Competition

Barnyard Adventure

In 2022, the Barnyard Adventure area welcomed nearly 138,000 guests attending the Walworth County Fair.

The Barnyard Adventure team is looking forward to visitors, showcasing an area of the fair where families and folks of all ages can make themselves at home; rest, regroup, relax, and enjoy the country hospitality offered throughout its two acres of agricultural wonders.

The Barnyard Adventure area remains proud to emphasize the diversity of agriculture with numerous learning stations; including crops, dairy, beef, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, bees, butterflies and more!

Features in Barnyard Adventure include:

- The Barnyard Adventure Barn will once again welcome building hosts from the "Walworth County Beekeepers Club." Visit with incredibly knowledgeable beekeepers and view their displays, including an enclosed working beehive.
- Flourishing gardens, featuring a bumper crop of vegetables, herbs, and flowers, including beautiful pollinators for our bees and butterflies. Displays included traditional and non-traditional gardening techniques. New in 2023 will highlight "Global Gardens," the "Freshly Picked" vegetable of the day spotlight, "Kids Can Compost" garden, as well as the return of the sensory garden bench, the Wisconsin cranberry crop bed and more!

- The Barnyard Adventure garden is an official Monarch Way Station. Due to the threat placed on the Monarch Butterfly species, the Walworth County Fair is sensitive to butterfly care. An outdoor butterfly observation tent will return in 2023 in the Barnyard Adventure Garden and will feature a daily butterfly release. Monarch Butterfly and Bee experts will host the Barnyard Adventure Barn - be sure to check in for fun activities.

Learning Coop Tent

This is a great educational tent for all ages, recognized as an award winner by



The Plein Air at the Fair event is an opportunity for artists to create artwork that is inspired by and created solely, at the Walworth County Fair. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to watch the artists in action. The top awards are Grand Champion, \$1,000; Reserve Champion, \$600; and Award of Merit, \$400 with the Grand and Reserve champions' paintings being sold to the highest bidder at the annual Walworth County Fair Foundation Woodcarving Auction, to be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 3.

COURTESY OF WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR
Walworth County Fair

the International Association of Fairs & Expositions. A wide variety of topics are led by the area's finest experts in agriculture, farm-to-table cooking, gardening, beekeeping, crafts and much more. All fair guests are welcome to participate and enjoy. Be sure to check out what classes are featured throughout each day.

On stage

Entertainment on the Barnyard Adventure Stage includes:

- Nick's Kids Show;
- Barnyard Adventure Kids Contests and Activities;
- Grain Bin Learning Center;
- Barnyard Adventure Gardens;
- Rainwater Recycling Patio;
- Sensory Gardens;
- and more.

Discovery Barn

Hosted by the Big Foot FFA, Lake Geneva Badger FFA, and East Troy FFA, the Discovery Barn, a fair industry leader in agriculture education, invites everyone to visit the live displays and exciting ag features.

Located next to the Junior Beef Barn, the Discovery Barn is a fun-filled building for guests of all ages to explore. View farm animals of all types, as well as meet knowledgeable and friendly FFA members and fair staff. Additional features, including demonstrations and the Walworth County Beekeepers Club, will make your visit to this area of the Fair an un-bee-lievably positive experience.

In addition to our returning displays, the Discovery Barn will be showcasing demonstrations on goat milking, sheep shearing, honey queen bees and has a rabbit petting area.



Looking back

A brief history of the Walworth County Fair

The Constitution of the Walworth County Agricultural Society was adopted April 28, 1842, according to the Walworth County Fair website.

The first annual fair and cattle show that the society has any record was held in the Village of East Troy on Oct. 16, 1850. A total of 35 first premiums, 17 second premiums and three third premiums were given at that time.

The first County Fair held in Elkhorn was in 1851, and again in 1852, in the block southwest of the City Park. In 1853 the fair site was moved to Delavan but returned to Elkhorn in 1854. In 1855, the first purchase of land, from Colonel Edward Elderkin, was made consisting of six acres within the Village of Elkhorn limits.

The cost was \$100 an acre with 10% interest, a high price for the time. The city of Elkhorn donated \$300 to fence the land, erect pens and sheds and to dig wells. The fair site has remained in Elkhorn since 1855 on this same location. On April 5, 1965, the Articles of Incorporation for the Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc., were signed by the Secretary of State.

In its early years, many visitors traveled to the fair by train. At one time, there were 19 special trains which arrived daily directly at the fairgrounds and departed again each evening after the harness races. Guests came from Libertyville, Rockford, Freeport, Walworth, Beloit, Madison, Janesville, Milwaukee and Waukesha.

The Walworth County Fairgrounds, throughout history, has been well-regarded



The first annual County Fair and cattle show that the Walworth County Agricultural Society has record of was held in the Village of East Troy on Oct. 16, 1850. The fair moved to Elkhorn in 1851 at City Park.

COURTESY OF WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR
Walworth County Fair

as a live entertainment venue. 1933 was the beginning of live entertainment night shows at the Walworth County Fair, such as the WLS entertainers.

Throughout the years, the grandstand main stage has welcomed the talents of such nationally-acclaimed artists, such as Minnie Pearl, Johnny Cash, Keith Urban, Josh Turner, Little Big Town, Styx, Doobie Brothers, Cheap Trick, Foreigner, Skillet,

Newsboys United, and The Beach Boys. Visit the link below for more information.

Today, the Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, welcomes hundreds of thousands of guests year-round to its nearly 100-acre facility. From beautiful campgrounds, spacious buildings, open green spaces, large grandstand, and recently improved and expanded equine facility, the fairgrounds

attracts visitors and events from coast-to-coast, renowned for its Midwest charm, affordability, and hospitality.

Additionally, the Walworth County Fair and fairgrounds is a consistent award-winning fair industry leader in agriculture education, competitive exhibits, non-Fair facility usage and sponsorship with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

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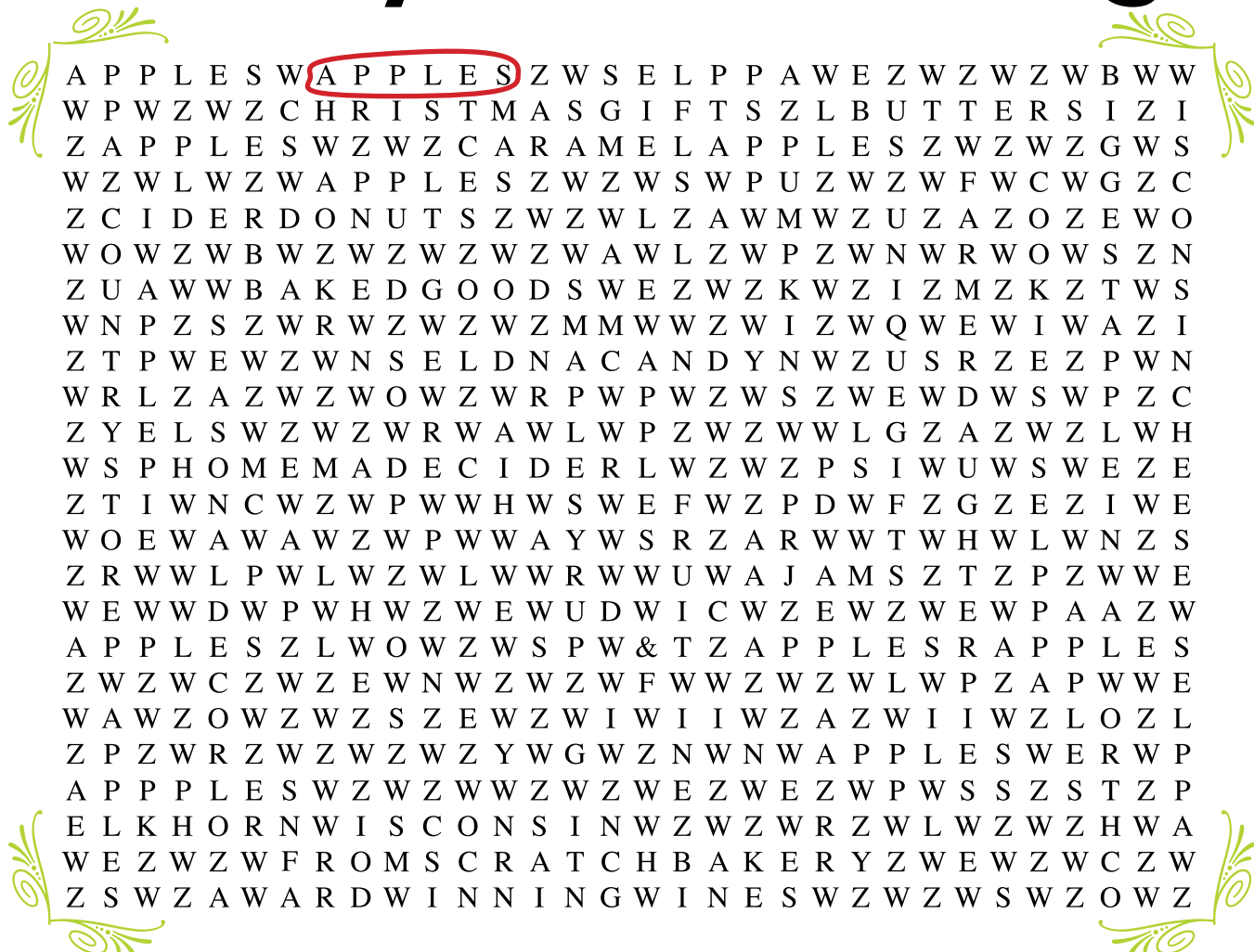
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