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Have Some Fun At The 112th Annual Clay County Fair

By James Kruize
Clay County Fair Board

This summer the Clay County Fair will have its 112th fair beginning Thursday July 9th and running through Sunday July 12th.

The fair in 2025 was a success and 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 112th 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 out and enjoy the treats of corn dogs, cheese curds, milk shakes & malts, mini donuts, fresh lemonade, tacos/nachos, pizza, and many more. A whole variety of delicious cuisine is available for purchase at concessions from our main concessionaire, 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 & 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 9th, 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. Immediately following the talent show will be the Mullet Pageant. Watch the premium list for more details on this pageant. Chloe Raye will be providing free music in the evening following the Mullet Pageant. Nashville recording artist Chloe Raye brings her Midwest roots into every song she writes.

On Friday, July 10th, fair visitors have the opportunity to take in magic shows by Magician Tom Anderson and Kayla Daniels will perform a free show in the evening. Kayla is a Nashville recording artist and singer/songwriter from Minnesota.

On Saturday, July 11th, fair visitors will have the opportunity to experience the children's show of The Dollipops, an interactive children's music show. Get ready to sing, dance, and laugh with the engaging, high-energy, highly interactive new kids' show. The Red Letter Band will conclude the evening at the Band Shelter with a free performance at 6:30 pm. The Red

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