



State Fair
JULY 26 - AUGUST 6, 2023



2023 MEDIA GUIDE

Contact Information

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Social media – connect with us!

Facebook – www.facebook.com/ohiostatefair
Twitter – www.twitter.com/OhioStateFair
Instagram – www.instagram.com/ohiostatefair
Pinterest – www.pinterest.com/ohiostatefair
YouTube – www.youtube.com/theohiostatefair

Resource links

[Logos](#)
[Photos](#)
[B-Roll](#)



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Media Information

Credential Registration

We welcome the chance to work with your station or publication. Registering for the Ohio State Fair is simple for members of the media, with two easy options:

1. Email a list of staff members who will cover the Fair to assigned media contact OR
2. Complete the credential registration form at www.ohiostatefair.com/media-registration

We kindly request that all media who are provided an admission ticket submit a press clipping or audio/video clip within two weeks of the closing of the Fair. Failure to provide proof of coverage may result in loss of media center privileges.

Media Center Check-in Procedures

The Ohio State Fair Media Center will be operational from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., daily, July 26 – Aug. 6 (except for Aug. 6, when it closes at 6 p.m. along with the Fair's admission gates), or by appointment.

All members of the media should check in here to receive parking and admission credentials before entering the Fair. No parking or admission passes for working media will be mailed in advance.

Directions

As in the past, the Media Center will be located on 11th Avenue, just west of the OHIO Gate. All working news media and promotions personnel should register and park at this location upon arriving at the Fair. For your convenience, the Media Center will provide a phone, Internet access, and an air-conditioned room for you to work or relax in. Fair schedules will also be provided daily, as well as feature ideas and assistance in obtaining interviews.

Parking

Approximately 25 parking spots are available for use by working media at the Media Center. In addition, we will provide some overflow parking in the Pavilion Lot (Gate 9), located east of the Voinovich Center. Please note parking is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. If all media spots are full, you will be routed to the North Lot (off of 17th Avenue).



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Press Release System

<https://www.ohiostatefair.com/media-registration>

With a mix of special competitions, big-name entertainment, exciting rides, and thousands of kids and animals, the Ohio State Fair offers 12 days of continuous feature and story opportunities. To receive story ideas, photo opportunities, media advisories, and more, please visit [ohiostatefair.com](https://www.ohiostatefair.com), click on the “About Us” link and then click “Media” to sign up to receive customized news and information at the bottom of the page. Additional information can be found under the “Media Kits & Registration” link, also on that “Media” website page.

On-Site Transportation

A few golf carts will be kept at the Media Center and can be used for transportation of equipment on a first-come, first-served basis. For liability reasons, carts can only be driven by Ohio State Fair employees. Access to the Fair on carts is limited to the golf cart path, which travels the Fair’s perimeter. No carts are allowed in pedestrian areas. The Ohio State Highway Patrol will enforce this policy.

WCOL Celeste Center – Interviews and Backstage Policy

All interviews and backstage passes must be arranged through each artist’s management or publicity team. The Fair public relations staff can provide contact names and phone numbers upon request. Please notify the public relations staff office of what arrangements have been made prior to the show date. If your station or publication wishes to send a photographer or videographer to a concert, please contact Jess West at j.west@expo.ohio.gov. Your request will be forwarded to artist management for review, and you will be contacted once your request has been reviewed. Requests must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the concert.



Fair Descriptions by Word or Character Count

Need a blurb? Here are a few brief Ohio State Fair summaries with various word lengths.

140 characters

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Experience it all: food, animals, entertainment, rides, shopping, competitions, and more.

280 characters

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Enjoy your favorite Fair traditions, like the butter cow, Smokey Bear, farm animals, and delicious fair food. Experience it all: Family entertainment, 70 exciting rides, arts exhibitions, live music, hands-on education, and more.

25 words

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Enjoy tradition, food, animals, rides, shopping, arts, entertainment, music, education, hands-on activities, and much more.

50 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Experience your favorite Fair traditions, like the butter cow, Smokey Bear, the SkyGlider, and livestock animals. Enjoy delicious food, exhilarating rides, shopping, arts, exciting entertainment, live music, education, hands-on activities, and so much more.

75 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Experience your favorite Fair traditions, like the butter cow; Smokey Bear; the SkyGlider; livestock animals; the All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir; and Natural Resources Park. Explore hundreds of acres filled with fair food, rides, shopping, Ohio arts, family-friendly entertainment, free live music, education, hands-on activities, competitions, the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village, and so much more.

100 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Experience your favorite traditions: visit the famed butter cow and calf, be greeted by Smokey Bear, see baby animals being born, take a ride on the SkyGlider, and listen to the All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir. Don't miss the free petting zoo, live music, livestock shows, entertainment stages, impressive magicians and escape artists, an Ohio arts gallery, pop-up performances, costumed characters, the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village, and a Natural Resources Park with youth fishing, a kayak pond, and lumberjack shows!

100 words – Free Activities Focus

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Admission tickets include countless free activities and attractions. Make memories that will last a lifetime by visiting the famed butter cow, Smokey Bear, multiple free entertainment areas, an antique machinery exhibit, and the new touch-a-truck display. Enjoy the free petting zoo, live music, livestock shows, magicians, escape artists, Marvelous Mutts shows, pop-up entertainment performances, costumed characters, award-winning arts, hands-on education, and an eight-acre natural resources park with free youth fishing, and more! Fairgoers can also visit the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village for free each day of the Fair.

125 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6! Don't miss Fair traditions including visiting the famed butter cow, having Smokey Bear greet you by name in Natural Resources Park, seeing baby animals being born, listening to the melodies of the All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir, and



seeing the Fair from the views of the SkyGlider. Admission includes multiple free entertainment areas featuring live music; amazing hypnotists, escape artists, and magicians; Marvelous Mutts dog shows; and more family-friendly entertainment. Immerse yourself in activities including the free petting zoo, livestock shows and educational barn tours, an Ohio arts gallery, the amazing Youth Exploration Space *presented by Intel®*, and the Natural Resources Park with youth fishing and kayaking!

General Information for our Guests

Dates

July 26 – Aug. 6, 2023

Year

168th

Hours of Operation

- **Admission Gates:** Monday through Friday – 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday* – 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Gates close at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6)
- **Media Center:** 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. or by appointment (closes at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6)
- **Live Animal Exhibit Buildings:** 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- **Youth Exploration Space *presented by Intel®*:** 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6)
- **Other Buildings:** 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Park:** 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- **Shopping:** 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Closes at 8 p.m. on Aug. 6)
- **Mountain Dew Midway:** 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. (Open 11 a.m. – Midnight on Fridays, open 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. Saturdays, Sunday, July 30, and Wednesday, Aug. 2.; closes at 10 p.m. on Aug. 6). Specific dates are listed below for easy reference:
 - Wednesday, July 26: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Thursday, July 27: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Friday, July 28: 11 a.m. - Midnight
 - Saturday, July 29: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Sunday, July 30: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Monday, July 31: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Aug. 1: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Aug. 2: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.*
 - Thursday, Aug. 3: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Friday, Aug. 4: 11 a.m. - Midnight
 - Saturday, Aug. 5: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 - Sunday, Aug. 6: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

*Many buildings have reduced hours on Aug. 6. Please see the “Buildings and Stages” section to see a complete list of buildings and applicable hours.

Gate Admission Prices

- \$12 – Adults 13-59
- \$10 – Seniors 60+
- \$10 – Children 6-12
- \$8 – Advance-sale admission tickets available [online, no fees applied](#), and at participating [O'Reilly Auto Parts Stores](#) (July 1 through July 25 only)
- Free – Children 5 and under



- Free – Veterans, Military, and First Responders with appropriate ID

Ride Prices

Rides are operational 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. (Open 11 a.m. – Midnight on Fridays, open 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. Saturdays, Sunday, July 30, and Wednesday, Aug. 2.; closes at 10 p.m. on Aug. 6)

- \$35 – Ride-All-Day Wristband (purchased on-site)
- \$32 – [Advance-Sale Ride-All-Day Wristband](#) (available online only in advance through July 25)
- \$1 credits – Fairgoers can buy individual ride credits, Talley’s Magic Money, for \$1 each. All rides require 3 or more credits.

All ride-all-day wristbands and ticket cards are RFID-enabled. At the Fair, wristbands and RFID cards can be purchased at Talley Amusements kiosks or the Talley Amusements Guest Information Services Booth with cash or credit card.

Free Parking

General parking is free in the main O’Reilly Auto Parts Parking Lot north of the Cardinal Gate. Accessible parking is available. Reserved parking is not available to the general public.

Parking Access

There is easy access to parking lots from I-71 at the 17th Avenue exit and the Hudson Street exit at Silver Drive. Accessible parking available. Ride the O’Reilly Auto Parts Parking Shuttles *powered by SuperStart Batteries* to and from the main entrance gate and your vehicle.

Reserved Parking

Reserved parking is incredibly limited and can only be purchased by exhibitors and vendors in advance. Reserved North Lot parking is \$5 per day and parking within the gates of the Fair is \$10 per day.

Bicycle Parking

Bicycle parking racks are located at the Cardinal Gate, OHIO Gate, and Gate 10 (17th Avenue).

Conditions for Admission

The safety of our fairgoers, exhibitors, and employees is our top priority. Prior to entry, you will be asked to walk through a metal detector (magnetometer).

- **Bags**

Purses, backpacks, book bags, coolers, strollers, etc. are permitted, but are subject to search. Bag searches will also be conducted for guests entering concerts and events in the WCOL Celeste Center.

- **Prohibited Items**

Several items are expressly prohibited at the Ohio State Fair, including:

- Illegal weapons and substances
- The use of bicycles in non-parking areas
- The possession or use of electric or motorized vehicles, including but not limited to: electric or motorized scooters, motorized bicycles, mini-bikes, slingshot trikes, dune buggies, hoverboards, and Segways
- The use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones)

- **Outside Food and Beverage**

You may bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages. Glass bottles and _____ containers are not permitted on grounds.

- **State Law**

Fairgoers carrying a firearm, concealed or open, are permitted to enter the outdoor portions of the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair only. If any patron carrying a firearm would like to enter a building, the patron will be given the option to return the firearm to his or her vehicle and return to the fair with an admission handstamp. All buildings have signs posted prohibiting the carrying of a weapon, concealed or open.



Mobile App

Get access to schedules of events, Ohio State Fair map, photo frames, shopping, weather, and the searchable food finder which allows you to find the exact location(s) where different food items can be purchased at the Fair.

Scan the QR code at right to download.



Pet Policy

Pets are not permitted on the grounds during the Fair with the exception of service dogs or animals approved as part of an exhibition or competition (such as livestock and 4-H events). Service animals are those that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Patrons attempting to bring non-service animals into the Fair, including emotional support, comfort, therapy, companion, and all other animals not included in the scope of service animals, will be asked to remove those animals from the Fair for the safety of our guests and the pets. Service animal relief areas with waste receptacles will be available on the Rhodes Center Lawn, in Central Park, and in Natural Resources Park.

On-Grounds Shuttle

10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Our complimentary shuttle makes frequent stops approximately every 15 - 20 minutes at pre-determined locations around the perimeter of the grounds as listed on the map from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgoers looking for an accessible tram may have to wait through one or more pickup cycles before an accessible tram stops at your location.

Infant Care & Nursing Stations presented by Molina Healthcare

The Ohio State Fair offers two large, air-conditioned Infant Care & Nursing Stations *presented by Molina Healthcare*. One is located in Kiddieland and the other in the Taste of Ohio Café, at which parents can change their children's diapers, and mothers who prefer to breastfeed their children in privacy can do so comfortably. Additional nursing stations are located in Kasich Hall and the Bricker MarketPlace Building.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found office during the Ohio State Fair is organized and managed by the Highway Patrol and located on the grounds near Gate 3 at the north end of the Mountain Dew Midway. If you realize you have lost an item after leaving the Fair, please call (614) 466-6666.

Lost Children Booths

The Ohio State Highway Patrol staffs a booth at both of the main entrance gates (Cardinal and OHIO Gates) with "Lost Kid Tags." The tags help identify the child if he or she gets separated from his or her parents. You can also call the Highway Patrol headquarters at (614) 466-6666 for more information.

First Aid / EMS Center

9 a.m. – 11 p.m. (open until midnight on Fridays)

Medical assistance is provided in this air-conditioned office located on the east side of the Land & Living Building presented by Ohio Farm Bureau.

ATMs

Most vendors accept credit cards, and all accept cash. ATMs are located throughout the Fair for your convenience. Please refer to the Fair map for specific locations.

Stroller, wagon, and locker rentals

Strollers, wagons, and lockers are available for rent at the Fair, as are wheelchairs and scooters (see below).

- Single Stroller – \$20/day
- Double Stroller – \$25/day
- Wagon – \$20/day



- Manual wheelchair - \$25/day*
- Electric scooter - \$70/day (8 a.m. - 11 p.m.)*
- Storage cubicles (lockers) – \$5/day

*Reservations strongly encouraged.

Guest Information Services

We're here to help. Stop by one of our conveniently located Guest Information Services booths to pick up a copy of the daily schedule and map or get directions.

Recycling at the Fair

Please look for specially marked recycling containers to deposit your recyclable plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, and paper. The special Ohio EPA solar-powered recycling compactors allow us to keep the grounds clean and lessen the impact on the environment.

Wi-Fi Zone *presented by JobsOhio*

Share that selfie! A free outdoor Wi-Fi Zone will be provided along the WNCI Food Highway between the Bricker Marketplace Building and the WCOL Celeste Center only. Simply select "Free Fair WiFi" as the network. Make sure to use #ohiostatefair when you post those photos!

Accessibility

The Ohio State Fair is committed to inclusion and accessibility. Read more about our services, or contact us at info@expo.ohio.gov or 614-644-3247 if you have any questions regarding your visit.

Accessible Parking

Accessible parking is available in the main O'Reilly Auto Parts parking lots. Please let the parking attendant know you are looking for accessible parking and they will direct you to the correct area.

Accessible Restrooms

- Brown Sheep Building
- Cardinal Restroom
- WCOL Celeste Center (open during concerts)*
- Ag-Pro Companies Taft Coliseum
- Cooper Arena
- Gilligan Livestock Complex
- Nationwide® Land & Living. presented by Ohio Farm Bureau
- Bricker Market Place Building
- Kasich Hall*
- Natural Resources Park
- Rhodes Center lobby**
- Taste of Ohio Café*
- Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center
- Youth Exploration Space presented by Intel®

*Family restroom available.

**This restroom is not fully accessible, but some accommodations have been made such as grab bars, elevated seats, door changes, etc.

Universal changing table available, courtesy of Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services.



Service Animals

Service animals, defined as those that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability, are welcome to attend the Fair. Service animal relief areas with waste receptacles will be available on the Rhodes Center Lawn, in Central Park, and in Natural Resources Park. Patrons attempting to bring non-service animals into the Fair, including emotional support, comfort, therapy, companion, and all other animals not included in the scope of service animals, will be asked to remove those animals from the Fair for the safety of our guests and the pets. Pets are not permitted on the grounds during the Fair with the exception of service dogs or animals approved as part of an exhibition or competition (such as livestock and 4-H events).

Support for Individuals Who are Blind or Have Low Vision

Individuals who are blind or have low vision can use the Aira app for assistance navigating the Ohio State Fair for free! With access to a smartphone, you can access the Aira app to connect with a real-time agent to describe your surroundings using your smartphone camera. This service is available thanks to a partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio.

Support for Individuals Who are Deaf or Hard of hearing

ASL Signed Interpretation

ASL interpretation is provided at the Fair's opening ceremony, Marvelous Mutts shows, Great Lakes Timber (lumberjack) shows in Natural Resources Park, the Sale of Champions Livestock Auction, and for ticketed concerts in the WCOL Celeste Center.

Assisted Listening Devices

Free assisted listening devices are available for use at the WCOL Celeste Center, Main Street Stage, and the AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage. Visitors must leave a photo ID.

Support for Individuals with Mobility Impairments

Accessible Picnic Tables

Accessible picnic tables are located throughout the property.

Wheelchair Charging Stations

Free wheelchair/mobility device charging stations are located in the following buildings in partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Please look for signs indicating the charging area.

- Bricker MarketPlace Building
- Kasich Hall
- Youth Exploration Space presented by Intel®
- Natural Resources Park Pavilion
- Taste of Ohio Café
- WCOL Celeste Center

Wheelchair and scooter rentals*

HomeTown Mobility is proud to be the exclusive scooter and wheelchair rental provider for the Ohio State Fair. A limited number of wheelchairs and scooters are held for walk-up customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Manual wheelchair – \$25/day
- Electric scooter – \$70/day (8 a.m. – 11 p.m.)

*Advance reservations for wheelchairs or electric scooters are accepted online at htmia.com or by calling 1-712-938-2029 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (CST), Monday – Friday. The company is open seven days a week during the Fair to accept call-in reservations and answer questions from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (CST). There is an additional \$5



processing fee for all call-in reservations. Reservations will ONLY be accepted for full day scooter and wheelchair rentals and must be made at least 24 hours in advance. A driver's license or state ID is required for all rentals. Cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance to receive a full refund, minus a \$5 cancellation fee.

A limited number of wheelchairs and electric scooters are available on a first-come, first-served basis. It is highly recommended that you reserve a unit to ensure you have a rental for the day of your visit.

Sensory-Friendly Morning

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We've turned down the lights and volume to make the Ohio State Fair more sensory-friendly in partnership with OCALI. Ride the rides with no flashing lights or music, visit the Fair's many educational and sensory activities, take a break in a quiet room, or use our sensory accessibility guide to find a Fair opportunity that suits you. Print social narratives, a first-then board, wait cards, and a permit that will allow you to park in a special area on the OCALI website at ocali.org.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Accessible Play Area and Sensory-Friendly Location

During peak hours, the Ohio State Fair can be noisy and can overwhelm the senses. One particular area, the 8-acre Natural Resources Park, is naturally soothing. With plenty of trees, benches, and even a waterfall, this serene area allows for some sensory refuge. It also features an accessible play area.

Quiet Room

The air-conditioned Quiet Room is located in the Taste of Ohio Café. With a small adjacent restroom, sensory items, and comfortable seating, it provides a space for quick sensory relief. Volunteer assistance during the Fair is kindly provided by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and OCALI. Note: Adjacent restroom is not accessible. Accessible restrooms, including a family restroom, are located in the building.

Concert Accessibility in the WCOL Celeste Center

Accessible Seating

Accessible seats for concerts in the WCOL Celeste Center can be purchased at the same cost directly from Ticketmaster. To view accessible seats, click the "filters" button, then toggle on the "accessibility" button to see wheelchair seating, seating for individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing, or seating for individuals who are blind or have low vision. Up to three companion seats are available for purchase adjacent to an accessible seat. Standing is prohibited in accessible seating areas.

ASL Interpretation

ASL signed interpretation is provided for all paid ticketed concerts in the WCOL Celeste Center. Seats for patrons using interpretation services are located in front of the interpreter in Section 105.

Video Screens

Large LED video screens hang stage left and stage right to provide visual enhancement of each performance (use of video screens is subject to the approval of individual performers).

Dietary Options

The Ohio State Fair wants to ensure that all fairgoers can make the most of their experience, including finding foods that fit a variety of diets. Foods that fit special dietary needs are available in locations across the Fair. If you're unsure if a specific item fits your dietary needs, be sure to ask the vendor about concerns such as cross-contamination or cross-contact. Samples of a few dietary needs, and some food offerings, are listed below as a reference. Visit ohiostatefair.com/food for a full list of restriction-friendly foods.



- **Dairy-free** - fries, beverages, non-dairy frozen treats (such as pineapple whip and shaved ice), hot dogs, hamburgers, sandwiches, nuts, and veggie bowls.
- **Gluten-free** - stir fry, frozen treats (such as pineapple whip, shaved ice, soft serve, and certain varieties of ice cream and Dippin' Dots), meat (beef, pork, chicken, lamb, etc.), French fries (confirm dedicated fryer to eliminate cross-contamination), Bratwurst, Bahama Mama, and cotton candy.
- **Vegetarian** - nuts, veggie bowl, avocado sandwich, potato chips, French fries, shaved ice, pineapple whip, sauerkraut, cole slaw, vegetable fried rice, veggie stir-fried noodles, fried vegetables, cookies, cotton candy, grilled cheese, nachos, beverages, and fruit.
- **Vegan** - nuts, veggie bowl, avocado sandwich, potato chips, French fries, shaved ice, pineapple whip, sauerkraut, beverages, and fruit.
- **Peanut-free** - mini donuts, corn dog, hot dog, grilled cheese, hamburger, meat (chicken, lamb, beef, pork, etc.), French fries, cookies, and shaved ice.
- **Tree Nut-free** - mini donuts, fudge, veggie bowls, hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled cheese, French fries, cookies, and meat options (pork, chicken, beef, lamb.)
- **Egg-free** - meat (beef, chicken, lamb, pork, etc.), Bratwurst, Bahama Mama, nuts, veggie bowl, avocado sandwich, potato chips, French fries, shaved ice, pineapple whip, sauerkraut, German potato salad, nachos, beverages, fruit.
- **Sugar-free** - certain sugar-free or unsweetened varieties of beverages including iced tea and lemonade, chicken breast, sugar-free funnel cake, and sugar-free peanut brittle.

Special days and discounts

Not all special days have a discount offer. All special days and discounts are not valid with other offers.

Special Days

Wednesday, July 26

Pepsi presents WSYX/WTTE Opening Day

Presented by Pepsi, join ABC6 and FOX28 for opening day of the Ohio State Fair! See live broadcasts throughout the day at the AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage, grab a selfie with local TV anchors, and be sure to follow along on social media to see the latest weather updates from ABC6.

Thursday, July 27

Telhio and Ronald McDonald House Charities Day

When one of the following “wish list” items is brought to a booth outside the admission gates, each donating participant will receive a voucher good for a BOGO free admission ticket before 6 p.m.: Canned chicken or vegetable, disposable plates or silverware, napkins, paper towels, or condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, ranch dressing). All donations will support families at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio.

WOSU Kids Day

10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Central Park

Join WOSU Public Media in Central Park south of the Gazebo for a chance to meet some of your favorite PBS KIDS® characters on July 27 only! The event, designed to keep the whole family entertained, will offer PBS KIDS® activity stations. Get your photo with your favorite PBS KIDS® characters including:

- Daniel Tiger (Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood)
- Katerina Kittycat (Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood)
- Alma (Alma's Way)
- Elinor (Elinor Wonders Why)
- Ari (Elinor Wonders Why)



- Olive (Elinor Wonders Why)

Friday, July 28

RecoveryOhio's Mental Health Day

Governor Mike DeWine created the RecoveryOhio initiative to address substance use disorders and mental illness by coordinating the work of state departments, boards, and commissions and investing in the health and well-being of Ohioans. On July 28, you will find behavioral health resources at state agency booths throughout the fair to help make prevention, treatment, and recovery supports more visible and accessible to all Ohioans.

Sunday, July 30

Buckeye Health Plan Day

Join Buckeye Health at the Cardinal Gate for fun giveaways and health information on Buckeye Day, Sunday, July 30. Visit between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to spin the wheel and win a free prize! Bring kids to our fitness challenge at the Main Street Stage from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fitness Challenge participants will have the chance to win one of six free bikes! Providing great health information and fun fitness activities is just one way that Buckeye is transforming the health of our community, one person at a time. Learn more at [ChooseBuckeye.com](https://www.choosebuckeye.com).

Veterans & Military Day

Veterans and active military are honored on this day. In addition, active military and veterans are given free admission today (and any day of the Ohio State Fair) with appropriate identification.

Monday, July 31

NBC4 Family Discount Day

Adults will be admitted for the kids' admission price of \$10, and kids 12 and under will be admitted free. Until 5 p.m., purchase ride-all-day wristbands for just \$18! All riders are required to have a wristband or credits to ride.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

Senior Day

Seniors ages 60 and up can enjoy free admission, Aug. 1 only, all day long! In addition, all fairgoers are invited to enjoy the free 1964 The Tribute (Beatles Tribute) concert *presented by AARP Ohio* in the WCOL Celeste Center at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

Sensory-Friendly Morning, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We've turned down the lights and volume to make the Ohio State Fair more sensory-friendly in partnership with OCALI. Ride the rides with no flashing lights or music, visit the Fair's many educational and sensory activities, take a break in a quiet room, or use our sensory accessibility guide to find a Fair opportunity that suits you. Print social narratives, a first-then board, wait cards, and a permit that will allow you to park in a special area on the OCALI website at ocali.org.

[Click here for more information.](#)

WBNS-10TV Day

Join the 10TV crew for several broadcasts throughout the day at the Gazebo.

Saturday, Aug. 5

Donate Life Ohio Day

Donate Life Ohio is dedicated to educating Ohioans about the need for organ, eye, and tissue donation and inspiring them to register their donation decision in the Ohio Donor Registry. Say "yes!" to organ and tissue donation and be sure to stop by the Donate Life Ohio booth to learn more.



State Fair
JULY 26 - AUGUST 6, 2023



2023 MEDIA GUIDE

Discounts

\$3 Thursdays

Returning for a second year, both Thursdays of the Fair, all vendors will be offering a menu item of their choice at a smaller size for just \$3! This new initiative is the perfect way to try some beloved “Fair fare” signature food options without breaking the bank! This event occurs on both Thursdays of the Ohio State Fair, July 27 and Aug. 3. A full list of \$3 Thursday items can be found at ohiostatefair.com/3-thursday.



Fun Facts

By the Numbers

History

- 10: Cities that have hosted the Ohio State Fair (Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Newark, Sandusky, Zanesville, Toledo, Springfield, Mansfield; it has been permanently at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus since 1886)

Competitions

- 6,278: Different classes of competitions that individuals can enter during the 2023 Ohio State Fair, including crafts, fine arts, sporting events, livestock, gardening, cooking, baking, etc.
- 26,825: Entries in livestock, agriculture and horticulture, creative arts, fine arts, and youth arts, all of which are judged through the Ohio State Fair. This does not include competitions such as 4-H, sporting events, and other competitions.

Sale of Champions

- 55: The anniversary the Sale of Champions will celebrate in 2023; there was a Sale of Champions held in 2021 during the livestock-only event
- 510: Youth champions honored since the first Sale of Champions in 1968
- \$8,590,034: Total amount made from livestock sales since 1968
- \$4,691,150: Total amount collected for the Youth Reserve Program since its inception in 1996, which funds scholarships, the outstanding market exhibitor program, outstanding breeding exhibitor program, showmanship, skillathons, 4-H, and FFA

Food

Year after year, the Ohio State Fair sells jaw-dropping quantities of Fair favorites from our talented vendors:

- 146: Number of food vendor locations
- 23: Number of different foods served on a stick
- 57: Number of deep-fried foods

Butter Cow and Sculpture

- 500: Average number of hours spent working on the sculptures by a team of artists each year
- 119: Number of years ago that the first butter cow and calf were displayed in 1903
- 2,200: Pounds of butter used to create the sculptures in 2019
- 600: Approximate number of hours it took to complete the 2022 butter sculpture display
- 2,530: Pounds of butter used to create the sculptures in 2022
- The 2022 butter sculpture display was the largest display to date

Personnel

- The Ohio Expo Center's permanent staff comprises 56 employees, 50 of whom work full time.
- The current longest serving employee has worked here for 47 years.
- For the 2022 Ohio State Fair, nearly 700 seasonal staff members were added to payroll to work between May and August 2022. That does not include all individuals contracted to work in preparation, during, and following the Ohio State Fair.

Landscaping



- The Ohio Expo Center grows many of the beautiful plants and flowers located throughout the grounds in three greenhouses located on the property, planting and growing plants and flowers beginning in the winter, around late February, each year.
- The Ohio Expo Center also purchased approximately 6,000 flower plugs from Bildsten Landscape Services for the various landscaping beds and pots located throughout the grounds.

Food and Shopping

Eaton Cookies

- Eaton Cookies is Ohio born and raised. It is named after the founder's hometown of Eaton, Ohio.
- They go through 1,000 pounds of chocolate chips and almost two tons of ingredients each year at the Ohio State Fair.

Petty Concessions

- Petty Concessions has celebrated over 50 years participating at the Ohio State Fair, selling pizza, lemon shake-ups, and much more!

Ohio Pork Council

- In a single Ohio State Fair, the Ohio Pork Producers sold nearly 3,400 barbecue pork sandwiches, more than 1,000 pig wings, over 1,000 pork chops on a stick, nearly 3,700 pork loin sandwiches, 650 pork nachos, and 700 pork wraps. Their booth is staffed by Ohio pork producers and local FFA chapters. It takes 20 volunteers each day of the fair (12 days) to keep up with the large crowd that visits the Taste of Ohio Café. The Ohio Pork Council enjoys having a presence in the Taste of Ohio Café to showcase the fruit of our labor to fair attendees and allow them to interact with farmers.

Beef

- In a given year, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association sells a total of 10,000 ribeye sandwiches combined from both their stands.
- They sell approximately 12,000 total burgers and cheeseburgers each year.

Ohio Poultry Association

- One of the Ohio Poultry Association's most popular food items during the Ohio State Fair is the chicken and noodle bowl. During an average year at the Ohio State Fair, the Ohio Poultry Association's food booth sells more than 2,000 chicken and noodle bowls.

Attendance

Records

- 12-day attendance record: 982,305, set in 2015
- Single-day attendance record: 115,288, set on Sunday, July 28, 2013. The previous record of 110,234 was set on Aug. 13, 2006.

Past Ohio State Fair Attendance Figures:

- **2022:** 886,925
- **2021:** Livestock/competition-only fair
- **2020:** No fair held.
- **2019:** 934,925
- **2018:** 908,306



- **2017:** 801,031
- **2016:** 921,214
- **2015:** 982,305
- **2014:** 916,724
- **2013:** 903,824
- **2012:** 840,306
- **2011:** 833,304
- **2010:** 812,237
- **2009:** 826,037
- **2008:** 809,321
- **2007:** 806,301
- **2006:** 814,152
- **2005:** 802,074
- **2004:** 850,218

Butter Cow

In 1903, the first-ever butter cow and calf sculptures were featured at the Ohio State Fair when they were entered into a butter sculpting contest sponsored by The Ohio State University and the Dairy Processors of Ohio. The subjects of this early contest were not restricted to specific subject matter, but the life-size cow sculpted by A.T. Shelton & Company, distributors of Sunbury Co-Operative Creamery butter, became such a popular attraction that it later became a permanent attraction.

Eventually, the butter cow and calf found a permanent home in the Dairy Products Building, which was built in 1925. New cow and calf sculptures have become a time-honored tradition. They are created each year, along with a mystery sculpture that reflects the positive ideals and cultural trends in Ohio.

Topping 2019, and all previous sculptures, the 2022 butter cow and calf display was the largest to date. Using 2,530 pounds of butter on the display, it took the sculptors approximately 600 hours to complete the giant display that was a tribute to Ohio's agricultural roots.

The Ohio State Fair is home to the largest butter sculpture display of any fair in the country!

One of the most common questions we hear about the butter sculptures is - "What happens to the butter after the fair?" The American Dairy Association Mideast uses butter past its expiration date and not able to be consumed. After the Fair, the butter is recycled and refined into an ingredient used in products like biodiesel, animal feed, tires, and cosmetics.

Some previously featured butter sculptures include:

- A bald eagle
- A Hasbro Tonka Truck
- A salute to the armed forces
- A tribute to Ohio's dairy farmers
- A tribute to Ohio symbols
- A tribute to The Ohio State University football national champions
- A tribute to the Olympics
- Columbus Bicentennial birthday cake
- Darth Vader
- Dave Thomas of Wendy's
- Jack Nicklaus
- John Glenn





- Mr. Monopoly
- The Liberty Bell

Ohio Agricultural Facts

- In 2020, Ohio's agricultural production ranked:
 - First (1st) in Swiss cheese production, with more than 155.8 million pounds produced
 - Second (2nd) in eggs, with 10.1 billion eggs
 - Seventh (7th) in soybeans, with 263 million bushels
 - Eighth (8th) in corn, with 564.3 million bushels
 - Eighth (8th) in hogs, with 2.7 million head Tenth (10th) in turkeys, with 6 million head
- Ohio has 77,800 farms, spanning 13.6 million acres
- According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Ohio is home to 68,027 individual or family-owned farms
- Food and agriculture are Ohio's number one industry.
- Ohio is home to more than 1,000 food processing companies.
- Food and agriculture contribute more than \$105 billion to the state's economy.
- Ohio produces more than 200 commercial crops.
- Well-known products, like Dum-Dum suckers, Goldfish crackers, Yoplait yogurt, Campbell's soup, Totino's pizza rolls, and Velvet ice cream, are made here in Ohio!

History

Brief Summary

Since the very first Ohio State Fair in 1850, the event has sought to bring Ohioans together. With a history rooted in agriculture, the first fairs traveled the state annually, rotating through 10 different cities to bring the fair to the people. In 1886, it landed at its current permanent home close to the railroad, making it easier for Ohioans to get to the Fair.

Today, the Ohio State Fair remains rooted in agriculture, celebrating Ohio's products, people, and their accomplishments. With a vast program featuring entertainment, music, arts, livestock shows, food, and more, the 12-day event brings together Ohioans of all ages and backgrounds from each of the state's 88 counties.

Full History

In 1846, the Ohio Legislature created the Board of Agriculture, which was made up of 53 members. One of the Board's first acts was to establish a District Fair. The resulting 1847 District Fair at Wilmington and the 1848 District Fair at Xenia were both successful, thus warranting a State Fair.

The first Ohio State Fair was planned for September 1849, but an outbreak of Asiatic Cholera forced the cancellation of those plans. The following year, later dates were set to lessen the risk of cholera. Even so, Darius Lapham, the superintendent of the grounds, died of the disease just a few weeks before the opening date.

Camp Washington (two miles east of downtown Cincinnati) was the site of the first Ohio State Fair, Oct. 2 – 4, 1850. The site was described as eight to 10 acres with grass slopes, shade trees, and numerous tents. The grounds were enclosed by a 10-foot-high board fence. Cattle were tethered to a railing along the carriage road.

The railroads offered strong support to the early state fairs. Special rates were offered where exhibits were transported without charge, and the exhibitor rode for half fare. Several central Ohioans contributed to the first Fair, including Alfred Kelley, owner of the Columbus and Xenia Railroad Company.



Cash premiums at the first Fair did not exceed \$20, with the exception of an award of \$50 given to the winning essayists on the topic of “Improving the Soil.” During the early state fairs, winners received medals, rather than ribbons, as awards. In 1850, the silver medal was valued at \$3.

The public was admitted only on the second and third days of the first Fair. Day one was devoted to setup and judging. Admission was 20 cents, but exhibitors could buy a \$1 badge for admission for their families. A visitor could also buy a \$1 badge for one gentleman and two ladies. The two-day attendance was estimated at 25,000 to 30,000 people.

Transportation around Ohio was difficult. Therefore, the majority of exhibitors lived near the Fair. In 1886, the Fair moved to its current home at what is now called the Ohio Expo Center. The main entrance to the site was at the southwest corner of the grounds along Woodward Avenue. The OHIO Gate entrance is currently located at 11th Avenue.

Since its inception, the Ohio State Fair has been held in the following cities:

- 1850 – Cincinnati
- 1851 – Columbus (on the site of Mt. Carmel Hospital)
- 1852 – Cleveland
- 1853 – Dayton
- 1854 – Newark
- 1855 – Columbus (on the site of Mt. Carmel Hospital)
- 1856 – Cleveland
- 1857 – Cincinnati
- 1858 – Sandusky
- 1859 – Zanesville
- 1860 – 1861 - Dayton
- 1862 – 1863 - Cleveland
- 1864 – 1865 - Columbus (on the site of Schiller Park)
- 1866 – 1867 - Dayton
- 1868 – 1869 - Toledo
- 1870 – 1871 - Springfield
- 1872 – 1873 - Mansfield
- 1874 – 1885 – Columbus (on the site of Franklin Park)
- 1886 – present – Columbus (Ohio Expo Center)

Historical Milestones

- **1853** – Entertainment entered the Fair programming with pony rides for children and monkeys dressed in hats that danced to minstrel tunes. *The Ohio State Fair acknowledges the latter is wrong today and was wrong then. This fact is included because to ignore it would be akin to claiming that injustices were never part of the Fair. The Fair recognizes its past offenses and actively works to correct and learn from them as we work to further diversity, equity, and inclusion at the Fair.*
- **1860** – Fair premiums rose to \$200, up from \$20 in 1850.
- **1886** – The Ohio State Fair moved to its current home, the Ohio Expo Center, which today encompasses 360 acres and is home to more than 175 events each year, contributing approximately \$478 million to the state and local economy.
- **1888** – Ohioans celebrated the centennial of the land that would become the State of Ohio. This year marked the centennial of an important event in Ohio’s history, the creation of the Northwest Territory. Ohio became the first state formed from the Northwest Territory in 1803. Ohio cancelled the State Fair in 1888 and held a celebration of the centennial of the Northwest Territory in its place.
- **1896** – The Ohio State Fair became the first fair with an electric lighting system. This made it possible to offer nighttime racing. Horseless vehicles also made their first appearance this year.
- **1903** – The first butter cow and calf were featured at the Fair, sculpted by A. T. Shelton & Company, distributors of Sunbury Cooperative Creamery butter. Additional sculptures were added in the 1960s.
- **1905** – Livestock entries broke records in all departments, especially with 576 sheep in the nation’s largest sheep show of its kind.
- **1916** – In the midst of World War I, patriotism became a Fair theme. The world’s largest American flag, which was 8,840 square feet in size, was displayed at the 11th Avenue entrance gate.



- **1922** – Just days before the scheduled opening of the Fair, fire raced across the grounds. Six buildings were destroyed including the central group, the Horticulture Building, and the East and West Buildings. Losses were estimated at more than \$800,000.
- **1924** – Earliest records of the Ohio State Fair Queen contest date back to this year.
- **1925** – The Diamond Jubilee Spectacle saluted the 75th anniversary of the Fair. More than 2,000 participants enacted the evolution of the Fair in three 25-year periods on three stages. The All-Ohio State Fair Band was formed this year.
- **1928** – The renowned John Philip Sousa Band performed twice daily at the 1928 Fair.
- **1929** – The Junior Fair was formed this year.
- **1941** – A sign of the times found 150 female Fair ticket-takers hired in place of men for the first time.
- **1942 – 1945** – The Board of Agriculture canceled the Ohio State Fair and allowed the war department to use the grounds and buildings for handling airplane parts and equipment for World War II. The Army Air Corps rented the facility for \$1 per year. A similar fate befell fairs in Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.
- **1955** – Shuttle buses were introduced.
- **1957** – The first female livestock judge, Mrs. Maurice Neville, judged the Yorkshire Swine Show.
- **1963** – The All-Ohio Youth Choir was established.
- **1966** – The original OHIO Gate was built at the 11th Avenue entrance, costing \$40,000.
- **1968** – The first Sale of Champions Livestock Auction was held with sales amounting to \$22,674.
- **1969** – The first portion of the SkyGlider was built. It was later extended to 11th Avenue in 1984. The Giant Slide also opened this year.
- **1972** – Fire struck the Ohio Expo Center in October during the American Dairy Show. Three barns were burned, killing three head of cattle and destroying virtually all the exhibitors' belongings. These buildings have since been replaced by the Gilligan Complex and the O'Neill Swine Building.
- **1976** – In celebration of the country's bicentennial, a time capsule was buried in the gardens near the 11th Avenue gate (now known as the OHIO Gate). It holds treasures of the times from the Ohio State Fair: Ohio sports teams, coins and stamps, a T-shirt, Levis, and tennis shoes. It will be opened in 2026.
- **1986** – A 12-foot tall, 16-foot-long cardinal sitting atop a 4-foot base was installed at the north entrance of the grounds. The bird, constructed of fiberglass, weighs approximately 500 pounds and still stands today.
- **1990** – The condemned Ohio State Fair Grandstand was demolished. The Celeste Center, which opened in 1991, replaced it as the site for the Fair's big-name entertainment, as well as a venue for many non-fair events throughout the year.
- **1995** – The George V. Voinovich Livestock and Trade Center was completed.
- **2002** – The 11th Avenue OHIO Gate, originally built in 1966, was torn down and reconstructed using a more contemporary design.
- **2003** – The Ohio State Fair celebrated its 150th Fair. The first Fair was held in 1850 and there has been one every year since, excluding 1888 and 1942 to 1945.
- **2004** – The length of the Fair was changed from 17 days to 12 days.
- **2010** – The Coliseum was rededicated in honor of former Governor Bob Taft.
- **2011** – To recognize a wider range of exhibitors, market meat goats, turkeys, and cheese were added to the Sale of Champions in 2011.
- **2013** – The 2013 overall Sale of Champions record was broken and reset at \$344,950.
- **2015** – In an effort to protect Ohio's poultry industry from the avian flu, all species of poultry shows, as well as displays in the Natural Resources Park, petting zoo birds, and all other bird exhibits or shows, were not held at the 2015 Fair. The Buckeye Agriculture Complex was completed. The Fair set an overall 12-day attendance record with 982,305 visitors.
- **2016** – The modern, 100,000 square-foot Cardinal Hall opened on the former site of DiSalle Center, Heritage Building, and Adobe Center. This new building houses the Fair's Creative Arts and Youth Arts Exhibits, the permanent Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame exhibit, the heritage handmade crafts, and the model railroad exhibit.
- **2017** – The Sale of Champions livestock auction celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Ohio State Fair. Buyers have supported the Sale of Champions with a total of \$6,721,229 in purchases since the first



auction in 1968. The total amount of funds awarded from the Youth Reserve Program since its 1995 inception is \$3,366,815.

- **2019** – Cardinal Hall was dedicated in honor of outgoing Governor John R. Kasich and was renamed Kasich Hall on January 4, 2019.
- **2020** – The Fair was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A smaller, virtual celebration replaced the traditional in-person event.
- **2021** – The Fair returned as a livestock-only event during the COVID-19 pandemic, and was not open to the public.
- **2022** – The Ohio State Fair returned for the first full fair since 2019. The Sale of Champions Livestock Auction broke every record.
- **2023** – The Reserve Grand Champion Boer Goat was added to the Sale of Champions Livestock Auction, and all caps were raised.
- **2023** — The Youth Reserve Program was dedicated and renamed the Virgil L. Strickler Youth Reserve Program.

Sale of Champions History

Established by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1968, the Ohio State Fair Sale of Champions was created to showcase the fair's top youth livestock exhibitors, provide an attraction to promote agriculture and attract the interest of generous buyers to support exhibitors and reward their excellence. Governor Rhodes and the Ohio State Fair recognized the hard work, long hours, and leadership potential of Ohio's youth livestock exhibitors. By creating the Sale of Champions, the Ohio State Fair also established a way to financially help those young exhibitors.

Before the Sale of Champions was created, individual champions were auctioned in the various barns and locations throughout the grounds of the Ohio State Fair. The prior auctions meant that those committed to seeing a single species were able to do so. The Sale of Champions brought the award-winning animals weren't under one roof in Cooper Arena, where the event was held for decades.

The first Sale of Champions in 1968 saw the Grand and Reserve Champion Barrows, Lambs, and Steers sold – and brought in a total of \$22,674. Grand and Reserve Champion Meat Chickens were added a decade later in 1978. In 2011, Grand Champion Swiss Cheese, Grand Champion Boer Goat, and Grand Champion Turkey were added. In 2023, the Reserve Grand Champion Boer Goat is being added.

Merlin Woodruff, who had been selling livestock at the Ohio State Fair since 1952, served as the auctioneer at the Sale of Champions from its inception through 1998, when Johnny Regula took over as the primary auctioneer. Kevin Wendt was added as auctioneer for the Grand Champion Swiss Cheese, Grand Champion Boer Goat, and Grand Champion Turkey in 2011.

On August 6, 2022, for the first time in its history, the Ohio State Fair Sale of Champions livestock auction broke every single record, as well as the overall record, totaling \$676,500.

Accolades

- CityScene Magazine – Best of the 'Bus Best Annual Event for Out-of-Towners (2016)
- Columbus Dispatch CBUS Top Picks – Best Festival/Fair (2016)
- Columbus Parent Family Faves Favorite Festival, Honorable Mention (2018)
- Country Living Coolest State Fairs Around the U.S. (2023)
- Family Vacation Critic – 12 Epic State Fairs Every Family Should Experience (2019)
- Forbes – America's Top State Fairs (2012)
- Huffington Post – 10 Best State Fairs in the U.S, ranked #5 (2014)



- Our Family World – The Best State Fairs to check out this summer (2016)
- Reader’s Digest - Best Fair in Ohio (2022)
- Thrillist - Best State Fairs in the U.S.
- Travel Magazine – named as one of the “Best U.S. State Fairs.” (2017)
- Travel & Leisure – Best State Fairs (2018)
- Uproxx – The Biggest and Best State Fairs For You To Travel To This Summer (2018)
- USA Today 10 Best Reader’s Choice – Best State Fairs (2015)
- Vacations Made Easy – The 20 Best State Fairs in America (2015)
- Yahoo! Travel – 7 Best State Fairs in America (2014)

New this year

New Entertainers

The Reflector & Sparkle, Daily

Strolling

The Reflector & Sparkle are two roaming acts that you can’t miss due to their shining display! Their costumes are covered head to toe with mirrors making them human mirror balls! Make sure to get a photo of them while walking around the grounds.

The Farmers Daughter, July 26 – 31

Entertainment Alley

The Farmer's Daughter Show is acrobatics, circus stunts, and farmyard fun filled with homegrown humor. Molly brings a sense of community to her show that only a small town girl with big country charm can do. This one-woman show harvests bales of belly laughter and truck loads of unique tricks. Farm-tastic gymnastics, rowdy rope tricking, and a one-of-a-kind milk bottle walk finale combine for an udderly amazing show filled with corny humor. Yee haw!

Major League Circus Show, July 26 – 31

Entertainment Alley

The Major League Circus Show is the ultimate tribute to the great game of baseball. Join Paz as he knuckle balls his way through a Grand Slam mix of acrobatics, juggling, and one-of-a-kind circus stunts. This trip to the “ballpark” is nine innings of family-friendly fun that is sure to be a bat flippin’ good time for all.

Barrel O’ Fun Magic Show, Aug. 1 – 6

Entertainment Alley

Find Charlie moseying around Entertainment Alley with his Barrel O’ Fun. This classic presentation of magic and comedy will have audience members amazed and rolling on the ground laughing. You can catch Delilah Davenport alongside Charles Chesterfield, but watch out, she may have a few tricks up her sleeve!

Roberto the Magnificent, Aug. 1 - 6

Strolling

Every one of Roberto’s performances is filled with comedic chatter, breathtaking visual stunts, and lots of audience participation! Audiences love his wild comical antics, high-energy pace, and amazing stunts. Roberto the Magnificent’s Crazy Comedy Stunt Show is appealing to adults and children alike!

New Musicians

For full descriptions, see “Free Musical Entertainment” on page 38.

- **Justin Larkin** | July 26, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage



- **Raven Rae** | July 27, Main Street Stage
- **Cole Ritter & The Night Owls** | July 28, Main Street Stage
- **Ryan Mundy** | July 28, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **Bootleg Royale** | July 29, Main Street Stage
- **Steve Madewell** | July 29, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **Acoustic Super Friends** | July 30, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **NACHO Street Band** | July 30, Main Street Stage
- **New Frontiers – Journey Tribute** | July 30, Main Street Stage
- **Candace Campana** | July 31, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **Deuce n’ a Quarter** | July 31, Main Street Stage
- **Chaz and Nicki** | Aug. 1, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **Yumbabé** | Aug. 1, Main Street Stage
- **Blue Spectrum** | Aug. 2, Main Street Stage
- **Roxy Janes** | Aug. 3, Main Street Stage
- **Simba Jordan** | Aug. 4, Main Street Stage
- **Ella X** | Aug. 5, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **School of Rock** | Aug. 5 Main Street Stage
- **Lisa Carrington** | Aug. 6, AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage
- **Party Punch** | Aug. 6, Main Street Stage
- **Shazzbots** | Aug. 6, Main Street Stage

New Full Fair Attractions

Entertainment Alley | Near Fair Flea Market (formerly Antiques and Collectibles Pavilion)

Visitors can enjoy pop-up performances from international performers when they step into Entertainment Alley located near the Fair Flea Market (formerly known as Shoppes at North Commercial).

Moo U Guided Barn Tours | OVMA Veterinary Education Pavilion

Tour the Ohio State Fair livestock barns and facilities with the Moo U Guided Tour Company. Learn about the livestock in barns, Ohio agriculture, and ask questions along the way on the educational and engaging tours. Tours will be given once each hour during the Fair.

Ohio History Center and Ohio Village | North of Main Cardinal Gate Entrance

Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Daily

For the first time ever, fairgoers will have the ability to visit the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village for free during their visit to the Ohio State Fair. Hop on the shuttle that stops just outside of Kasich Hall to ride over to the Center or Village from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the Fair. Grab a daily schedule or download the Ohio State Fair app for a full list of events happening each day at Ohio Village and Ohio History Connection.

Touch-a-Truck Exhibit | Lausche Youth Exploration Space Lawn

Visit the lawn of the Lausche Youth Exploration Space for an opportunity to explore different types of vehicles from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and others!

New Competitions

- **Brick Art** (ages 11–17 and ages 18 and older) — Additional Crafting
- **Buckeye Themed Cookie** — Cookies & Pastries
- **Christmas Tree Decorating** — Holiday Art
- **Cricut Crafting** — Additional Crafting
- **Duct Tape Item** — Themed Entry



- **Wearable Non-Jewelry Beaded Art** — Jewelry Beaded Art
- **Wet Felting** — Felting

New Food

Download the Ohio State Fair app for a full list of vendor menus and locations.

Avalanche Floats - Funky Flamingo

Choose between a variety of frozen fruit flavors to keep yourself cool during a hot day at the fair.

Build Your Own Cookie Sandwich - Funky Flamingo

With a variety of flavors and options, you can build your own cookie sandwich every day at the fair.

Cookie Dough Explosion - Funky Flamingo

This classic topping is now its own snack with a fun sundae twist. A freshly-baked chocolate chip cookie, topped with a salted caramel gelato, scoops of cookie dough and covered in hot fudge, caramel, whipped cream and Oreos, is just what you need during your day at the fair.

Crawfish Bowls - Big G's Food Service

If you're looking for a seafood dish, this treat is for you, taking boiled crawfish to another level mixed with corn and vegetables.

Deviled Eggs - Ohio Poultry Association

This traditional side dish is back at the fair with a new twist. rotating daily: cotton candy, lemon meringue, chocolate, s'mores, Mexican street corn, everything bagel, honey fig blackberry, maple bacon jalapeño, sweet Korean, crunchy chili, tomato bacon ranch, and Greek deviled eggs.

Dipped Cookie Dough - Funky Flamingo

Try this twist on edible cookie dough by having it dipped in chocolate and sprinkles with your favorite traditional toppings.

Dipped Fruit - Funky Flamingo

If you're looking for something healthy and sweet, this fruity snack is for you. Dipped in chocolate and covered in your favorite traditional toppings, this dipped fruit will keep you on your feet throughout your day at the fair.

Flaming Hot Cheeto Burger - Dickerson & Kenna

You won't want to miss this spicy hot burger at the fair, taking flamin' hot cheetos to the next level.

Fresh Squeezed Blue Raspberry Lemon Shakes - Prowant Speciality Company

Enjoy this crisp and refreshing lemon and blue raspberry drink with a fun, shaking spin.

Gelato Tacos - Funky Flamingo

Enjoy this cold and refreshing spin on the Mexican meal with a variety of classic toppings.

Gelato Nachos - Funky Flamingo

You won't want to miss out on this deliciously sweet treat on a hot day at the fair.

Giant Shaved Gourmet Ice - Concessions by Cox

You may have had this refreshing snack before, but this year you can get it much, much larger with a variety of unique flavor options such as mango with spicy chamoy sauce, chili/lime seasoning (including a tamarind



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candy straw), maple bacon, Orange Creamsicle, Shark Attack, Nerd-iac and toppings like fresh fruit and sweet cream and candies.

Homemade Gelato - Funky Flamingo

Enjoy this traditional Italian dessert on a hot fair day, served with a variety of flavors.

Mac and Cheese Bowl - Concessions by Cox

This cheesy and yummy meal has a variety of toppings such as roast beef, buffalo chicken, bacon, chili, green onions, crushed tortilla chips, shredded cheese, and jalapeños.

Nacho Sundae - North American Food Service Inc.

The only time you'll find this dish is at the fair. The unique spin on a classic sundae involves broken waffle cones as chips and hot fudge and caramel whipped cream as the nacho toppings. You also have the chance to add nuts on top if you're interested.

Tornados - Funky Flamingo

Enjoy this whipped, soft-serve treat with your choice of toppings during your day at the fair.



Rides

Following a six-month long selection and vetting process to pick a new ride provider for the Ohio State Fair, Talley Amusements from Fort Worth, Texas, was chosen to be the newest ride provider for the 2019 Fair. The company returned for the 2022 Fair and will again be the midway provider in 2023. This is the final year of the current contract, and a selection process is currently underway for the Ohio State Fair ride provider for 2024 and beyond.

Talley Amusement Company has more than 200 years of experience providing amusing rides to parks and fairs across the United States. It all started in 1908 when Mary Talley's great grandfather started with just one piece of equipment to create a real-life merry-go-round. He eventually started charging Texas residents one dollar per ride. "My dad used to walk from town to town booking his one show," said Mary's grandmother. Soon, he saw potential for the amusement business and the rest was history.

The amusement company was created by husband and wife, Tom and Mary Talley. The two have known each other since they were just children, both of their parents were presidents of the Lonestar Showman Club in Texas. Tom and Mary became friends and eventually got married later in life. Both coming from family backgrounds of the amusement business, they used their combined knowledge of the industry to create Talley Amusement Company in 1995.

Their commitment to safety and attaining quality equipment is the reason for their astonishing safety record since the company began. Talley Amusements takes their equipment through an aggressive preventative maintenance program and extensively trains all personnel in house.

In 2023, the Ohio State Fair will feature 70 rides: 32 in Kiddieland and 38 in the Midway.

Buildings and Stages

Administration Building (1909)

8 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closes at 5 p.m. on Aug. 6)

This building houses many of the Ohio Expo Center staff offices.

Bricker MarketPlace Building (1966)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6)

Visit commercial and informational booths offering a variety of novelties, jewelry, demonstration items, home remodelers, state agencies, and attractions, as well as the International Food Court and an Ohio beer and wine sales location.

Brown Sheep Building (1930)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (closed on Aug. 6)

This arena is home to all sheep exhibits and shows, including a store with all things wool.

Cardinal Patio

Hours vary

Special demonstrations and exhibits.

Central Park

Open all Fair hours

Relax at the center of the Fair, home to the Monster Mural, Jumbo Tic-Tac-Toe, and special activities.



Cooper Arena (1965)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Swing by this building daily for exciting beef cattle events and judging.

Cox Fine Arts Center (1909)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6)

Home to one of the largest state fair fine arts exhibitions, only the top few hundred works out of more than a thousand art entries are accepted in the 2023 Ohio State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition and displayed in a beautiful gallery setting. Patrons can also purchase artwork from the All Ohio Art Gift Shop from Ohio artists.

Dairy Products Building (1925)

9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

See the famous butter cow sculpture, which first appeared at the Ohio State Fair in 1903, while you enjoy your favorite dairy products from Ohio-produced ice cream to the celebrated cheese sandwich.

The Dog House

Open all Fair hours

This building hosts the popular Marvelous Mutts dog shows, as well as the Canine Class shows, each day of the Fair.

Fair Flea Market (*formerly Antiques & Collectibles Pavilion* - 1888)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Searching for that perfect vintage item? Look no further; a variety of dealers and exhibitors sell jewelry, records, toys, memorabilia and more at the Fair.

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Open all Fair hours

This stage is home to many talented performers, set to provide family-friendly entertainment and music at the heart of the Fair, near Central Park.

Gilligan Livestock Complex (1872 and 1978)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (closed Aug. 6)

This complex houses dairy cattle exhibits, as well as a functioning milking parlor. An air-conditioned restaurant, Ranahan's, is attached.

Infant Care and Nursing Stations *presented by Molina Healthcare*

The Ohio State Fair offers two air-conditioned family care stations, one located in Kiddieland and the other in the Taste of Ohio Café, at which parents can change their children's diapers, and mothers who prefer to breastfeed their children in privacy can do so comfortably. Additional nursing stations are located in Kasich Hall and the Bricker MarketPlace Building. Furniture graciously provided by Big Lots.

Kasich Hall (2016)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6)

The Ohio Expo Center's newest building opened in July 2016. It now houses the Fair's Creative Arts and Youth Arts exhibits (Hall B), sporting events (Hall C) and various banquets and events (Hall A), as well as the permanent Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame exhibit.

Nationwide® Donahey Land & Living *presented by Ohio Farm Bureau* (1926)

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6)

This building is home to agriculture and horticulture education, including the Land & Living exhibit. This highly interactive exhibit is full of educational activities for the whole family. Visitors will see, experience, and learn about caring for animals on the farm, how science and technology are helping farmers, and how young people can



have agricultural careers. Visitors can enjoy planting crops in a tractor simulator, shopping in an interactive grocery store, and recording their Fair memories with a complimentary photograph.

Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by Intel®* (1965)

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 6)

Stop by to view and participate in competitions, demonstrations, projects, displays, and fun interactive activities from Ohio youth organizations including Ohio 4-H, COSI, Boy Scouts, OSU Phun with Physics, Girl Scouts, First Robotics, Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Library Reading Nook, a Tiny Town play area, and Big Board Games. The Youth Center is filled with fun and educational happenings!

Main Street Stage

Show schedules available at ohiostatefair.com/events

Catch a little bit of everything at the Main Street Stage, from free live music performances to amazing hypnosis shows.

Natural Resources Park (1956)

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (times of activities vary)

Enjoy free fishing for kids, kayaking, archery, a butterfly house, and so much more in this beautiful 8-acre park maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Enjoy native Ohio wildlife, a geological walkway, a new nature center, and a tall grass prairie. The outdoor amphitheater hosts free music and entertaining programs, such as the popular lumberjack show, throughout each day of the State Fair.

O'Neill Swine Building (1973)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Check out swine exhibits, a sow and her piglets, the “big boar” - Ohio’s largest pig, and the Pork Shoppe.

Quiet Room

The air-conditioned Quiet Room is located in the Taste of Ohio Café. With a small adjacent restroom, sensory items, and comfortable seating, it provides a space for quick sensory relief. Volunteer assistance during the Fair is kindly provided by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Furniture graciously provided by Big Lots.

Rabbit and Poultry Pavilion (1905)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Roosters crow to wake the grounds at this pavilion, home to rabbit, chicken, turkey, and duck exhibits.

Rhodes Center (1956)

Open during scheduled events only

This expansive facility is the home to the All-Ohio State Fair Band presented by Buckeye Health Plan, and the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir and rehearsals. On Aug. 1, the Rhodes Center will host the annual 50 Year Club meeting.

Ag-Pro Companies Taft Coliseum (1917)

Open all Fair hours (closed Aug. 6)

This building is the site of many dairy cattle shows, grand drives, and other livestock events.

Taste of Ohio Café *presented by Ohio’s Country Journal and Ohio Ag Net* (1966)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sit down for a locally produced meal or a glass of Ohio beer or wine in this air-conditioned facility and attached patio.

Voinovich Livestock and Trade Center (1995)



8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

This expansive building is home to goat exhibits and educational activities, as well as miniature golf.

WCOL Celeste Center (1991)

Show schedules available at ohiostatefair.com

Big-name concerts and free shows are a part of the Ohio State Fair Concert Series held in this air-conditioned arena. Concessions are available for purchase, as well as Ohio beer and wine during select concerts.

Entertainment

WCOL Celeste Center Entertainment

Tickets for paid events at the Celeste Center include admission to the Fair when purchased in advance. All free events held in the WCOL Celeste Center are non-ticketed, meaning that tickets are not required for these events.

KIDZ BOP NEVER STOP LIVE

Wednesday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m., \$25

The KIDZ BOP Never Stop Live Tour is coming to the Ohio State Fair! Sing and dance along with the KIDZ BOP Kids as they perform today's biggest hits, live on stage including "As It Was," "About That Time," "Anti-Hero," and many more. This is the ultimate pop concert for kids (and the entire family), so don't miss out on making memories that will last a lifetime!

Clint Black with special guest Emily Ann Roberts

Thursday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m., \$35, \$25

With his warm baritone voice, stunning harmonica playing, and catalog of clever-mouthed hits, Clint Black is a must-see for those who like their classic country served straight-up. His original music coupled with Emily Ann Roberts' authentic country flair will make for a concert that any country music fan won't want to miss.

Third Eye Blind with special guest The Main Squeeze

Friday, July 28 at 7 p.m., \$42, \$32

Having emerged from the late-90s post-grunge scene, Third Blind Eye presents a brighter take on grunge sounds, often borrowing themes from classic rock and pop chords. The concert promises high-energy interactions with the audience, especially while their special guest, The Main Squeeze, takes the stage along with them.

Keith Sweat with special guest Ginuwine

Saturday, July 29 at 7 p.m., \$45, \$35

Pioneering his style fusing electro-hip-hop production and contemporary R&B, Keith Sweat became one of the most popular R&B/soul producers, singers, and songwriters of the late 80s and 90s. Now, he returns to the stage, along with fellow 90s R&B artist Ginuwine, to give the Ohio State Fair a concert to remember.

Yung Gravy and bbno\$

Sunday, July 30 at 7:30 p.m., \$47, \$37

Spinning smooth and slippery rhymes through trap beats, Yung Gravy's infectious energy shines through him hip hop music and performances. Joined by his frequent collaborator, bbno\$, this duo is dedicated to leaving a lasting impression on the rap scene as well as their audience at the Ohio State Fair.

Casting Crowns

Monday, July 31 at 7 p.m., \$32, \$22

Beginning as a student worship group on Florida, Casting Crowns has blossomed over the years into one of the most popular contemporary Christian rock groups around. Along with singer and songwriter Mark Hall, and the rest of the band, Casting Crowns is sure to put on a moving concert packed with worship and fellowship.



Ludacris

Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m., \$55, \$45

As far as sonic recognizability goes, few rappers can top the unmistakable timbre of Ludacris' signature sound. Luda has been a large presence in rap music ever since his 1998 on-record debut, and he has shown no signs of slowing down. This year at the Ohio State Fair, fans are sure to get some special treatment during his performance packed full of his greatest hits.

STYX with special guest Foghat

Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m., \$50, \$40

Any fan of classic rock has likely been dazzled by Styx a time or two since the groups inception in 1972. Bringing all the best rock tunes from the 70s and 80s to life on stage, this concert is not one to skip. If one classic rock group isn't enough, audience members will be delighted to hear Styx will be joined by Foghat. Founded just one year prior to Styx, Foghat formed in 1971 in London and has been delivering electrifying performances all over the world ever since.

Tyler Hubbard with special guest Matt Stell

Thursday, Aug. 3 at 7:30 p.m., \$50, \$40

Country music fans, this one is for you! Tyler Hubbard spent more than a decade as half of the dynamic duo Florida Georgia Line. Now striking out on his own, the Georgia born country star is rising to the top of every country music chart with his new songs such as '5 Foot 9' and 'Dancin' In The Country.' Joining Hubbard on Aug. 3 will be singer, songwriter, and guitarist Matt Stell. His hit song 'Prayed for You' has been on country music playlists since its release in 2019.

Jeff Dunham: Still Not Canceled

Friday, Aug. 4 at 7:30 p.m., \$47, \$37

Ventriloquist and comedian Jeff Dunham has been the source of entertainment, deep belly-laughs, and long applause at several Ohio State Fairs over the years. Returning to the stage at the WCOL Celeste Center, Dunham's infectious comedy will have audience members laughing all evening long with his latest tour "Jeff Dunham: Still Not Canceled."

Lindsey Stirling with special guest Walk Off The Earth

Saturday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m., \$45, \$35

Violinist, songwriter, and dancer Lindsey Stirling caught the world's attention during her incredible performances on America's Got Talent where she rose to a quarter-finalist. For the past decade, since her time on AGT, Stirling has brought her unconventional display of classical violin, coupled with a ballet-type dancing style, to deliver an enchanted display of choreography and music to adoring fans across the world. Joining Stirling for the U.S. leg of her current tour is pop group Walk Off The Earth who has become a household name for kids and adults alike.

Free Shows in the WCOL Celeste Center

All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir

Sunday, July 30 at 1 p.m., FREE (no tickets required)

The All-Ohio State Fair Band and All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir feature the talents of high school instrumentalists and vocalists from many of Ohio's 88 counties. Members are selected through an application and recommendation process. Members of the two groups arrive just days before the Fair opens, learning all their music in a limited time. They perform daily at various times and locations, with nearly 200 total performances during the 12-day Fair. The ensembles' distinguished and experienced staff is comprised of musicians and educators who strive to provide outstanding direction and supervision to each member. During their stay at the Ohio State Fair, members work with peers who share similar interests and develop friendships that last a lifetime. This experience is unique to Ohio as we are the only state fair in the country to present such an opportunity to our youth.



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1964 The Tribute (Beatles Tribute) presented by AARP Ohio

Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m., FREE (no tickets required)

This Senior Day concert is not just for seniors. All fairgoers are invited to enjoy the great performance of 1964 The Tribute. For more than 40 years, this Beatles tribute group has recreated the sounds of the famous Beatles members and continues to take audience members back to moments in history when the original group performed in front of live audiences.

Sale of Champions Livestock Auction

Sunday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m., FREE

This special event recognizes youth exhibitors who showed the champion of their species at the Ohio State Fair by giving them the opportunity to auction their livestock exhibit. For background information on the Sale of Champions and last year's results, visit the "Sale of Champions" section of the media guide.



Past and Current Performers

38 Special

1990, 1991, 2017

Alabama

1984, 1995, 1997, 1999-2001,
2015, 2017

Alan Jackson

2001, 2003

America

1983, 2006, 2014

Aretha Franklin

2014

Bad Company

2019

bbno\$

2023

The Beach Boys

1974, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1988,
2014, 2018

Blue Öyster Cult

2000, 2009, 2014

Bob Hope

1966, 1968-1970, 1972, 1975-
1982, 1991

The Buckinghams

2001, 2019

Brad Paisley

2005, 2011

Brooks & Dunn

1996, 1999, 2000, 2004

Brothers Osborne

2018

Carl Thomas

2019

Casting Crowns

2005, 2012, 2018, 2023

The Classics IV

2019

Chanté Moore

2019

Charlie Puth

2015, 2016

Cheap Trick

1984, 1986, 1995, 2001, 2015,
2018

Chicago

1988, 2012

Chris Young

2010, 2019

Chuck Negron

2019

Clink Black

2023

Cole Swindell

2017

Con Funk Shun

2005, 2022

The Commodores

2018

The Cowsills

1969, 2019

Dierks Bentley

2008, 2009

Dionne Warwick

1973, 1983

Dolly Parton

1977-1979, 1982, 2016

The Drifters

1998, 2022

Dru Hill

2015, 2022

Emily Ann Roberts

2023

En Vogue

2018

Foghat

2014, 2016, 2019, 2023

Foreigner

1993, 2009, 2011, 2022

Gary Puckett

2000, 2019

Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias

2017, 2019, 2022

George Thorogood

2017

Ginuwine

2023

Hank Williams Jr.

1993, 2019

Heart

2010, 2014

Ice Cube

2022

Jake Owen

2015

Jeff Dunham

2009, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2018,
2023

Jimmie Allen

2019

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

1989, 2003, 2014

Joe

1998, 2004, 2017



John Kay & Steppenwolf

2000, 2016

Johnny Cash

1976, 1978, 1981, 1992, 1996

Kansas

1993, 2012

Keith Sweat

2000, 2009, 2016, 2023

Kenny Rogers

1972, 1978, 1979, 2006, 2009, 2016

KIDZ BOP

2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

Kool & the Gang

1981-1983, 1986, 1988

Kris Kristofferson

1987, 1992, 2012

Lady Antebellum

2014

Lakeside

2022

Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers

1982, 1983, 2013

Lee Brice

2018

Lindsey Stirling

2023

Lyfe Jennings

2019

Ludacris

2023

Mac Davis

1973-1978, 1981

The Main Squeeze

2023

Matt Maher

2019

Matt Stell

2023

Matthew West

2016, 2019

McGuffey Lane

1981, 1982, 2017

Meghan Trainor

2015

Merle Haggard

1975, 1991, 2007, 2012

Midnight Star

1982, 1983, 1984, 1989, 2004, 2019

Night Ranger

1985, 1987, 2011, 2019

Nelly

2022

Oak Ridge Boys

1980, 1982, 1984-1991, 1996, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016

The Osmonds / Donnie & Marie / Donnie Osmond

1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1986, 1990, 1991

Pat Boone

1967, 1975, 1976, 1980, 1988, 2002

Patti LaBelle

1985, 1991, 2015

Pentatonix

2017

Rascal Flatts

2002, 2005-2007, 2009, 2010, 2017

Raheem DaVaughn

2022

Reba

1983, 1989, 1992, 1993, 2015, 2018

REO Speedwagon

1988, 1990, 2006, 2013, 2019

Scotty McCreery

2014, 2022

Sonny & Cher

1967, 1973

The S.O.S. Band

2005, 2019

Styx

2013, 2018, 2023

Tanya Tucker

1975, 1976, 1992

Ted Vigil

2019

Third Eye Blind

2023

Toby Keith

1998, 2019

Tom Jones

1971

Travis Tritt

1992, 1996, 2002, 2004

TLC

2018

Trevor Noah

2018

The Turtles

1997, 2004, 2019

Tyler Hubbard



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2023

The Union Gap
2019

Vince Gill
1994, 1995, 1997-1999, 2002,
2004

Walk Off The Earth

2023

“Weird Al” Yankovic
1994, 2007

We the Kingdom
2022

Willie Nelson

1984, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1992,
1994, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2022

Yung Gravy
2023

Zach Williams
2017, 2022



Limited Run Free Musical Entertainment

(listed in alphabetical order; location is noted if the artist or band is from Ohio)

Acoustic Super Friends (Mansfield; acoustic rock) | July 30 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Acoustic Super Friends is one of Central Ohio's premier acoustic acts. Starring the dynamic duo of Paul Blubaugh and Evan Baisden, this act covers anything from The Who, The Cars, David Bowie, Blood Sweat & Tears, The Rolling Stones, and so many more!

Blue Spectrum (Columbus; blues, rock, and R&B) | Aug. 2, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

As a self-taught guitarist, diagnosed with autism at 4 years old, it was always Zayne Harshaw's dream to have a band. Zayne's dream would become a reality when a Special Olympics teammate of many years joined him as a rhythm guitarist. After adding a bassist, drummer, keyboardist, percussionist, and vocalist, the Columbus-based band came together under the name "Blue Spectrum," with a sound that incorporates blues, rock, R&B, soul, pop, and jazz.

Bootleg Royale (rock) | July 29 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

Hailing from Fayetteville, Arkansas, Bootleg Royale is an energetic, electrifying rock band. Full of rich vocal harmonies, tonally curated guitar riffs, and foot-tapping groove, the band presents a modern take on the nostalgia of classic rock.

Bill Foley (Columbus, classic rock) | July 26, 27, Aug. 2, 3, 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Natural Resources Park amphitheater

Bill Foley was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. As a teenager, he first started playing the drums in the South High School Marching Band. If you asked Bill about his experience as a musician, he would tell you it isn't a job – he loves what he does that much! Of course, don't be mistaken. He takes music very seriously. Bill travels nationally (with even a few international trips). Locally, he performs almost nightly. Check out one of his five Fair performances to hear for yourself!

Buckeye Blend (Columbus; a cappella) | July 27 at noon and 2 p.m.

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

For more than 20 years, the Buckeye Blend Quartet has entertained OSU presidents, coaches, and spirited Buckeye fans at tailgate shows and celebrations throughout Ohio. This barbershop quartet's mission is to enhance the expectancy of victory and crush any thoughts of defeat through song, smiles, and laughter

Candace Campana (Youngstown; country and rock) | July 31 at 1 and 2:45 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Youngstown-based artist, Candace Campana, has a distinct modern country sound with a rock influence. Most of her songs are self-written and have received radio airplay and garnered excitement and praise from listeners.

Chaz and Nicki (Columbus; acoustic) | Aug. 1 at noon and 2 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Chaz and Nicki are a dynamic duo act that creates an upbeat live acoustic show that mixes feel-good classic covers with harmony-rich originals. The duo strives to use their performance to transport listeners to another time and place with fellow music lovers alike.



Cole Ritter & The Night Owls (soul, country, and rock) | July 28, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

Founded in 2019, Cole Ritter and The Night Owls have pioneered new sonic spaces and displayed their home-grown sound that is completely new, yet nostalgic. The all-star backing band, The Night Owls, features a lineup of some of Nashville's best and brightest up-and-coming instrumentalists and musicians. This award-winning band is helmed by Cole Ritter: a Nashville native who has devoted his life to music.

Deuce n' a Quarter (Columbus; blues) | July 31, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

Deuce 'n a Quarter is built for comfort not speed. But make no mistake, when they perform their original music paired with classic American blues, they are bound to get you moving. Through an authentic connection with their audience and listeners, this band is becoming another American classic. The name alone will take you to a good place.

Ella X (electro-pop) | Aug. 5 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Ella X is an electro-pop artist with powerful lyrics, catchy melodies, and original beats. Each performance is unique as she records live and builds loops with her synths to add color, texture, and depth to the tracks bringing the songs to life right in front of her audience's eyes.

Ghost Story (Columbus; folk, rock, and pop) | Aug. 4 at noon and 2 p.m.

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

The acoustic trio was born out of a friendship formed at Capital University's Conservatory of Music. Ghost Story covers songs that are a mixture of folk, classic rock, soul, and pop. Their intimacy while performing will remind you of singing songs around a campfire.

Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers (Xenia; bluegrass) | July 26 at 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Main Street Stage

Grand Ole Opry regulars Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers will head to Mullins' home state for a special performance under the shade in the Natural Resources Park amphitheater. The banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and vocals combine to create an energetic mix of authentic bluegrass and gospel music.

Justin Larkin (soul and rock) | July 26 at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Justin Larkin is a Missouri-based singer-songwriter who has spent over 15 years playing across the Midwest with various musical groups, as well as a one-man band. His music hones in on a distinct and hearty blend of roots, soul, and rock 'n' roll.

Lil' Red & The Rooster (Westerville; blues) | Aug. 3 at noon and 2 p.m.

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Lil' Red & The Rooster is a sassy and soothing blues duo that has been fine-tuning their style and performance for over a decade. This duo exudes a charm on stage that guarantees their audience will feel good with their retro-modern music.

Lisa Carrington (Columbus; rock) | Aug. 6 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Lisa Carrington is best known as the lead vocalist in the classic rock band, Waterloo 5. Not only can this Ohio native sing, but she can also play guitar and harmonica. Lisa has been singing since she was in high school, started performing with her first band in the early 2000s, and later formed Waterloo 5 in 2016.



🎵 **NACHO Street Band** (Columbus; horn) | July 30 at 2 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

NACHO Street Band is made up of Nationwide Children's Hospital staff, families and friends working to raise awareness and money for the hospital and the Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio. The band's nearly 70 members hold the shared belief that music is medicine. Its diverse set list incorporates many genres including classic hits, New Orleans jazz, funk, cartoon, and pop.

🎵 **New Frontiers- Journey Tribute** (Lima; classic rock) | July 30 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

With a focus on recreating the classic sound of Journey in every performance, New Frontiers is the definitive Journey tribute band. The band gives proper due to the music of one of the greatest rock 'n' roll bands of all time, playing all the memorable hits from Evolution to Trial by Fire.

🎵 **Open Highway** (bluegrass) | Aug. 2 at noon and 2 p.m.

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

This band is built on traditional bluegrass sound with a mix of solid instrumentation and vocals. Open Highway takes pride in their ability to perform original material while also sharing their love of performing on stage and inspiring crowd involvement with their live performances.

🎵 **Party Punch** (Dayton; pop) | Aug. 6 at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

The new Party Punch band is coming to the Fair with some familiar faces and some brand-new ones. Still partying for a living, the band promises to deliver the area's best dance party everywhere it goes. Don't get too comfortable in your seat, this group will have you on your feet in no time!

🎵 **Raven Rae** (Cleveland; pop, jazz, and R&B) | July 27 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

Raven Rae is a high-energy modern performer who bridges the gap between the classics and the contemporary. As a vocal chameleon, Raven Rae fuses together neo soul, pop, jazz, and R&B through dynamic and dramatic performances.

🎵 **Roxy Janes** (Columbus, rock) | Aug. 3 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

This talented group consists of five women who are musical veterans in the Columbus area and beyond. Their love of music led them to form an all-female rock band: the Roxy Janes. Every concert with this group is a celebration you won't want to miss!

🎵 **Ryan Mundy** (country) | July 28 at noon and 2 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Central Ohio native, Ryan Mundy, has been seen performing his style of rockin' country music everywhere from the Ohio State Fair, Country Concert 2019, CMA Fest 22', Hollywood Casino, Miami-Valley Gaming, Whiskey Jam, the Listening Room, and many other venues and festivals across the country.

🎵 **School of Rock — Student Band** (Columbus; rock) | Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

The School of Rock bands from Dublin and Gahanna provide their schools' most talented students with the opportunity to play routinely in front of live audiences. The students are leaders and mentors inside the School of Rock community, but now, they get the opportunity to put their rock-ability on full display.

🎵 **Shazzbots** (Columbus; children's music) | Aug. 6 at noon and 2 p.m. **NEW!**



Main Street Stage

The intergalactic rock band and champions of music, art, and all things creative blast off for adventure in their Space Winnebago to spread their rocking tunes to all the children of the cosmos. For over 10 years, The Shazzbots have been entertaining kids and parents of all ages with their unique brand of music, adventure, and fun!

🍷 **Simba Jordan** (Columbus; country) | Aug. 4 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

The Simba Jordan Band started in 2010 with influences from country artists such as Randy Travis, Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Tim McGraw, Prince, and Michael Jackson. The Simba Jordan Band vows to “bring it” at every show with their high energy performances.

🍷 **Steve Madewell** (folk) | July 29 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. **NEW!**

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Steve Madewell is an Ohio-based singer-songwriter who performs both locally and across the nation. His songs are shaped by his passion for the natural world and the amazing places he's seen on his travels as a former park conservationist.

🍷 **Yumbambé** (Columbus; Latin jazz) | Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **NEW!**

Main Street Stage

The eclectic mix of authentic percussion instruments and vocals makes Yumbambé a unique and exciting group. The band includes some of Columbus’ most prominent jazz musicians who have performed at countless clubs and festivals, including the Columbus Arts Festival, Festival Latino, and ComFest.

Free Daily / Strolling Entertainment

🍷 **The Amazing Giants** | Daily

Strolling

Ranging from stilt walkers, acrobatics, magicians, caricaturists, and everything in between, there’s never a dull moment with The Amazing Giants. Their interactive and fun entertainment includes something for everyone.

Barrel O’ Fun Magic Show, Aug. 1 – 6 NEW!

Entertainment Alley

Find Charlie moseying around Entertainment Alley with his Barrel O’ Fun. This classic presentation of magic and comedy will have audience members amazed and rolling on the ground laughing. You can catch Delilah Davenport alongside Charles Chesterfield, but watch out, she may have a few tricks up her sleeve!

Bill Robison – Physical Comedian | Daily

Strolling

For over two decades, Bill Robison has charmed audiences young and old around the world with his unique and masterful style of physical comedy. Using his rubber-like face, elastic body, and limitless energy, he transports audiences to a zany, unpredictable, and hilarious world through outlandish comedy.

🍷 **Butters D. Cow and his Character Ambassadors** | Daily

Strolling

Mingle with Fair mascot Butters D. Cow and his gang of fun and furry mascots as they stroll around the Fair. Be sure to stop them for a photo!



David Anthony | July 26 – 31

Main Street Stage

Cleveland native David Anthony found a love of magic when he got his first magic set at the ripe age of five, and he has been performing since he was 12. This award-winning magician will mystify fairgoers with familiar objects, leaving them laughing and impressed after this up-close and personal encounter.

The Farmers Daughter, July 26 – 31 **NEW!**

Entertainment Alley

The Farmer's Daughter Show is acrobatics, circus stunts, and farmyard fun filled with homegrown humor. Molly brings a sense of community to her show that only a small-town girl with big country charm can do. This one-woman show harvests bales of belly laughter and truck loads of unique tricks. Farm-tastic gymnastics, rowdy rope tricking, and a one-of-a-kind milk bottle walk finale combine for an udderly amazing show filled with corny humor. Yee haw!

Great Lakes Timber Show | Daily

Natural Resources Park

This entertaining act offers a glimpse into the life of a lumberjack including numerous demonstrations such as ax throwing, chainsaw carving, and log rolling.

Hilby — The Skinny German Juggle Boy, Daily

Entertainment Alley

From a small child growing up in Berlin and making funny faces at strangers, Hilby has grown into an international act that leaves his audiences in shock from his bizarre tricks.

The Hip Hop Juggler, Aug. 1 - 6

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Juggling with a twist! The Hip Hop Juggler offers much more than juggling stunts. His style, witty comedy, and interactive demonstrations take this show to the next level.

Kazual, Daily

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

The Georgia-based a cappella family group, comprised of three brothers and a cousin, is known for its distinct blend of R&B, hip hop, and pop they call the "Kazual experience." Kazual's national spotlights include NBC's "America's Got Talent," BET, and MTV. Kazual has opened for Nelly, Beyoncé, and many others.

Lady Houdini, Daily

South end of Kiddieland

As a real escapologist, Lady Houdini has made her name performing daredevil-like acts as she flirts with near death experiences through her masterful escape performances.

Leapin' Louie, July 27 - 31

AARP Ohio Gazebo Stage

Watch your step around the stage or you might get caught in Leapin' Louie's giant lasso. Leapin' Louie will have families laughing through his comedy show as he captivates the eye with his unique tricks.

Marvelous Mutts, Daily

The Dog House

Featuring a team of talented rescue dogs who have performed on Animal Planet, The Late Show, Good Morning America, The Today Show, and more, the Marvelous Mutts show entertains all ages with its variety of impressive canine tricks and stunts.



Major League Circus Show, July 26 – 31 NEW!

Entertainment Alley

The Major League Circus Show is the ultimate tribute to the great game of baseball. Join Paz as he knuckle balls his way through a Grand Slam mix of acrobatics, juggling, and one-of-a-kind circus stunts. This trip to the “ballpark” is nine innings of family-friendly fun that is sure to be a bat flippin’ good time for all.

The Reflector & Sparkle, Daily NEW!

Strolling

The Reflector & Sparkle are two roaming acts that you can’t miss due to their shining display! Their costumes are covered head to toe with mirrors making them human mirror balls! Make sure to get a photo of them while walking around the grounds.

The Rubber Chicken Show, Daily.

Main Street Stage

International performers are not hard to come by, but international chicken performers are a different story. Buckle up and prepare for some family-friendly laughs during this wacky, interactive show.

The Strolling Piano, Daily

Strolling

There is no location too remote for this fully remote piano. Combining the concept of live musical entertainment with a fully mobile piano provides fairgoers with topnotch entertainment right along their path through the Fair. Go ahead — request a song. We bet you’ll get the chance to sing along!

The Strong & Amazing Show, Daily NEW!

South end of Kiddieland

Laura Jaye, Ohio native born and raised on a dairy farm, preforms Aerial Stunt Show for the first time with the Ohio State Fair! With over 13 years of experience on the stage, Laura J has honed her skills as a straps artist, pole athlete, trapeze dancer, and most recently, upside down loop walking!

SupaFun Clown Band, Daily

Strolling

This brass band brings the party, fun, and then some as they stroll around the Fair in loud costumes and giant smiles.

Rock-It The Robot | Daily

Strolling

Get ready for the most impressive robot you’ve ever seen! Standing at nine feet tall and featuring an animated face with moving eyes, brows, and mouth, this lifelike character will entertain crowds with humor, dancing, and serenading.

Ron Diamond, Aug. 1 - 6

Main Street Stage

A master at all levels of magic and hypnosis, Ron Diamond will entertain fairgoers with his talent and humor. He is an expert in hypnotherapy and promises each show will bring unique, memorable experiences to be retold for years to come.

Natural Resources Park

Free shows are offered daily in the Natural Resources Park Amphitheater from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For a complete list of shows, please check the daily schedules or go to ohiodnr.gov/statefair.



Special Attractions and Displays

Daily attractions

Listed alphabetically

All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir

Performance times vary

The All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir and All-Ohio State Fair Band arrive just days before the Fair opens, learning all of their music in a limited time. They perform daily at various times and locations, with nearly 200 total performances held during the 12 days of the Fair.

Camel Rides

10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Kiddieland

Every day can be “Hump Day” during the Fair! Camel rides are offered for \$10 per ride.

Kayak Pond

11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Natural Resources Park

No need to head to the river for this exciting adventure. Grab a life jacket and try out kayaking in a shallow pond located inside the Natural Resources Park. This fun experience is free and open to all fairgoers any day of the Fair during park hours.

Kids’ Fishing Pond

10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Natural Resources Park

Kids aged 14 and younger may fish daily for bluegill from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. using cane poles and tackle provided by the ODNr Division of Wildlife. If you catch a fish, an Ohio wildlife officer will help you take it off the hook. You can leave the fish in the live well or take it home and fix it for dinner!

Lady Houdini

Monday through Friday: 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., south end of Kiddieland

Saturday and Sunday: 1 p.m., 7 p.m.

As a real escapologist, Lady Houdini has made her name performing daredevil-like acts as she flirts with near death experiences through her masterful escape performances.

Land & Living Exhibit

10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Nationwide® Donahey Land & Living presented by Ohio Farm Bureau

This highly interactive exhibit is packed with agricultural education activities the whole family can enjoy. Visitors will see, experience, and learn about caring for animals on the farm, how science and technology are helping farmers produce safe food while enhancing our environmental resources, how scientists are researching solutions to our biggest food and farming challenges, and how young people can have careers in agriculture. Visitors can experience planting crops in a tractor simulator, shopping in an interactive grocery store, and recording their State Fair memories with a free photograph before leaving the exhibit.

Little Farmers

10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center Lawn

This hands-on educational exhibit, targeted toward kids ages 3 to 10, allows youth to explore different aspects of Ohio agriculture. Families will navigate through different stations featuring simulated animals, real grains, gardening, and more, with the opportunity to pick a small prize at the final station.



Monster Mural

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Closes at 4 p.m. on Aug. 6), Lausche Youth Exploration Space Lawn

Kids will jump at the chance to make their artistic mark on a giant Fair mural each day (with washable paint, of course).

Natural Resources Park

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (times of activities vary)

Enjoy free fishing for kids, kayaking, archery, a butterfly house, a watercraft simulator, and so much more in this beautiful eight-acre park maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Enjoy native Ohio wildlife, a geological walkway, a camping village, and a tall grass prairie. The outdoor amphitheater hosts free music and entertaining programs, such as the popular lumberjack show, each day of the Fair.

OVMA Veterinary Education Center

9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Wick Pavilion

Witness the miracle of birth and visit new and expectant farm animal mothers and their young at this educational exhibit near the Dairy Products Building. You can even milk a real cow from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.!

Ohio Proud General Store

11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Taste of Ohio Café

Shop for local products like honey, salsa, dip mixes, and more from Ohio Proud vendors. Each day of the fair, vendors will be selling their products — so stop by any day for a different selection of great products grown and made in our great state.

Governor's Children's Passport

The Governor's Children's Passport is a great way to navigate the fair while providing your kids with fun activities along the way! Children who complete their passport and turn it in will have a chance at one of our many prizes! Visit the Guest Information Services Booths or one of the Children's Initiatives partner agency booths (Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to receive your passport today!

Pig Races presented by 99.7 The Blitz and Country 103.9

Monday - Friday: 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Kiddieland

Saturday - Sunday: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Three different breeds of swift swine race around the track for a prize. Cheer on your favorite little pig!

Petting Zoo

10 a.m. - 10 p.m. (open until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday), Kiddieland

The free Petting Zoo features more than 50 animals from around the world including goats, llamas, zebras, antelope, kangaroos, a spotted Highland cow, giant tortoise, and more.

Smokey Bear

10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Natural Resources Park

The Ohio State Fair is full of tradition. For many families, one notable tradition is to be greeted by name by the iconic Smokey Bear in Natural Resources Park. In fact, he is one of only two talking Smokey Bears in the country! Make it a point this year to visit Smokey Bear any day of the Ohio State Fair.

The Strong & Amazing Show

11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., South end of Kiddieland



Laura Jaye, Ohio native born and raised on a dairy farm, preforms Aerial Stunt Show for the first time with the Ohio State Fair! With over 13 years of experience on the stage, Laura J has honed her skills as a straps artist, pole athlete, trapeze dancer, and most recently, upside down loop walking!

Limited-time attractions

Listed by date

ACT Ohio Construction Demo Days and Little Builders Zone

July 26 – 28, Cardinal Patio 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Try hands-on construction activities in more than 10 building trades, see live construction demonstrations, learn about building trades careers, and meet the construction tradespeople who build Ohio at this family-friendly event hosted by ACT Ohio and the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council. Learn more at ACTOhio.org.

Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons Unions Great Lakes Apprenticeship Demonstrations

July 26 – 28, Cardinal Patio 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' Unions Great Lakes Apprentice Demonstrations allows apprentices from around the state to showcase their talents by doing hands-on demonstrations of their respective crafts.

WOSU Kids Day

July 27, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Central Park

Join WOSU Public Media in Central Park for a chance to meet some of your favorite PBS KIDS® characters! The event, designed to keep the whole family entertained, will offer PBS KIDS® crafts, coloring, educational activities, and games. See PBS KIDS® characters throughout the day for photo opportunities.

Fun with Columbus Zoo Animals!

July 29 - 30, Aug. 5 & 6, 11 a.m., Natural Resources Park amphitheater

Columbus Zoo's crew will have audiences of all ages captivated with the Columbus Zoo Animals show that will take place in the Natural Resources Park amphitheater.

Columbus All-Breed Dog Agility

July 29 – 30, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. & 4 p.m., Rhodes Center Lawn

Watch as these local pups strut their stuff with as-seen-on-TV style agility!

50 Year Club Meeting

July 31, 9 a.m., Rhodes Center Auditorium

Did you attend the Ohio State Fair in 1973 or earlier? If you answered yes, you're automatically a member of the 50 Year Club! The club's annual meeting will feature the presentation of the esteemed Giant Step Award and more.

Well Beyond 60! Health & Wellness Expo presented by the Ohio Department of Aging

Aug. 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., North of 17th Avenue in front of the Rhodes Center

The "Well Beyond 60!" EXPO returns for the seventh time, featuring nearly 3,000 square feet of FREE health screenings, wellness demonstrations, and lifestyle programs promoting independence provided by more than 20 state and community partners. Visitors of all ages will learn from experts about healthy choices they can make throughout their lifespans to ensure they live a healthier, more active life at age 60 and beyond. Make memories and set new health and wellness goals at the "Well Beyond 60!" EXPO, today only.

2023 Dean's Charity Steer Show

Aug. 1, 2 p.m., Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center Lawn



Celebrate Ohio agriculture, communities, and children at the 2023 Dean's Charity Steer Show on Tuesday, August 1 at 2:00 p.m. at the Vionovich Livestock and Trade Center. Teams will consist of a Team Captain, Team Champion, experienced 4-H youth, and a steer in the show ring. The event will be hosted by Cathann A. Kress, vice president and dean of The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). All proceeds will benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio. The Steer Show is coordinated by CFAES, Ohio Cattlemen's Association, Telhio Credit Union, and the Ohio State Fair.

Ohio Pork Council Rib-Off

Aug. 1, 11:30 a.m., Central Park

Pork and barbecue lovers alike are invited to join the Ohio Pork Council for their 24th Annual Rib-Off at the 2022 Ohio State Fair. Ohio's highly skilled grill masters will compete to be honored for the best ribs, pulled pork, and barbecue sauce in the state. After celebrity judges sample the food, fairgoers will have the opportunity to enjoy free samples and cast their vote for the highly sought-after People's Choice Award. Voting ends at 12:45 p.m.

Joint Legislative Agriculture Committee Meeting

Aug. 1, 9:30 a.m., Nationwide® Donahey Land & Living presented by Ohio Farm Bureau

Join the Ohio House of Representatives Agriculture and Conservation Committee and the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee as the bicameral group showcases the work they've accomplished and interact with the public.

Sensory-Friendly Morning

Aug. 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We've turned down the lights and volume to make the Ohio State Fair more sensory-friendly in partnership with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Ride the rides with no flashing lights or music, visit the Fair's many educational and sensory activities, take a break in a quiet room, or use our sensory accessibility guide to find a Fair opportunity that suits you.

"Back to School with Kroger" Scavenger Hunt

Aug. 4, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., North of 17th Avenue near the main Cardinal Gate

Visit Kroger's booth North of 17th Avenue in front of the Rhodes Center to learn about a fun back-to-school scavenger hunt around the fairgrounds! Obtain a special map and embark on a fun-filled, interactive search to find one of the twenty-five special vouchers strategically hidden around grounds. The vouchers can then be redeemed for a chance to win a backpack and a \$25 gift card to purchase school supplies at Kroger!

NASA Journey to Tomorrow

Aug. 4 – 6, Near Land & Living Exhibit

NASA's Journey to Tomorrow traveling exhibit will immerse visitors in a fun-filled interactive experience, which includes learning stations and engaging activities.

Rides

Ohio Lottery SkyGlider

11 a.m. – 11 p.m. (open until midnight Fridays, opens 10 a.m. for the sensory-friendly morning, Aug. 2. Closes at 10 p.m. Aug. 6.)

Get a slow-paced, bird's-eye view of the Fair when you hop on at one of the access points in Kiddieland or near the Cardinal Gate. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the half-mile journey across the Fair. The price is \$3 per rider for a one-way ticket and is not included with ride tickets or the ride-all-day wristband.

Mountain Dew Midway



11 a.m. – 11 p.m. (open until midnight Fridays, opens 10 a.m. for the sensory-friendly morning, Aug. 2. Closes at 10 p.m. Aug. 6.)

The Midway features a wide variety of exciting rides from roller coasters and free-fall drops thrillers to timeless classics like bumper cars and tilt-a-whirls. These rides are sure to plunge, spin, shock, and excite fairgoers!

Kiddieland

11 a.m. – 11 p.m. (open until midnight Fridays, opens 10 a.m. for the sensory-friendly morning, Aug. 2. Closes at 10 p.m. Aug. 6.)

Parents and children alike can enjoy a visit to Kiddieland with nearly 30 family-friendly rides developed for kids and their families, including mini-coasters, a kiddie carousel, a 65-foot tall Ferris wheel, spinning tea cups and more.

History - Talley Amusement Company

Talley Amusement Company has more than 200 years of experience providing amusing rides to parks and fairs across the United States. It all started in 1908 when Mary Talley's great grandfather started with just one piece of equipment to create a real-life merry-go-round. He eventually started charging Texas residents one dollar per ride. "My dad used to walk from town to town booking his one show," said Mary's grandmother. Soon, he saw potential for the amusement business and the rest was history.

The amusement company was created by husband and wife Tom and Mary Talley. The two have known each other since they were just children, both of their parents were presidents of the Lonestar Showman Club in Texas. Tom and Mary became friends and eventually got married later in life. Both coming from family backgrounds of the amusement business, they used their combined knowledge of the industry to create Talley Amusement Company in 1995.

Talley Amusement Company has more than 200 years of experience providing amusing rides to parks and fairs across the United States. Their commitment to safety and attaining quality equipment is the reason for their astonishing safety record since the company began. Talley Amusements takes their equipment through an aggressive preventative maintenance program and extensively trains all personnel in house. With more than 50 rides at the Ohio State Fair, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Magic Money

Ohio State Fair rides and games are cashless. Reloadable RFID (radio frequency identification) Magic Money cards or wristbands will be scanned at each ride or game.

- **What is Magic Money?** Magic Money is Talley Amusements' state of the art RFID (radio frequency identification) based digital ticketing system.
- **Where can I reload my Magic Money?** Reload your Magic Money cards or wristbands at one of the hundred points of sale on the grounds with cash or credit. Look for a kiosk labeled "Magic Money."
- **Where can I use Magic Money?** Magic Money is accepted at rides and games in Kiddieland and on the Mountain Dew Midway.
- **Do games still take cash, too?** No, all games are cashless as of this year; they only accept Magic Money.

Food

Notable and Interesting Vendors and Food Stories

\$3 Thursdays



Both Thursdays at the Fair, all vendors will be offering a menu item of their choice at a smaller size for just \$3! This new initiative is the perfect way to try all the best Fair foods without breaking the bank. Visit ohiostatefair.com/3-Thursday for a full list of miniature food items and locations.

Schmidt's of German Village

Schmidt's celebrates their 109th year as an Ohio State Fair vendor this summer. Famous for Bahama Mamas and cream puffs, Schmidt's is the oldest continuous restaurant participating at the Fair, and the oldest continuous restaurant participating at a state fair in the nation. The All-Ohio State Fair band played birthday tributes to founder George F. Schmidt for nearly 80 years and now continues the tradition by playing a birthday tribute to his son, John Schmidt, before he retires later in August 2023.

For the first time in 2023, Schmidt's will be offering an exclusive lemon shake up flavored cream puff at the Ohio State Fair!

Brand new Schmidt's Cream Puff flavor at Ohio State Fair — Lemon Shake Up!

Schmidt's is the longest running vendor at the Ohio State Fair and for the first time in 2023, this long-standing vendor will be offering an exclusive lemon shake up cream puff. The signature Schmidt's puff will be filled with delicious, lemony custard to create the perfect summertime treat only available at the Ohio State Fair.

Rutana's Hot Apple Dumplings

These apple dumplings are homemade from scratch, and the vendor has been family-owned and operated for more than 30 years.

Ohio Cattlemen's Association

During the Ohio State Fair, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association sells more than four tons of beef.

MarketPlace Food Court

Chinese, Mexican, Italian, and other cuisines are housed in the center of the Bricker MarketPlace Building, a 3.5-acre air-conditioned facility. The building also offers beer and wine selections located west of the north overhead door.

WNCI Food Highway

Located under the SkyGlider, the WNCI Food Highway features plenty of delicious foods ranging from barbeque to classic Fair foods to deep-fried treats.

Taste of Ohio Café

Sit down for a locally produced meal or a glass of Ohio beer or wine in this air-conditioned facility and attached patio. Meals are served by the Ohio farmers who raise and grow the food that feeds our world. Ohio's agricultural commodity groups housed in the building include American Dairy Association Mideast, Ohio Cattleman's Association, Ohio Grape Industries Committee, Ohio Pork Producers Council, Ohio Poultry Association, and Ohio Sheep Improvement Association.

Velvet Ice Cream's churro ice cream to debut at Ohio State Fair

A signature flavor of Velvet Ice Cream returns to the Ohio State Fair! This year's fair flavor is delicious churro. Velvet's limited-release churro ice cream will be available exclusively at the Ohio State Fair, July 26 – Aug. 6.

To create this one-of-a-kind frozen confection, the Utica, Ohio based ice cream maker takes their sweet vanilla base and adds fresh strawberry pieces and tasty blueberry swirl. The blend not only provides some sweet cool relief on a hot day, but it creates an exciting flavor combination that visitors will line up for.



Wild and Wacky Foods

With approximately 146 vendors, there's something for every appetite at various locations across the grounds. Special dietary options are also available, visit ohiostatefair.com/food.

Food on a stick

Among the hundreds of food options, the Ohio State Fair sells more than 23 different types of food on a stick, ranging from Fair favorites like corn dogs and cotton candy to more adventurous options like mashed potatoes and deep-fried strawberries! Here is the full list of Fair stick foods:

- Nashville hot chicken on a stick
- Italian breaded meatball with mozzarella cheese deep fried and on a stick
- Beef on a stick
- Shrimp on a stick
- Gator on a stick
- Steak on a stick
- Cheese on a stick
- Chicken on a stick
- Mashed potato on a stick
- Ice cream sandwich on a stick
- Pork chop on a stick
- Boiled egg on a stick
- Mozzarella cheese on a stick
- Swiss cheese on a stick
- Pepper jack cheese on a stick
- Fried twinkies on a stick
- Fried s'mores on a stick
- Fried milky way on a stick
- Fried snicker on a stick
- Fresh strawberries with funnel cake batter on a stick
- Fried mac and cheese on a stick with dipping sauce
- Waffle bombs on a stick (strawberries on a stick, dipped in chocolate, covered in waffle batter, fried, and sprinkled with powdered sugar)
- Fried olives on a stick

Can it be fried?

Of course it can. At the Ohio State Fair, find more than 55 fried food items. Some of the fried food items include:

- Bologna Sandwich
- Buckeyes
- Butter
- Candy bars (Snickers, Three Musketeers, Milky Way, Charleston Chews)
- Cheese
- Cheesecake
- Chocolate-covered strawberries
- Cream cheese
- Cookies (Oreo, Nutter Butter)
- Cookie dough
- Grilled cheese sandwich
- Mini hamburger gummies
- Mashed potatoes
- Macaroni and cheese



- Olives
- Peanut butter and jelly sandwich
- Pickles
- Pop tart
- Salted pretzel brownie
- S'mores
- Strawberry shortcake
- Sweet corn
- Tacos
- Twinkies
- Vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, mushrooms, okra, onion rings/blossoms, peppers, zucchini)

Gluten-Free at the Fair

For anyone following a gluten-free diet, there are plenty of options you can still enjoy when you visit the Ohio State Fair. Don't forget to ask individual vendors about the risk of cross-contamination, cross-contact, or gluten exposure for kitchens that may serve items that do contain gluten. Fairgoers with gluten sensitivities and intolerances should use judgment in consuming Fair foods.

- **Corn and corn products** – Roasted sweet corn and other products made with corn (such as tacos, nachos and taco salad) can be safe bets when avoiding gluten.
- **French Fries** – French fries are usually gluten-free, so if you're looking for a yummy fried option at the Fair, this is a great bite to try! However, make sure you ask vendors about cross contamination. If French fries share a fryer with gluten containing foods, those with serious gluten intolerances or celiac disease should avoid this option.
- **Frozen Drinks** – Most syrups for slushies, snow cones and Kona Ice are gluten-free.
- **Ice cream** – Ice cream is a great option for those with gluten intolerances. Many vendors at the Fair serve delicious flavors that can help you cool down in the hot Ohio sun. Make sure to ask vendors about cross contamination and avoid flavors like cookie dough.
- **Iced Tea** – Ohio summers are warm, so cool off with this gluten-free beverage.
- **Meat** – Whether you love special-recipe steak on a stick, chicken, mouthwatering ribs, slow-cooked pulled pork, turkey legs, sausage, or moist tenderloin, meat options are usually a safe bet for those avoiding gluten.
- **Pizza** – Select pizza vendors can make gluten-free crusts upon request (bonus: they also use as much organic produce as possible, making it easy to top your pizza with fresh ingredients).
- **Roasted nuts and peanut products** – Roasted nuts are usually a safe bet for gluten-free fairgoers, so you can still enjoy these delicious products.

Either by choice or requirement, there are many dietary restrictions: gluten-free, low calorie, keto, etc., and our vendors have diet-friendly options available for you. Search our dietary food options at ohiostatefair.com/food to find options that work for your diet either before you visit or while you're at the Fair.

New Foods at the Fair

[See page 23.](#)



Youth

Whether as participants in the Band and Choir, youth organization exhibitors, or competition participants, youth from all of Ohio's 88 counties are represented at the Ohio State Fair.

All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir

The All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir and All-Ohio State Fair Band arrive at the Ohio Expo Center on July 21 and July 23 respectively, learning all of their music in a limited time. They remain housed on-site throughout the duration of the Fair and perform daily at various times and locations. In full, they perform nearly 200 times during the 12-day Fair.

All-Ohio State Fair Band

directed by Brian W. Dodd

www.aosfb.com

The All-Ohio State Fair Band has been a featured attraction of the Ohio State Fair since 1925. Their enthusiastic tunes have thrilled thousands of fairgoers each year, including the performance of John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever!" at the conclusion of each performance.

The Band was known as the All-Ohio Boys' Band until 1975 when young women were invited to participate. Today, the Band is composed of 150 superior musicians chosen from schools across Ohio. High school students apply for membership in the All-Ohio State Fair Band through their school band director. Membership is determined by student ability, instrumentation needs of the band, and geographical consideration. This year's All-Ohio State Fair Band members were chosen from applicants representing 44 counties and 71 schools.

All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir

directed by Dr. Jon C. Peterson

www.aosfyc.org

The All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir, founded in 1963, was organized to provide Ohio's high school vocalists an opportunity to show off their talents and share a musical experience with fairgoers, just like the All-Ohio State Fair Band has since 1925.

The members of the Choir are selected each spring by the director on the basis of their ability and experience, the recommendation of their high school choral director, geographical considerations, and the consent and promised support of their parent or guardian. This year's Choir members were chosen from applicants representing 42 counties and 65 schools. For more information on the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir, visit aosfyc.com.

Junior Fair Board

The Junior Fair Board (JFB) comprises of youth, between ages 16 and 20, who represent various youth organizations that participate in the Ohio State Fair each year. Youth organizations with representation in the JFB are actively involved with the annual Ohio State Fair. In most cases, organizations will select members for a two-year term. Smaller organizations select one person every other year and large youth groups will select yearly to ensure continuity of operation.

Responsibilities of the JFB vary from year to year, but each member serves as an ambassador between their youth organization, the Fair, and the Fair-going public. They assist in the WCOL Celeste Center and with various competitions for youth. They deliver and present awards and assist with the daily parade, as well as many other programs and activities throughout the 12 days of the Fair. Their office is located in the Conference Center.



Officers are selected by their peers at the completion of their first year on the board and oversee JFB activities during their second year.

2023 Junior Fair Board Members:

- Sara Newsome, 4-H, President (Highland)
- Landon Shelpman, FFA, Vice President (Clark)
- Elizabeth Fannin, 4-H, Public Relations Officer (Jackson)
- Emily Scaff, At Large, Secretary (Scioto)
- Melina Matics, 4-H (Washington)
- Adrianna Meyer, Farm Bureau (Henry)
- Josie Burke, FFA (Washington)
- Carter Freeman, Boy Scouts (Franklin)
- Erica Patterson, At-Large (Hancock)
- Marissa Johnston, Girl Scouts (Delaware)
- Zach Romero, 4-H (Hancock)
- Julia Joos, Tech Ed (Franklin)
- Zak Beaver, 4-H (Delaware)
- Wyatt Morrow, At-Large (Highland)
- Madelyn Fannin, FFA (Jackson)
- Olivia Haines, FFA (Wayne)
- Jayden Porter, Farm Bureau (Franklin)
- GraceLynn Harter, 4-H (Darke)
- Grace Robertson, At-Large (Adams)
- Elsa Lapierre, Farm Bureau (Franklin)

Youth Organizations

All youth organizations listed below can be found in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by Intel®*

4-H

4-H creates positive environments for diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens. The organization helps to teach today's youth through a variety of special days focused on health, communications, woodworking, engineering, leadership, natural resources, creative arts, and home decorating.

COSI – Center of Science and Industry's Space Heartland: Ohio Rocket and Space Zone

COSI will be showcasing the best of Ohio aviation and aerospace through hands-on learning opportunities along with community partners.

Boy Scouts of America

A variety of hands-on scout related activities will be available for Cub Scouts (5-10 years), Scouts BSA (11-18), Venturing (14-21), Sea Scouts (14-21) and Exploring (14-21) age youth. Build a Lego Pinewood Derby car and race it down the track to the finish line or participate in a game of GaGa ball. Information will also be available about the how youth and adults can get involved in the Boy Scouts of America.

Girl Scouts

At the Girl Scouts booth, everyone will be able to learn what it's like to be a Girl Scout (and beyond!). Visitors will be able to shoot for the stars while perfecting their archery skills, solve engineering problems at mission



control, and roam outer space with our Lego robots. Girl Scouts will also have cookies for sale throughout the Ohio State Fair so cookie lovers can get a mid-year resupply of their favorites!

Ohio Department of Education

Join the Ohio Department of Education for some hands-on fun! Visitors of all ages can explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering, the arts and math (STEAM) and learn how these fields are shaping the world we live in. Don't miss the opportunity to immerse yourself in the endless possibilities of STEAM.

Ohio Department of Higher Education

Come and join the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) for fun and activities during the Ohio State Fair! Stop by our booth in the Youth Exploration Space beginning at 10 a.m. each day, where you can take a virtual reality tour of the Ohio Supercomputer Center, learn about high-speed fiber connection, and more! Begin planning your future by learning about Ohio's campuses and different ODHE programs, including College Credit Plus, where students in grades 7-12 can earn college credit while still in school, and Choose Ohio First, a scholarship program for students interested in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and STEM education fields. Families can learn about saving for college through the College Advantage 529 Plan, and there will be information about the Aspire program, which provides adult learning opportunities throughout the state! We'll also have giveaways and an out-of-this-world photo opportunity – don't forget to post your picture on social media and tag us (@OhioHigherEd) with the hashtag #StateFairSpaceCadet. See you at the Fair!

Additional Youth Activities Located in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by Intel®*

Game Area

Challenge your friends to life size connect four, checkers Uno, tic-tac-toe, and more.

Library Reading Nook

Spend some time checking out the collection of books from the State Library of Ohio in our comfy Library Reading Nook area, and learn more about the Ohio Imagination Library and how all kids under 5 can get free books in the mail each month.

Tiny Town *presented by AAA*

Come join us at Tiny Town presented by AAA filled with playhouses, Cozy Coupes, and play gas pumps. Kids can enjoy some play time while the adults relax!

Livestock

Approximately 20,000 animals are exhibited each year at the Ohio State Fair. Show dates are listed below:

- Beef cattle: July 25 - Aug. 6
- Dairy cattle: July 26 - Aug. 5
- Goats: July 17 - 22
- Dogs: July 16 - 18, 26
- Draft Horses: Aug. 1 - 4
- Horses: July 17 - 21
- Llamas/Alpacas: July 20 - 22
- Poultry: July 26 - Aug. 6
- Rabbits: Aug. 2 - 6



- Sheep: July 25 – Aug. 5
- Swine: July 25 – 30, Aug. 3 - 5

Sale of Champions Livestock Auction

Sun. Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.
WCOL Celeste Center

The Sale of Champions Livestock Auction is free and open to all fairgoers, and tickets are not required. The Ohio State Fair Sale of Champions consistently garners some of the highest bids of any state fair in the nation. Last year, the Sale of Champions broke every historical record since the sale's inception in 1968, with total sales of \$676,500, of which \$588,000 went to the Youth Reserve Program.

Established in 1968, the Sale was created to encourage more 4-H and FFA members to bring livestock projects to the Ohio State Fair. The champions of the market beef, market barrow, market lamb, meat chickens, market goat, turkey, and Swiss cheese exhibits are auctioned off in this special event.

Since 1995, the Ohio State Fair has placed caps on the amount exhibitors can earn from their exhibits' sale. Money from sales over the cap amount is distributed among other youth exhibitors through the Youth Reserve Program. The program allocates funds for scholarships, the Outstanding Market Exhibitor Program, FFA, 4-H, and other Fair competition winners. To date, the Youth Reserve Program has awarded \$4,691,150 to approximately 44,500 youth exhibitors since its inception.

Sale of Champions - Facts and Figures

- Total amount from sales since 1968: \$8,590,034
- Total amount collected for the Youth Reserve Program: \$4,691,150
- Total youth champions honored: 510
- Youth who have benefited from the Youth Reserve Program: More than 44,500

Virgil L. Strickler Youth Reserve Program (formerly known as the Youth Reserve Program)

Established in 1995, the Youth Reserve program's purpose is to reward junior exhibitors who participate in the Ohio State Fair. Program funds come directly from winning bids in excess of the cap placed on the amount an exhibitor can receive from the Sale of Champions. The funds are then distributed among carcass contests, scholarships, the Outstanding Market Exhibitor program, the Outstanding Breeding Exhibitor program, showmanship, skillathons, FFA, and 4-H.

In 2023, Ohio Expo Center & State Fair General Manager Virgil Strickler's announcement his retirement following the 2023 Ohio State Fair. During a joint press event regarding the retirement notification, Gov. Mike DeWine announced that the Youth Reserve Program will be dedicated in Strickler's honor and will thus be renamed the Virgil L. Strickler Youth Reserve Program. Strickler was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Youth Reserve Program.

2023 Youth Reserve Program Caps

The generosity of youth supporters and the phenomenal record-breaking 2022 Sale of Champions Livestock Auction has given the Ohio Expositions Commission the opportunity to thoroughly review past data and make future plans, including increasing the caps for all champions in 2023, adding the Reserve Grand Champion Boer Goat, and reevaluating the percentages of distributed funds collected through the Youth Reserve Program.

- Grand Champion Cheese - \$9,000
- Grand Champion Turkey - \$6,000



- **Grand Champion Meat Chickens** - \$7,000
- **Reserve Grand Champion Meat Chickens** - \$5,000
- **Grand Champion Boer Goat** - \$8,000
- **Reserve Grand Champion Boer Goat** - \$4,000
- **Grand Champion Market Lamb** - \$13,000
- **Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb** - \$9,000
- **Grand Champion Market Barrow** - \$13,000
- **Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow** - \$9,000
- **Grand Champion Market Beef** - \$25,000
- **Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef** - \$18,000

2023 Youth Reserve Program Breakdown

Primary Breakdown

The percentages below are outlined for all species except cheese, which is distributed to dairy cattle exhibitors who only have breeding exhibitors, not market exhibitors, and thus have different distributions. All funds awarded through the Youth Reserve Program are cash scholarships to the exhibitors. In a given year, the following percentages are distributed to the exhibitors based on the amount collected over the cap. For example, for a \$100,000 sale of the Grand Champion Market Beef at a cap of \$25,000, the remaining \$75,000 from the Youth Reserve Program would be allocated as follows:

- **Outstanding Market Exhibitor** – 12%
- **Outstanding Breeding Exhibitor** – 12%
- **Breeding Exhibitors** – 15%
- **Market Exhibitors** – 15%
- **Skillathon** – 10%
- **Showmanship** – 15%
- **All-Ohio State Fair Band** – 2%
- **All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir** – 2%
- **4-H** – 4%
- **FFA** – 4%
- **Scholarships** – 7%
- **Other Species and Activities** – 2%

Dairy Exhibitor Breakdown

The breakdown below is for dairy breeding exhibitors based upon sales of the Grand Champion Cheese.

- **Outstanding Breeding Exhibitor** – 24%
- **Breeding Exhibitors** – 30%
- **Skillathon** – 10%
- **Showmanship** – 15%
- **All-Ohio State Fair Band** – 2%
- **All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir** – 2%
- **4-H** – 4%
- **FFA** – 4%
- **Scholarships** – 7%
- **Other Species and Activities** – 2%*
- **Outstanding Market Exhibitor** – N/A
- **Market Exhibitors** – N/A



*Other species and activities include funds to support dairy goats, dogs, llamas, horses, and rabbits.

2022 Sale of Champions Results

Exhibit Exhibitor	Price Cap in 2022
Grand Champion Market Beef Ryleigh Egbert, Auglaize County	\$225,000* \$22,000
Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef Delaney Jones, Allen County	\$100,000* \$11,000
Grand Champion Market Barrow Nick Adams, Mercer County	\$66,000* \$10,000
Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow Mallory Petro, Gallia County	\$52,500* \$7,000
Grand Champion Market Lamb Elizabeth Shatto, Shelby County	\$47,000* \$10,000
Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb Caleb Stone, Miami County	\$30,000* \$7,000
Grand Champion Meat Chickens Delaney Johnson, Jefferson County	\$31,000* \$6,000
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Chickens Caleb Bennett, Fayette County	\$24,000* \$4,000
Grand Champion Market Goat Braxton Method, Auglaize County	\$26,000* \$5,000
Grand Champion Turkey Madison Estep, Madison County	\$25,000* \$3,000
Grand Champion Swiss Cheese Guggisberg Cheese Factory, representing the seven dairy champions and supreme dairy showmen Exhibited by: Grand Champion Ayrshire: Logan Topp, Auglaize County Grand Champion Brown Swiss: Madelyn Topp, Auglaize County Grand Champion Guernsey: Aubree Topp, Shelby County Grand Champion Holstein: Hannah Griffith, Brown County Grand Champion Jersey: Blake Greiwe, Shelby County Grand Champion Red and White: Allison Francis, Darke County Grand Champion Milking Shorthorn: Christina Headings, Union County Supreme Showman, Week 1 – Exhibited by: Olivia Finke, Madison County Supreme Showman, Week 2 – Exhibited by: Madelyn Topp, Auglaize County	\$50,000* \$3,000

*indicates new record

2022 total sale: \$676,500

2022 amount earned for Youth Reserve Program: \$588,000

Sale of Champions All-Time Records



Animal Buyer	Price Year	Current 2023 Cap
Grand Champion Market Beef S&S Volvo	\$225,000 2022	\$25,000
Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef Steve R. Rauch, Inc., Ohio Transparent Telecom along with Mark and Megan Kvamme and family	\$100,000 2022	\$18,000
Grand Champion Barrow Bob Evans Farms, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, and The Kroger Company	\$66,000 2022	\$13,000
Reserve Grand Champion Barrow Mark and Megan Kvamme and family	\$52,500 2022	\$9,000
Grand Champion Market Lamb Event Marketing Strategies, The Kroger Company, Tim and Glenda Huffman of Huffman's Market, Ohio Harness Horseman's Association, and Talley Amusements	\$47,000 2022	\$13,000
Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb Meijer Inc.	\$30,000 2022	\$9,000
Grand Champion Meat Chickens The Kroger Company and Gerber Poultry	\$31,000 2022	\$7,000
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Chickens Steve R. Rauch, Inc.	\$24,000 2022	\$5,000
Grand Champion Boer Goat Mark and Megan Kvamme and family	\$26,000 2022	\$8,000
Reserve Grand Champion Boer Goat <i>New champion being added in 2023</i>	N/A	\$4,000
Grand Champion Turkey OKI Inc., Concessions by Cox, Schmidt's, NetSteady, SP+ and Expo Services	\$25,000 2022	\$6,000
Grand Champion Swiss Cheese A.G. Boogher & Son, Inc., S&S Volvo, Turner Grain	\$50,000 2022	\$9,000

Livestock Terminology

Barrow: a young, neutered male pig

Boar: male pig that has not been neutered

Bovine: scientific name for cattle

Broilers: chickens that are 6-13 weeks of age

Buck: an adult male rabbit

Bull: a mature adult male bovine

Calf: a mature young bovine

Colt: a young male horse (usually under four years of age)

Cow: a mature female bovine

Doe: an adult female rabbit or goat

Equestrian: one who rides horseback

Ewe: a female sheep

Filly: a young female horse (usually under four years of age)

Foal: a young horse or mule of either sex

Gelding: a neutered male horse



Gilt: a young female swine

Heifer: a female bovine less than three years of age which has not borne a calf

Hen: an adult female chicken or turkey

Jack: a male donkey that has not been neutered

Jenny: a female donkey

Kid: a young goat

Lamb: a sheep less than one year of age

Livestock: domestic farm animals kept for production purposes

Mare: a female horse (usually more than four years of age)

Market Animal: livestock bred and produced for food consumption

Pig: a young swine (usually weighing less than 120 pounds)

Polled: a naturally hornless animal

Ram: a male sheep

Ratite: a species of bird consisting of rheas, ostriches and emus

Rooster: an adult male chicken

Sow: a mature female swine

Stallion: male horse of four years or more that has not been neutered

Steer: a neutered male bovine

Wether: a neutered sheep or goat

Competitions

Arts

Fine Arts

The 2023 Fine Arts Exhibit will include a new perspective focusing on “printmaking” for artists who work with matrices to produce unique original pieces. This prospectus will feature hand-pulled prints from plates, stones, blocks, composite reliefs, or screens to create editions of images. All competitors are still encouraged to enter their own unique styles and pieces, but artwork portraying a perspective on printmaking art will be eligible for additional awards. Join artists and other fairgoers in the Cox Fine Arts Center to view this year’s exhibit.

Cox Fine Arts Center

View the 361 pieces of art that have been accepted in the 2023 Ohio State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition, as well as live music performances that will take place throughout the duration of the exhibit. The Cox Fine Arts Center, formerly known as the Women’s Building, has hosted the Fine Arts Exhibit since 1932. Arts have been a part of the Fair since the very first Fair in 1850.

In 1977, The Columbus Citizen Journal reported that an unknown source said, “One of the best places to rest your feet and ears... is the Cox Building... where the fine arts exhibit is housed. Good place to treat the eyes, rest the soul, and revive the spirit away from midway clatter.”

Creative Arts

A variety of competitions and demonstrations take place throughout the Fair during the Creative and Youth Arts Exhibit in Kasich Hall, which covers a diverse range of talents and hobbies. This year’s theme is Space Galaxy Adventure. Some activities include quilting entries, cooking competitions, Christmas Tree Decorating, and Duct Tape. Below are some of the hundreds of Creative Arts activities:

- Baked Arts, Culinary Arts and Food Preservation



- Brick Art (New!)
- Cake Decorating
- Christmas Tree Decorating (New!)
- Cricut Crafting (New!)
- Duct Tape (New!)
- Fashion Arts
- Honey and Bee Items
- Jewelry
- Knitting
- Leather
- Needle Arts
- Origami
- Painting
- Photography
- Stained Glass
- Upcycling
- Wet Felting (New!)
- Woodworking

Cooking and Baking Competitions

Within the Creative Arts Competitions, there are 106 culinary and baking arts competitions at the Fair, which include:

- Baked pies
- Cakes
- Candies
- Cookies & pastries
- Honey & bee items
- Quick breads
- Yeast breads
- Cake decorating
- Deviled egg live challenge
- Chili Cook-Off
- Jams and marmalades
- Jellies
- Pickles & relishes
- Preserved fruits & vegetables
- Sauces

Youth Arts

The Youth Arts Center can be found in the Kasich Hall – B. This exhibit features artwork by students in grades 1 through 12 in mediums such as:

- Abstract
- Acrylic
- Ceramics (hand-built and wheel-thrown)
- Charcoal
- Collage
- Mixed Media
- Oil Painting
- Original Cartoon/Comic Character



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- Painting (tempura and watercolor)
- Pastels
- Pen/Ink
- Pencil
- Photography
- Sculpture

Sports

Columbus Recreation & Parks Amateur Boxing Tournament

July 27 - 29, 2023

Times:

- July 27 — 6 p.m.
- July 28 — 6 p.m.
- July 29 — Noon – 4 p.m.

Kasich Hall – C

Held under sanction of the Ohio Association of United States Amateur Boxing, this is sure to be a big hit.

Wrestling Tournament – Folkstyle / Freestyle / Greco

July 29 – 30

Times on July 29:

- Wrestling Clinic — 8:30 - 9 a.m.
- Wrestling Competition — Freestyle/Greco-Roman Wrestling, Individual All Age Divisions — 9 a.m.

Times on July 30:

- Wrestling Clinic — 8:30 - 9 a.m.
- Wrestling Competition — Folkstyle Wrestling, Individual All Age Divisions — 9 a.m.

Kasich Hall – C

With a large number of age divisions for men, women and children, there's no match for this Folkstyle, Freestyle and Greco-Roman competition. Many of the finest wrestlers in the region and from around the world will compete for top honors. Fairgoers will be pinned to their seats while watching the fast and action packed wrestling matches.

Baton Twirling

July 30, 2023 — 9 a.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.)

Kasich Hall – C

Since 1966, baton twirlers have brightened up the Fair. Competitions include solo baton twirlers, duets/pairs, parade corps, twirling teams, dance twirl teams, and show teams.

Cheerleading & Dance Competitions

Aug. 5, 10 a.m.

Kasich Hall – C

The Ohio State Fair Cheerleading Championship, administered by AmeriCheer/AmeriDance, is better than ever before! Mark your calendars and get your teams ready for Aug. 5, 2023.

Entry Statistics

In 2023, there are a total of 6,278 different classes of competitions that individuals can enter - from cooking and baking to gardening and livestock. Entry deadlines vary annually, with many competition entry deadlines falling on June 21. Below are the total number of entries received in 2022.



Livestock categories	2022 Entries	2022 Exhibitors
Junior Fair Beef	929	395
Junior Fair Dairy	780	248
Junior Fair Goats	358	189
Junior Fair Sheep	2147	422
Junior Fair Swine	2390	536
Junior Fair Poultry	932	115
Junior Fair Rabbits	500	106
Junior Fair Horse	2218	670
Junior Fair Skillathon	2331	N/a
Junior Fair Dogs	740	130
(Total Junior Fair)	13545	2811

Open Livestock	2022 Entries	2022 Exhibitors
Open Beef	726	404
Open Dairy	455	229
Open Goats	714	108
Open Sheep	2106	449
Open Swine	1910	682
Open Poultry	1353	52
Open Rabbits	455	69
Llamas	462	47
Open Horse	785	79
(Total Open)	8,966	2,119

Judges' Credentials

The more than 500 judges chosen to officiate the Ohio State Fair competitions are highly accredited individuals with higher education degrees, previous judging experience, expertise in their fields and certification by various boards. Many judges have participated as competitors and are chosen to serve in this role by notable organizations as part of a selective process. These individuals have collectively put in hours of coursework, testing, and competition judging to get to the Fair.

Arts

Fine Arts

- Jurors for this division are sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council and are professionals in the art world. In 2023, professional division jurors include [Arron Foster](#), an assistant professor of art at Kent State University and [Denise Bookwalter](#), a professor of art at Florida State University. [Eliana Calle Saari](#), a faculty member in the Art Department at Ohio Dominican University, is the amateur division juror. All three jurors have an extensive background in printmaking and have shown work in numerous art exhibits.



Creative Arts

- There are approximately 60 judges, some of whom are certified by applicable organizations including the National Quilting Association.
- Most judges for the culinary competitions are college graduates trained in food and nutrition, and some are employed by The Ohio State University's Food Science and Technology Department in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).
- Sewing and fashion-related competition judges have included fashion designers from the Columbus College of Art and Design.
- Some judges are recommended by many of the esteemed local arts organizations and guilds who partner with the Ohio State Fair.
- Some judges have been involved in the arts for decades through their organizations, county fairs, and state fairs.
- Judges represent a variety of backgrounds and have collectively worked for commodity groups, Fortune 500 companies, and media outlets.

Youth Arts

- Judges possess arts education degrees and certifications.
- The Ohio Alliance of Art Educators assists by making judge recommendations and assignments.

Livestock

Horses (open and junior)

- Judges are accredited by various organizations including the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), Ohio 4-H, American Belgian Horse Association, Percheron Breeders of America, American Clydesdale Association, Shire Association of America, and American Horseshow Association (AHSA).
- Judges are required to apprentice, attend clinics, and complete testing to judge specific events.
- Many judges are owners or breeders of the specific breed or discipline they judge.
- Junior horse judges are certified by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) through recommendations, courses, and exams.

Dogs

- After completing hours of work, along with written and oral testing, each judge is certified by American Kennel Club (AKC).

Rabbits

- Judges are licensed by American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) and have met the following criteria:
 - Judges must work with four judges and pass a test to become an ARBA Registrar.
 - Judges must register 30 rabbits and have registrar's license for two years.
 - Judges must pass written and oral test for judge's license.
 - Judges must work with eight judges and be endorsed by six of them to receive a license.

Llamas

- Judges are approved by the International Llama Registry, show division, judges committee.
- Judges must pass an annual test.



Dairy cattle

- All judges in this category have college experience and/or have attended national judging conferences.

Beef cattle

- All judges in this category have college experience and/or have attended national judging conferences.

Poultry

- Judges are licensed by either or both the American Bantam Association and the American Poultry Association after a written and oral/hands-on exam by an accredited judge.

Sheep

- Judges have experience in other fairs and sheep shows across the United States.

Dairy Goats

- Judges must have served an apprenticeship, completed an American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) ADGA training conference, and be at least 18 years of age. A personnel file on each judge is maintained at the ADGA office.
- Judges must meet all of the standards of the ADGA license regulations maintain their license by paying a ADGA judges license fee each year.

Boer Goats

- Judges must have served an apprenticeship, completed an American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) ABGA training conference, and be at least 18 years of age. A personnel file on each judge is maintained at the ABGA office.
- Judges must meet all of the standards of the ABGA license regulations maintain their license by paying a ABGA judges license fee each year.

Youth Organizations

4-H Non-Livestock

- Non-livestock projects are presented by youth ages 8-19 enrolled in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or under the direction of an OSU extension professional.
- Judges have expertise in the corresponding areas they are evaluating, such as natural resources, woodworking, or engineering.

Girl Scouts

- While some competitors may be Girl Scouts, the Girl Scouts organization is not offering any specific competitions in 2023.
- However, Girl Scouts will still be present, and can be visited at their booth in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by Intel®* for hands-on activities, learn about Girl Scouts' programming, and buy cookies.

Sports

Cheerleading

- Judges are certified by AmeriCheer and AmeriDance through annual courses and testing.



Baton Twirling Competition

- Judges are certified by the National Baton Twirling Association, United States Twirling Association, World Twirling Association, and Twirling Unlimited.

Boxing

- Approximately 100 judges are certified by USA Boxing, Inc. Judges complete recertification courses every two years and take a test every four years.

Wrestling

- There are 25-30 referees; all folkstyle officials are certified by the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) to officiate in Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) sanctioned competitions, and all freestyle officials are certified through USA Wrestling.

Podcast

“A Fair to Remember”

ohiostatefair.com/podcast

“When you have a treasured event like the Fair that’s been around this long, there are so many stories that have built this great tradition,” explained host Vince Tornero, founder of Wessler Media. “I’ve had the honor of hearing and producing these stories firsthand, and I’m so thrilled we’ve had the ability to share them with the world.”

Now entering its fourth season, the Ohio State Fair’s official podcast introduces topical episodes centered around particular areas – Ohio and Fair history tied to the arts, delicious food, impressive livestock and agriculture, the famous Sale of Champions, tradition through the eyes of the Fair’s General Manager, and amazing Fair entertainers. Tornero has spent many hours chatting with dozens of competitors, entertainers, vendors, historians, and Ohioans, talking about their relationship with the Ohio State Fair. From love that blossomed at the Fair to the incredible back stories behind some of the Fair’s most impressive performers to a walk through history that is now permanently painted on the Fair’s walls to the heart-warming story of an exhibitor’s quest to shattering a Sale of Champions, and many more stories, Season 4 takes a look behind the Ohio State Fair curtain to detail the stories of some of the people who bring this great Fair to life.

Catch up now on the three previous seasons of ‘A Fair to Remember’ to hear from the late C. LaVon Shook, the Ohio State Fair historian who literally wrote the book on the Ohio State Fair, or Dave Tracey of Holland, near Toledo, a vendor whose family has been selling root beer floats at the Ohio State Fair since 1956.

“The Ohio State Fair is a huge piece of so many peoples’ stories,” said Tornero. “Documenting these stories is like creating an audio time capsule to capture the history, the experiences, the work, and the importance of this great Fair. My goal is for listeners to feel as if they’re sitting alongside these individuals as they recount their magnificent stories that are thrilling, amusing, funny, and may even tug on some heart strings.”

While Tornero's career began in radio, his current creative home is podcasting at his company. Founded in 2018, Wessler Media focuses on branded audio and social media content creation. His work has earned recognitions from the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and others. While he loves a good story just as much as a refreshing lemon shake up, he's most energized by spending time with his wife Melina and their two sons, Gio and Enzo.





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Listen to the Ohio State Fair podcast anywhere you listen to podcasts.



2023 Expositions Commission

The Ohio Expositions Commission was established in 1961 when the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation creating a new governing body for the Ohio Expo Center. Prior to 1961, the State Board of Agriculture oversaw the facility and Fair. The Commission maintains and manages state property reserved for the purpose of conducting at least one Fair annually.

- Brian Baldridge, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director
- Representative Rodney Creech, House Agriculture Committee Chair
- Michael Curtin
- Andrew Doehrel
- Rose Hartschuh (Vice Chair)
- Cathann Kress, OSU College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Vice President & Dean
- Angela Krile (Chair)
- Elizabeth Lafferty (Secretary)
- Erin Limes Stickel
- Mary Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director
- Lydia Mihalik, Ohio Development Services Agency Director
- John Page
- Doug Preisse
- Senator Tim Schaffer, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Chair
- Virgil L. Strickler, Ohio Expo Center & State Fair General Manager
- J. Michael Townsley