

Come One, Come All To The Clay County Fair



The Demolition Derby is back! After a three year lapse the derby was brought back last year by the Clay County Fair Board. The grandstand event was clearly a success and returns this year when the Clay County Fair plays in Barnesville July 12-15. The demolition derby will be held in front of the grandstand on Saturday night.

By: Karen Carpenter
Finding ways to enjoy great entertainment and get a little exercise in the bargain isn't easy.

The 105th Clay County Fair fits that bill. One can walk the midway and grounds to stretch those legs. There is always something to do, see or taste while roaming.

The fair 2018 dates are Thursday, July 12 through Sunday, July 15, 2018. The Clay County Fairgrounds will be packed full of midway rides, food booths and exhibits of all types. The ever popular Demolition Derby was revived last year for the first time in three years. The event was a hit and is returning as a 2018 grandstand attraction at the fair. The Demolition Derby will be held on Saturday, July 14.

Details are being finalized for this grandstand event, but now is the time for potential drivers to start searching the junkyards and preparing a vehicle for the ramming competition. Watch for more information as it becomes available. Chris Bang, 218 790-0053, and Bruce Nelson, 218 329-3030, are coordinating the competition.

Make plans to come out and see this event. There is lots of fresh air in the open grandstand and exercise can be had while jumping up and cheering for a favorite competitor.

Cars bump, ram and jam each other until there is only one car still running.

Plan now to show off a talent or skill by exhibiting at the fair. If one can knit, sew, bake, draw or construct something there is a class in which to exhibit. Bring your pet or farm animal to be judged.

The more people who share what they enjoy doing most the more interesting the exhibit area will be. A bonus is getting a ribbon or small cash prize for one's effort.

Many competitive classes are available, including all varieties of garden and farm produce, floral exhibits, baked and canned goods, sewing, crafts, photography, hobbies and more.

A premium book listing all of the exhibit divisions, classes and lots is slated for publication and on-line viewing later this spring.

The educational element of the county fair is one of the most informative aspects. Like many other county fairs across the country, Clay County is pleased to have 4-H and FFA members show off their various exhibits and animal-raising skills.

The 4-H Building is home to exhibits varying in subject matter from aerospace to vegetables. The barns on the fairgrounds are filled with critters big and small, from cows to rabbits. In addition, there are livestock shows each day of the fair.

For those who get excited about a carnival and all of it's delights you won't be disappointed. The Mighty Thomas Carnival will return to the midway at the Clay County Fair. One can hear the screams and shouts of delight all across the fairgrounds. The midway will also feature various games of skill.

The band shelter is a haven for a variety of free entertainment over the four-day fair, including a talent contest, music concerts, a 4-H style show, and an awards ceremony.

Vendors will be located under the grandstand displaying and selling their wares.

The Natural Resource Building will feature agricultural-related booths and programs.

Stop by the one-room school house to get a glimpse of what it was like to be educated in such a school.

While there one can participate in an old-fashioned spelling bee.

The FFA Barnyard will bring wonder and fun for youngsters as they get a chance to see and pet farm animals.

Come and see vintage farm equipment during the tractor parade.

Activities for children, ranging from a bike giveaway to the nickel scramble to a pedal pull, will be in full swing over the course of the fair.

A highlight for many is that once-a-year chance to pig out on fair food. A variety scrumptious cuisine is available for purchase at concessions from Hansen Foods, local non-profit groups and the Mighty Thomas Carnival.

The Clay County Fair is proud of its long, on-going history promoting agricultural products, talents and events. This summer think of it as a great way to get outside, get some



The 4-H style show is one of the many events held at the band shelter. These events are free and those attending can enjoy the comfort of sitting on a bench in the shade.

exercise and socialize with friends.

Make it an occasion to your health. Get the family together and plan to attend the Clay County Fair July 12, 13, 14 and 15. There's something for everyone at the Clay County Fair.

Watch Clay County newspapers for updated information on the Clay County Fair over the next few weeks.



Collectors of vintage farm machinery love to show it off during the tractor parade at the Clay County Fair in Barnesville.



Free bikes are given away Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Clay County Fair. The fair board appreciates the donors who make this possible.



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