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Clay County Fair Board Gearing Up For 107th Fair

By: James Kruize

This summer the Clay County Fair will have its 107th fair beginning Thursday, July 15 and running through Sunday, July 18.

As we all know, 2020 was a year unlike any we have experienced before. It has brought us many challenges, but in those challenges, we find opportunities. The Clay County Fair Board would like to thank everyone for their support during this past year.

Our plans now turn to planning for a great 107th Clay County Fair. There is always something new and exciting at the county fair for you and your family and friends to enjoy.

During its four-day run, the Clay County Fair is proud to provide Clay County residents, as well as individuals living in the neighboring counties, the opportunity to showcase their livestock, crops and vegetables, and domestic crafts. The Clay County Fair is proud to be the showcase for 4-H and FFA members to exhibit the projects that they have worked on all year-long. The summer festival also offers a wide array of family fun entertainment and educational displays.

Do you have a talent or skill that you are especially proud of? Take an opportunity to show it off at the fair. If you have a flower or vegetable garden, knit, sew, bake, draw or construct something, take photos, or almost any hobby, there is a class in which to exhibit. Bring a pet or farm animal to be judged.

The more exhibitors who participate in the fair and showcase their talents, the better the exhibit area will be at the fair. A bonus to showcasing your talent is getting a ribbon and possibly a small cash prize for your efforts.

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 by early June.

One thing that always goes with a county fair is the food. Come



Nothing screams summer like spending a nice summer day at the fair. There are endless things to see and do at the Clay County Fair. Whether it's taking a stroll through the animal barns, checking out various artwork, photography and baked goods, or even stopping and taking a break watching some of the free entertainment on the band shelter stage, the Clay County Fair has an abundance of things to see and do.

out and enjoy the treats of corn dogs, cheese curds, milk shakes & malts, mini donuts, fresh lemonade, tacos/nachos, and many more. A whole variety of delicious cuisine is available for purchase at concessions from Hansen Foods, local non-profit organizations, and the Mighty Thomas Carnival.

The 4-H members of Clay County work on educational projects throughout the year and it all culminates with the annual Clay County fair. The 4-H Building is home to exhibits varying in subject matter from flowers/vegetables to arts and crafts to clothing to photography to wood project and many more. The barns on the fairgrounds are filled with animals big and small including rabbits, poultry, beef, dairy, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses. Clay County can be very proud of the livestock at the Clay County fair as the barns are full with activity. There are

livestock shows each day of the fair.

Come out and support the youth 4-H members by checking out the various exhibits. One learns a lot, and it is great to see the proud and excited 4-H members working with animals or exhibits.

The local FFA members of Clay County are kept busy during the fair with showcasing their projects, exhibiting livestock, and providing food through their food and shake/malt stand. In addition, they provide a children's barnyard for all fair visitors to see various animals up and close. FFA members also participate in a tractor driving contest during the fair.

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.

After walking through the exhibits, relax in the cool shade of the band shelter. It provides for a variety of free entertainment over the four-day fair.

On Thursday, July 15, people of all ages can enjoy the talent contest by competing or enjoying the talent of the participants. The talent show has categories for preteen (age 12 & under), teen (13 – 18 years old), and an open division for any age. Winners of the talent contest have an opportunity to compete at the Minnesota State Fair.

On Friday, July 16, fair visitors have the opportunity to take in magic shows by Magician Tom

Anderson and Nashville recording artist Dariann Leigh will perform two free shows in the evening. She comes from the small town of Karlstad, MN. The small-town girl with a big dream, and a big voice is ready to make it happen! Plans are also being made for other children activities throughout the day.

On Saturday, July 17, fair visitors will have the opportunity to witness the 4-H clothing exhibitors demonstrate their runway talents through the 4-H Fashion Revue. There may also be opportunities to get your balloon animal from a local clown. Sherwin Linton will conclude the evening at the Band Shelter with two free performances.

An Ecumenical Worship Service will start out the day on the band shelter on Sunday, July 18. The Clay County Fair will have their award ceremonies later in the day recognizing Outstanding Senior Citizens, Clay County Century Farm(s), Outstanding Farm Leaders, Farm Family of the Year, NDSU Harvest Bowl Agriculturalists, Friend of the Fair, and Hall of Honor.

Later in the day the 4-H program will present their 4-H members with various awards and the open class division of the fair will conclude the fair with their Open Class Best of Show Parade.

In addition to the free events available at the band shelter. Many other "free" activities are available throughout the fair for all ages. Various departments of Clay County government will be on hand under the tent by the 4-H building for Clay County Government Day on Thursday.

Two new events will be held on Thursday this year including the Touch-a-Truck event in the grandstand area which will provide an opportunity for fair visitors to see big trucks up close and personal.

The other new event will be a

Jigsaw Puzzle contest which will give teams of up to four members an opportunity to put together a provided puzzle in a set timeframe. Number of teams will be limited so watch for additional details as this event is organized.

A local artist will provide fair visitors an opportunity to participate in "Hands-on" art activities throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. Various demonstrations will be presented throughout the fair. Clay County FFA Chapters will provide free ice cream cones by the Children's Barnyard on Saturday.

Doug Ohman with Pioneer Photography will provide three presentations on different subjects throughout the day on Saturday in the 4-H annex. He is a Minnesota photographer, author and storyteller who has developed entertaining and educational presentations.

The Nickel Scramble will take place for youth on Saturday. The tractor parade for tractors and equipment 1972 or older will arrive at the fairgrounds around 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The Pedal Power Pull will return on Sunday. Winners of the Pedal Power Pull will be determined by pulling a weighted sled the greatest distance. Bingo will be available all days of the fair at set time periods. Plans are also being made to bring glass blowing demonstrations during two days of the fair.

Youth ages 17 and younger will have an opportunity to win a bike on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Historically there have been approximately 12-15 bikes given away each year. The Clay County Fair Board would like to thank the Lions service organizations for the donations of the bikes. It is greatly appreciated. Exact times of the drawings will be listed in the

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