

50th Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival

The 50th Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival opens early Saturday morning, September 2, with a pancake and sausage breakfast at the firehouse on Route 133 West.

Arthur firemen will serve pancakes and sausage from 6 to 11 a.m. The 10-bay facility has plenty of room to serve the hundreds of people who flock to the annual event. This is a

good opportunity to have a delicious breakfast prepared by members of Arthur's volunteer fire department.

They cook the sausage patties over an open flame, and the pancakes are served hot off the griddle, prepared in sight. The firemen served a record 1,643 meals in 2018, destroying the previous record of 1,483 meals served in 2011. In 2022 they

served 1,634.

How much food does it take to serve breakfast to that many people? The firemen prepared and served approximately 1,300 pounds of sausage, 500 pounds of pancake mix, 110 gallons of orange juice, and 60 pounds of butter during the five hours they worked the breakfast.

Daily Events

Sidewalk sales and food, flea market, and craft vendors open for business at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Monday and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The festival closes at 7 p.m. on Saturday, 5 p.m. on Sunday, and 3 p.m. on Monday.

Vendors occupy a two-block area of Vine Street and parts of Illinois, Hickory, Walnut, and Progress streets.

Children of all ages will enjoy 25/8 Xtreme mobile extreme sports and pony rides in Artie's Party Zone (South Vine and West Progress). The pony rides are available Saturday and Monday only.

Amish buggy rides will be offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday

and Monday. The rides depart from and return to the driveway on the north side of the Welcome Center.

Saturday Only Events

The Opening Ceremonies and first cutting of the cheese will be held at 10 a.m. in the middle of South Vine Street and Illinois Street.

Special guests will help make the first cuts. Assisting with the cheese cutting will be Mayor Rod Randall, Association of Commerce president Stephanie Wierman, Artie the Mouse, Miss Slice, local queens, and other local and area dignitaries. Watch for surprise celebrity guests to show up and lend a hand at the ceremony.

The Cheese Giveaway begins at 11 a.m. under the Cheese Tent, located at the intersection of Vine and Illinois streets. Local officials, area politicians, dignitaries, and guests serve free cheese slices and crackers to thousands of festival visitors.

Teams of four square off on the Cheese Festival "rink" at 12:30 p.m. in the 23rd annual International (Continued On Page 5)

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