

## Contact Information

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### Social media – connect with us!

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/ohiostatefair](http://www.facebook.com/ohiostatefair)  
Instagram – [www.instagram.com/ohiostatefair](http://www.instagram.com/ohiostatefair)  
X – [www.twitter.com/OhioStateFair](http://www.twitter.com/OhioStateFair)  
Pinterest – [www.pinterest.com/ohiostatefair](http://www.pinterest.com/ohiostatefair)  
YouTube – [www.youtube.com/theohiostatefair](http://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](http://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 23 – Aug. 3 (except for Aug. 3, 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

In 2025, parking will be very limited in the Media Center lot. We will provide limited overflow parking in the Pavilion Lot (Gate 9), located east of the Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center *presented by Ag-Pro Companies*. Please note parking is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. If all media spots are full, you will be routed to general parking in the North Lot (off of 17th Avenue).



## **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 to a concert, please contact Jess West at [j.west@expo.ohio.gov](mailto: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

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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 23 – Aug. 3! Experience it all: food, animals, entertainment, rides, shopping, competitions, and more.

### 280 characters

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 23 – Aug. 3! Enjoy your favorite Fair traditions, like the butter cow, Smokey Bear, farm animals, and delicious fair food. Experience it all: Family-friendly entertainment, exciting rides, art exhibits, live music, hands-on education, and more.

### 25 words

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 23 – Aug. 3! Enjoy food, animals, rides, shopping, arts, entertainment, agriculture, music, education, hands-on activities, and much more.

### 50 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 23 – Aug. 3! 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 23 – Aug. 3! Experience your favorite Fair traditions, like the butter cow, Smokey Bear, the SkyGlider, livestock animals, the All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir, and the 8-acre 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, live demonstrations, the Ohio History Center, and much more.

### 100 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 23 – Aug. 3! Experience your favorite traditions: visit the butter cow and calf, be greeted by Smokey Bear, see baby animals, take a ride on the SkyGlider, and listen to the All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir. Don't miss the free petting zoo *presented by CareSource*, live music, livestock shows, entertainment stages, impressive hypnotists and circus stunt artists, an Ohio arts gallery, pop-up performances, costumed characters, the Ohio History Center, and a Natural Resources Park with youth fishing, a kayak pond, and daily lumberjack shows!

### 100 words – Free Activities Focus

Don't miss the Ohio State Fair, July 23 – Aug. 3! Admission includes countless free activities and attractions. Make memories that will last a lifetime by visiting the butter cow, Smokey Bear, multiple free entertainment areas, and an abundance of animals. Enjoy the free petting zoo *presented by CareSource*, live music, livestock shows, magicians, circus stunt artists, a brand-new chainsaw carver, pop-up performances with costumed stilt-walkers, award-winning arts, hands-on education, live demonstrations, and an 8-acre Natural Resources Park with youth fishing, kayaking, butterfly house, and more! Fairgoers can also visit the Ohio History Center for free each day of the Fair.

### 125 words

Make memories that will last a lifetime at the Ohio State Fair, July 23 – Aug. 3! 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, aerial stunt artists, magicians, a thrilling new chainsaw carver, lumberjack shows and more family-friendly entertainment. Enjoy countless activities, including the free petting zoo, livestock shows, an Ohio arts gallery, the amazing Youth Exploration Space, and the eight-acre Natural Resources Park with youth fishing, kayaking, a butterfly house, and more!

## General Information for our Guests

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### Dates

July 23 – Aug. 3, 2025

### Year

170th

### 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. 3)
- **Media Center:** 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. or by appointment (closes at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3)
- **Live Animal Exhibit Buildings:** 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (some buildings close at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)
- **Lausche Youth Exploration Space** *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council:* 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)
- **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 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)
- **Mountain Dew Midway:** Monday through Friday 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays\* 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
  - Sunday, Aug. 4 – 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
  - Sensory-Friendly Morning (Thursday, July 24) – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - *\*Except Sunday, Aug. 3, when the Midway closes at 9 p.m.*

Many buildings have reduced hours on Aug. 3. 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 22 only)
- Free – Children 5 and under
- Free – Veterans, Military, and First Responders (public police, fire, and EMS) with appropriate ID

### Ride Prices

Rides are operational 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. (See ride hour above)

- \$37 – Ride-All-Day Wristband (purchased on-site)
- \$33 – Advance-Sale Ride-All-Day Wristband (available online only in advance through July 22)
- Fairgoers can buy individual ride credits. All rides require 3 or more credits.

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

## Parking

General parking, located in the main O'Reilly Auto Parts Parking Lot north of the Cardinal Gate, is \$10 per vehicle. Accessible parking is available. Reserved parking is not available to the general public.

## Free Park-and-Ride

Ohio State Fair guests can park for free at Columbus State Community College, and ride free in air-conditioned shuttles to the 11th Avenue entry gate (the OHIO Gate).

### Directions

From I-71, get off at the Spring Street exit. [Click here for additional directions, including videos of how to access Columbus State Community College.](#)

**Address** (for use in GPS navigation systems/mapping):

[534 E Long Street, Columbus, OH 43215](#)

## Parking Map

[Park for free in any of the red maps shown on the park-and-ride map.](#) Please note that there may be signs posted about paying to park, as the college does charge for parking outside of the designated lots and outside of the Ohio State Fair dates in the designated lots. If you are attending the Ohio State Fair July 23 - Aug. 3 and park in the red lots, you do not need to pay to park.

## Free Park-and-Ride Shuttle

The free parking shuttle will pick up and drop off at the intersection of Washington and Spring Street, shown on the [park-and-ride map](#) with a yellow star. At the Ohio State Fair, the shuttle will pick up and drop off at the 11th Avenue gate (the OHIO Gate).

## Free Park-and-Ride Shuttle Hours

Monday - Friday – 10 a.m. – Midnight

Saturday and Sunday\* (except Sunday, Aug. 3) - 9 a.m. – Midnight

Sunday, Aug. 3\* – 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

## Reserved Parking

Reserved parking is incredibly limited and can only be purchased by exhibitors and vendors in advance. Reserved parking within the gates of the Fair is \$15 per day.

## Parking Access

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

## Bicycle Parking

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

## Invasive Species Located on Fairgrounds — Visitors encouraged to check vehicles

Spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect from Asia, has been located on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. These pests are not harmful to humans but do destroy crops, plants, and trees. If you see any during your visit, please stomp on them and be sure to check your car for these bugs before you leave the fairgrounds. This time of year, spotted lanternflies are approximately 1 inch, with black bodies and brightly-colored wings.

Reporters interested in learning more about spotted lanternfly can contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Video and photos can be provided.

## 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. – 9 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. 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 AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio*

The Ohio State Fair offers two, air-conditioned Infant Care & Nursing Stations. One is located in Kiddieland and the other in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*, 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.

Medical assistance is provided in the air-conditioned First Aid Center located just north of Kasich Hall.

## 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 - \$20/day\*
- Electric scooter - \$75/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. Booths are located inside the OHIO Gate, in Central Park, and north of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue near the north SkyGlider entrance.

## Accessibility

The Ohio State Fair is committed to inclusion and accessibility. Read more about our services or contact us at [info@expo.ohio.gov](mailto: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

- Ag-Pro Companies Taft Coliseum\*\*\*
- Brown Sheep Building *presented by Kubota*
- Cardinal Restroom
- Cooper Arena
- Gilligan Livestock Complex

- First Aid Center\*\*\*
- Bricker MarketPlace Building
- Kasich Hall\*
- Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*
- Nationwide® Land & Living, *presented by Ohio Farm Bureau*
- Natural Resources Park
- Rhodes Center lobby\*\*
- Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center *presented by Ag-Pro Companies*
- WCOL Celeste Center (open during concerts)\*

\*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

## 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 animals. 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.

## Audio Descriptions for Buildings

Enhance your experience at the Fair with audio descriptions for buildings and attractions. These descriptions provide accurate details and narration to make the fair more accessible for visitors who are blind or have low vision. To access the audio descriptions, simply download the official Ohio State Fair mobile app and look for the “Audio Descriptions” section. Here you’ll find a list of exhibits with audio narration available.

## Support for Individuals Who are Deaf or Hard of hearing

### American Sign Language (ASL) Signed Interpretation

In partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, ASL interpretation is provided at the Fair’s opening ceremony, Cincinnati Circus Company shows, Great Lakes Timber (lumberjack) shows in Natural Resources Park, the Sale of Champions Livestock Auction, ticketed concerts in the WCOL Celeste Center, and a variety of other entertainment events and demonstrations. Pick up a daily schedule to see which events have ASL interpretation.

### Assisted Listening Devices

Free Assisted Listening Devices are available for use at the following locations:

- WCOL Celeste Center - available at the Box Office inside the center doors
- Main Street Stage - available at the sound board at the northeast entrance to the tent/stage area
- Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage - available at the sound board to the rear of the 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
- Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*
- Natural Resources Park Pavilion
- Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center *presented by Ag-Pro Companies*
- 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 – \$20/day
- Electric scooter – \$75/day (8 a.m. – 11 p.m.)

\*HomeTown Mobility accepts advance reservations online at [htmia.com](http://htmia.com) or by calling 1-712-938-2029 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 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. There is an additional \$5 processing fee for all call-in reservations. Reservations will ONLY be accepted for full day scooter and wheelchair rentals. Reservations are not accepted for strollers, wagons, or storage cubicles. Reservations need to be made 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.

Compliments of [Accessible Ohio](#), an Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) program, a \$10 off coupon is available to use toward an electric scooter rental for individuals who have a physical or mental condition that affects their ability to navigate the fairgrounds. Access the [digital coupon online](#), or pick up a paper coupon at the OOD mobile unit, which is located just outside of the Lausche Youth Exploration Space near the Cardinal Gate. The digital coupon can be printed or opened using a smartphone for easy access. Coupons may be redeemed at either of the two HomeTown Mobility locations at the Fair, located inside the Cardinal Gate and the Ohio Gate.

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

Thursday, July 24, 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 now located in Central Park, or use our accessibility guide to find a Fair opportunity that suits you. Fine print social narratives, a first-then board, and wait cards on the OCALI website at [ocali.org](http://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 overwhelming to some. 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 relief. It also features an accessible play area.

## Quiet Room

The Quiet Room is located inside the Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center *presented by Ag-Pro Companies Taft Coliseum* — Look for the Q symbol on the Ohio State Fair map. With 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: An accessible restroom and adult changing station are located in the Coliseum.

## 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.

### American Sign Language (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 Restrictions

### 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. Categories of a few dietary needs, and some food offerings, are listed below as a reference. Visit [ohiostatefair.com/food](https://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, 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 (no bun), and cotton candy.
- **Vegetarian** - nuts, veggie bowl, 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, 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

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

### Special Days

#### Wednesday, July 23

##### *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 Gazebo, 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 24

##### *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 accessibility guide to find a Fair opportunity that suits you. Print social narratives, a first-then board, and wait cards are also available on OCALI's website.

##### *WOSU Kids Day*

###### *Central Park*

Join WOSU Public Media on Thursday, July 24 at the Ohio State Fair from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM to meet PBS KIDS characters from the hit show Peg+Cat! Keep the whole family entertained with hands-on activities, exciting photo opportunities, and a chance to share why you value Central Ohio's Public Media station. Our booth in Central Park offers fun for all ages!

##### *\$3 Thursday (food deals)*

On either Thursday during the Ohio State 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 24 and 31. When it becomes available, a full list of \$3 Thursday items can be found at [ohiostatefair.com/3-thursday](https://ohiostatefair.com/3-thursday).

#### Friday, July 25

##### *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 25, you will find behavioral health resources throughout the fair to help make prevention, treatment, and recovery support more visible and accessible to all Ohioans. For more information, visit [RecoveryOhio.gov](https://RecoveryOhio.gov).



## **Saturday, July 26**

### *Molina Healthcare Day - Located at Cardinal Gate & OHIO Gate*

Join Molina Healthcare at the Cardinal Gate or OHIO Gate for a warm welcome to the Ohio State Fair! Molina Healthcare of Ohio proudly serves state residents with Medicaid and Medicare coverages. Stop by our tent for items to help you beat the heat and ask our experts your coverage questions. Molina Healthcare is committed to your health and well-being.

## **Sunday, July 27**

### *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 28**

### *NBC4 Family Discount Day*

Adults will be admitted for the kids' admission price of \$10, and kids 12 and under will be admitted free all day. Until 5 p.m., purchase ride-all-day wristbands at a discounted rate of \$20! All riders are required to have a wristband or credits to ride.

*The ride-all-day wristband deal ends promptly at 5 p.m.*

*All guests, including children, must proceed to a ticket window to pick-up their complimentary ticket.*

## **Tuesday, July 29**

### *Senior Day at the Fair*

Seniors ages 60 and up can enjoy free admission, July 29 only, all day long! In addition, all fairgoers are invited to enjoy the free concert in the WCOL Celeste Center at 1 p.m.

*All guests, including children, must proceed to a ticket window to pick-up their complimentary ticket.*

## **Thursday, July 31**

### *College Student Day*

Students attending any college or post-secondary career or technical school receive discounted admission of \$10 this day only. Fairgoers can show their student ID at the admission gates to receive this discount.

### *\$3 Thursday (food deals)*

On either Thursday during the Ohio State 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 24 and 31. When it becomes available, a full list of \$3 Thursday items can be found at [ohiostatefair.com/3-thursday](https://ohiostatefair.com/3-thursday).

## **Friday, Aug. 1**

### *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, tuna, or vegetables, disposable plates or silverware, paper towels, or condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, ranch dressing). All donations will support families at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio.

## **Saturday, Aug. 2**

### *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.

## Fun Facts

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### 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

- 8,279: Different classes of competitions that individuals can enter during the 2025 Ohio State Fair, including crafts, fine arts, sporting events, livestock, gardening, cooking, baking, etc.
- 10,310: 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. *This figure does not include late entries received after early July.*

#### Sale of Champions

- 57: The anniversary of the Sale of Champions will celebrate in 2025; there was a Sale of Champions held in 2021 during the livestock-only event
- 541: Youth champions honored since the first Sale of Champions in 1968
- \$9,398,034: Total amount made from livestock sales since 1968
- \$5,247,150: 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
- 46,473: Youth that have benefitted from the Youth Reserve Program

#### Food

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

- 134: Number of food vendor locations
- 20: Number of different foods served on a stick
- 55: Number of deep-fried food variations

#### Butter Cow and Sculpture

- 500: Average number of hours spent working on the sculptures by a team of artists each year
- 122: Number of years ago that the first butter cow and calf were displayed in 1903
- 2,000: Approximate pounds of butter used to create the sculptures in 2024
- 450: Approximate number of hours it took to complete the 2024 butter sculpture display
- The 2022 butter sculpture display was the largest display to date
- 2,530: Pounds of butter used to create the sculptures in 2022

#### Personnel

- The Ohio Expo Center's permanent staff comprises 55 employees, 50 of whom work full time.
- The current longest serving employee has worked here for 49 years.
- For the 2024 Ohio State Fair, more than 743 seasonal staff members were added to payroll to work between May and August 2024. 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 6,500 flower plugs from Bildsten Landscape Services for the various landscaping beds and pots located throughout the grounds.
- In 2025, fairgoers will notice both new hardscaping and landscaping throughout the property as part of the Expo 2050 Master Plan Construction Project. In addition to the 6,500 flower plugs purchased for existing landscaping, nearly 4,500 additional flowers, trees, and shrubs were purchased from Environmental Management, Inc. to complete new landscaping areas.

*These figures do not include the plants and flowers planted throughout Natural Resources Park as those plants are purchased and installed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.*

## Food and Shopping

### 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 10,000 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.
- Join OPA to celebrate Thanksgiving at the Ohio State Fair! Complete with turkey and all the trimming, they serve a traditional Thanksgiving dinner everyday of the Fair.

## Attendance

### Records

- 12-day attendance record: 1,006,228, set in 2023
- Single-day attendance record: 119,660, set on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023. The previous record of 115,288, set on Sunday, July 28, 2013.

### Past Ohio State Fair Attendance Figures:

- **2024:** 988,859
- **2023:** 1,006,228
- **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.

Last year's buttery masterpieces were crafted from approximately 2,000 pounds of butter, donated in part by Dairy Farmers of America, and lead by a team of Ohio-based technical sculptors led by Paul Brooke of Cincinnati. His team consists of Tammy Buerk of West Chester, Erin Birum of Columbus, dairy farmer Matt Davidson of Sidney, and Joe Metzler of Auburn. The team spent approximately 450 hours to complete the display, with 375 hours dedicated to sculpting inside the 46-degree cooler. The 2024 display was a salute to the nation's elite athletes as they flipped, jumped, and zoomed to glory.

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
- A tribute to Ohio inventors



- Columbus Bicentennial birthday cake
- Darth Vader
- Dave Thomas of Wendy's
- Jack Nicklaus
- John Glenn
- Mr. Monopoly
- The Liberty Bell

## Ohio Agricultural Facts

- In 2024, Ohio's agricultural production ranked:
  - First (1st) in Swiss cheese production, with more than 146.2 million pounds produced
  - Second (2nd) in egg production, with 12.4 billion eggs
  - Seventh (7th) in soybean production, with 251.5 million bushels
  - Eighth (8th) in hog inventory, with 2.6 million head
  - Ninth (9th) in corn production, with 566.4 million bushels
  - Ninth (9th) in turkey inventory, with 6.4 million head
  - Twelfth (12th) in milk production, with more than 5.6 billion pounds produced
- Ohio has 76,009 farms, spanning 13.6 million acres
- According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, Ohio is home to 66,217 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 \$124 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

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### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 & 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 was 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.

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## Accolades

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- Carnival Warehouse – 2024 Top 50 Fairs (2024)
- 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 Destinations Guide – American Families’ Favorite Summer Events (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)
- Wide Open Country – The 20 Best State Fairs to Visit Around the United States (2023)
- Yahoo! Travel – 7 Best State Fairs in America (2014)
- Yelp – 10 Best State Fairs to Experience this Summer (2024)

## New this year

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### New Entertainers

#### **Catherine Hickland - Hilarious Hypnotist** | July 23-28

*Main Street Stage*

Join Catherine Hickland on an extraordinary adventure that fuses entertainment with enlightenment — where the art of illusion meets the magic of the mind.

#### **Chainsaw Carver** | Daily

*Kiddieland*

Witness the incredible skill and creativity of the artist as they transform a raw piece of wood into a magnificent work of art using only a chainsaw. The roaring sound of the chainsaw, the flying wood chips, and the mesmerizing movements of the artist create a thrilling and dynamic spectacle that is both awe-inspiring and unforgettable.

#### **Cincinnati Circus** | Daily

*Kiddieland*

The Cincinnati Circus is a spectacle unlike any other. Witness a breathtaking display of human skill and daring stunts as the performers push the boundaries of physical ability.

#### **Cup Guy** | July 23-28

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

The Cup Guy is a unique, high-energy comedy show that features trick shots, hilarious stunts, and, of course, RED CUPS.

#### **Doc Magic’s Fun Time Variety Show** | July 29 – Aug. 3

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*



The Doc Magic Show is a mix of fantastic magic, balloon shenanigans, and engaging comedy. It's jam-packed with audience participation and just plain ole' FUN!

**Jason D'Vaude - The Circus Man** | July 29 – Aug. 3

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Watch as he conquers the tall unicycle, dazzles with the Chinese yoyo, juggles hats and objects high into the air, and balances his way through handstands and high-flying feats. It's comedy, chaos, and circus thrills all rolled into one unforgettable show!

**Ventriloquist - Steve Brogan & Company** | July 23 – 28

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

One of America's top ventriloquists delivers non-stop comedy, crazy characters, and crowd interaction you won't forget. Get ready to laugh 'til it hurts!

## New Musicians

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

- Amy Newhart Duo | July 24, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Andy Shaw | July 23, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Angela Perley Duo | July 30, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Ari Bolin | July 26, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Bohemian Highway | July 28, Natural Resources Park Amphitheater
- Chuck Starr Band | July 26-28, Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden
- Doug Hare | Aug. 2, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Eric Clemens | July 31, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Giana Allen Duo | Aug. 1, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Jessie Barr | July 28, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- J London | July 27, Natural Resources Park Amphitheater
- Jonathan Hape | July 25, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Stache Duo | July 27, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage
- Tyler Cooper | Aug. 3, Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage

## New Full Fair Attractions

### The Barnyard

Visit the new location of two fair favorites — Pig Races and the Petting Zoo *presented by CareSource*. Have a seat in the shade to watch three lightning-fast breeds of racing pigs dash around the track in a squeal-worthy showdown! While in The Barnyard, visit the free Petting Zoo *presented by CareSource* featuring more than 50 amazing animals from around the world — including goats, llamas, zebras, kangaroos, antelope, and more!

### Chainsaw Carving

Witness the incredible skill and creativity of an artist as they transform a raw piece of wood into a magnificent work of art using only a chainsaw.

### Cincinnati Circus Aerial Entertainment

Located at the south end of the Mountain Dew Midway, the Cincinnati Circus is a spectacle unlike any other. Witness a breathtaking display of daring human skill as the performers push the boundaries of physical ability.

## Full Fair Paid Attractions

### Beat The Bar Challenge (*Kiddieland, Price - \$10*)

Think you've got what it takes to hang on? Test your grip strength at the Beat The Bar Challenge, a pull-up bar isometric hang-style contest where the clock is ticking and bragging rights are on the line.



**Dueling Axes** (*South of the Ag-Pro Companies Taft Coliseum, Price - \$10*)

Fairgoers will test their aim at Dueling Axes, a mobile axe throwing trailer located in Central Park. Guests get 10 throws to channel their inner lumberjack in a fun and thrilling way!

**Matrix Mining** (*Kiddieland, Price - Forthcoming*)

Guests can mine real rough on-site to uncover gemstones, crack open geodes, and shop gem-inspired jewelry. It's a hands-on adventure that's perfect for aspiring geologists and curious kids alike.

**Sling Shot Ride** (*New Food Avenue near Mountain Dew Midway north entrance, Price is \$40 per person, video available for purchase for \$25*)

Be launched as high as 200 feet in the air in this unique and exhilarating ride with towers standing 145 feet tall. Guests must be 48" tall to ride. Ride operated by Hot Shot Thrill Rides.

## New Competitions

- Artistic Upcycling – Now its own division
- Sculpture & 3D Art
- Functional Art
- Wearable Art
- Laser Cut Designs
- Art Glass
- Fused Glass
- Stained Glass
- LEGO & Brick Design – Now its own division
- Diamond Painting
- Fairy Gardens
- Lacemaking – Now its own division
- Cookies & Pastries – Now their own divisions
- Sourdough – New division
- Sculpted Novelty Cakes
- Decorated Desserts Division – New division
- Pie Flavor of the Year: Peach (*not a new competition but a new flavor each year*)
- Pygmy Goats – Livestock

## New Food

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

**BluRaz Crunch Funnel Cake – Prowant Specialty Company**

Start with an original funnel cake fried to golden perfection and top it with cream cheese frosting and homemade blue raspberry cookie crunch.

**Buckeye Lemonade – Miller Food Concessions LLC**

Traditional Lemonade infused with creamy peanut butter and chocolate.

**Build Your Own Cinnamon Roll Sundae – Molnar Concessions**

Start off with a cinnamon roll and some ice cream, then turn it into the sundae of your dreams!

**Caramel Apple Cream Puff – Schmidt's of German Village**

Schmidt's newest cream puff masterpiece is here! Try this delicious caramel apple cream puff featuring the perfect blend of caramelly-apple cream puff filling complete with small apple chunks and topped with caramel drizzle. This delicious puff is the perfect treat on a summer Fair day.

**Chocolate and Vanilla Ghost Pepper Fudge – The Nut Shack**

This fudge takes the sweet and spicy combination to the next level. Chocolate or vanilla fudge made with 100% ghost pepper powder is sure to wake up your taste buds.

**Chocolate Covered Frozen Coconana – Maggie's Concessions**

A chocolate-covered frozen banana rolled in sweet-toasted coconut could be the sweet treat of the summer.

**Cookie Milk Ice Pop – Eaton Concessions**

This vendor is working with a local artisan ice pop maker (Rime-Time Curiously Crafted Pops) to offer a Cookie Milk Ice Pop, made with their chocolate chip cookies. They are so cookie-licious!

**Deep Fried Taco – Jim's Concessions (New Vendor)**

This massive 12-inch taco shell is loaded with your choice of meat (chicken, buffalo chicken, or ground beef), lettuce, tomato, sour cream, and cheese. Wrapped, sealed, dipped into a batter, and then deep fried. The outside gets crispy while the inside stays as fresh as it was before frying it.

**Dubai Chocolate Bar – LADS Management**

The famed Dubai Bar is a 1/2-pound viral sensation, filled with a pistachio creme center then enrobed in chocolate.

**Dubai Chocolate Funnel Cake – GH Concessions**

The social media sensation is being adapted into a new favorite fair food! Don't miss the scratch-made funnel cake covered with pistachio creme, kadayif, and chocolate chips.

**Grilled Orange Chicken Egg Roll – Eggroll Love, LLC**

Eggroll Love blends together Black-American and Asian cuisine with this new grilled orange chicken egg roll. Grilled chicken breast, homemade orange sauce, chopped green onions and mozzarella cheese hand-wrapped into an egg roll, which is then dipped in a special crunchy batter and deep-fried to perfection.

**Hickory French Fries – Dre's Place BBQ**

Plain old french fries are a thing of the past! Now they're loaded with your choice of beef, pork or chicken, topped with North Carolina-style cheese, jalapeños, and barbecue sauce. If you like barbecue sauce and melted shredded cheese, this dish is for you!

**Hot Cheetos Cheese Fries – Prowant Specialty Fries**

Fresh-cut fries are cooked to order, covered in cheese sauce, and topped with crumbled Hot Cheetos.

**Jalapeño Cheddar Corn Dog – GH Concessions**

GH Concessions is kicking up the heat by taking a traditional dog, hand-dipping it in their house-made Jalapeño-packed corndog batter, frying it to a golden perfection, and topping it with cheddar cheese sauce and ranch.

**Jalapeño Popper Pizza – GH Concessions**

Cream cheese spread over hand-tossed, freshly made dough, topped with cheese, bacon, jalapeños, and ranch.

**Korean Corn Dogs – Miller & Company Concessions**

How many ways can you remix a corn dog? Who knows, but Miller & Company Concessions is off to a great start with this Korean Corn Dog. Try mozzarella cheese dipped in corn dog batter for a classic favorite or add Cheetos or Fruity Pebbles to top it off.

**Mac n' D – Fork'et Me Not**

Doritos are layered with creamy mac and cheese, topped with crispy hand-breaded fried chicken, and finished with a drizzle of the house Yum Yum sauce. It's cheesy, crispy, and full of flavor — everything you want in a fair-day bite.

**Mangonadas – A&M Concessions (New Vendor)**

A hand-blended mango slushy topped with chamoy (a sweet tangy syrup), tajin (a chili lime salt), and a tamarind stick (a chewy spicy candy).

**Monster Baby Donuts – Monster Baby Donuts, LLC (New Vendor)**

Monster Baby Donuts is a gluten-free, vegan bakery serving up deliciously fun, allergy-friendly mini donuts. The variety of donut flavors are perfect for everyone to enjoy. The sweet treats are crafted without common allergens, but packed with monster-sized flavor.

**Moonshine Chicken on a Stick – Imperial Food Concessions**

A healthy portion of chicken, generously drizzled in world-famous, made-from-scratch Moonshine sauce. The sauce has a perfect balance of sweet and savory notes, with a pleasant, subtle kick that adds an exciting dimension to the overall flavor profile.

**New Tea Blend – Jumbo Iced Tea**

Since 1982, Jumbo Iced Tea has been brewing tea at the Ohio State Fair. Their Signature Blend is now crafted with premium Argentine tea leaves.

**Original Lemon Shake-Up Sundae – North American Food Service**

This bold creation transforms the classic fair lemonade into a refreshing sundae—featuring soft-serve vanilla ice cream, real lemon, crushed ice, sugar sparkle, whipped cream, and a cherry on top. Fair nostalgia in every bite.

**Sirloin Steak Tip Dinner – Pickle Barrel Sirloin Tips (New Vendor)**

Bite-sized pieces of sirloin steak are served alongside red-skinned mashed potatoes, topped with sautéed onions and peppers, and marinated mushrooms.

**Pork Tenders – Ohio Pork Council**

Try the Ohio Pork Council's new juicy, crispy, tender pork tenders!

**Sausage S'more Skewer – Top Notch Concessions**

A shish kebab style savory treat! Bites of juicy smoked sausage alternated with toasted marshmallows on a stick, drizzled with creamy chocolate, and sprinkled with graham cracker crumbles.

**Smashburgers – Fork'et me Not**

The Smashburgers start with fresh, never-frozen beef smashed on a hot griddle for that perfect crispy edge. Each patty is seasoned just right, stacked on a soft toasted bun, and loaded with melty cheese and a variety of toppings.

**Smashadillas – Fork'et me Not**

Meet the Smashadilla — where a quesadilla and a smashburger fall in love. We take seasoned smashed beef, melted cheese, pickles, onions, and tortillas, then grill it all to perfection.

### **Smarties Squashies – LADS Management**

Love Smarties but hate the crunch? Smarties Squashies might be the perfect solution! This foamy gummy candy is a combination of two delicious flavors for an all-new Smarties experience.

### **Strawberry Kettle Corn – Old Time Concessions**

This new flavor of Kettle Corn is sweet, popped, and berry irresistible.

### **Thanksgiving Sundaes and Thanksgiving Sandwiches – W.E. Enterprises**

Can't wait for Thanksgiving? This could be the fair food for you! Try turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, and cranberry sauce served in a bowl sundae-style or as a sandwich.

### **Wisconsin Cheese Curds – Spazz Dog Concessions**

Spazz Dog Concessions offers several new flavors of Cheese Curds at this year's Ohio State Fair, including:

- White Cheddar Bacon
- Yellow Cheddar Jalapeno
- Yellow Cheddar Ghost Pepper
- White Cheddar Dill Pickle
- White Cheddar Funnel Cake

## **Rides**

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Following a lengthy selection and vetting process to pick a ride provider for the Ohio State Fair, Talley Amusements from Fort Worth, Texas, was once again chosen to be the amusement ride provider for the 2024 Fair. The company has been the ride provider at the Ohio State Fair since 2019 (selected in 2018) and reselected in 2023 for the 2024 Ohio State Fair, with renewals through 2027. They remain as the amusement ride provider for the 2025 Ohio State Fair.

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 2025, the Ohio State Fair will feature approximately 65 rides distributed between the Mountain Dew Midway and Kiddieland.

## **Buildings and Stages**

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**Administration Building (1909)**

8 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closes at 5 p.m. on Aug. 3)

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

**Ag-Pro Companies Taft Coliseum (1917)**

Open all Fair hours

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

**The Barnyard**

Open all Fair hours, show times available on our daily schedules

This building is home to the free petting zoo *presented by Caresource* and pig races. Check your daily schedule for showtimes. In recent years, this building was called "The Dog House," and hosted canine entertainment activities.

**Bricker MarketPlace Building (1966)**

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

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 *presented by Kubota* (1930)**

8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

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 and grab some merchandise at one of the two Ohio State Fair gift shops.

**Cooper Arena (1965)**

8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

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

**Cox Fine Arts Center (1909)**

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

Home to one of the largest state fair fine arts exhibitions. 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.

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

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

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.

**Ohio Lottery 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. 3)

This complex houses dairy cattle exhibits, as well as a functioning milking parlor. An air-conditioned restaurant, the 1886 Restaurant, is attached.

### **Infant Care and Nursing Station** *presented by AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio*

The Ohio State Fair offers an air-conditioned family care station located in Kiddieland 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 the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council* and the Bricker MarketPlace Building.

### **Kasich Hall** (2016)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

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), the Ohio State Fair History Exhibit, sporting events, banquets, and other events (Hall A), as well as the permanent Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame exhibit.

### **Lausche Youth Exploration Space** *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council* (1965)

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

Visit the Youth Exploration Space to find many engaging youth-oriented exhibits and activities including 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, OSU Physics, COSI, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Ohio Department of Higher Education, Tiny Town play area, family fun area, healthy initiatives hub, and much more! This year's theme is focused on celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States.

### **Main Street Stage**

Show schedules available at [ohiostatefair.com/events](http://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.

### **Quiet Room**

The air-conditioned Quiet Room is located in the Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center *presented by Ag-Pro Companies*. Look for the Q symbol on the Ohio State Fair map. With 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.

### **Rabbit and Poultry Pavilion** (1905)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

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 home to the All-Ohio State Fair Band and the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir. The Rhodes Center also hosts the annual 50 Year Club meeting. The 50 Year Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 29 at 10 a.m. There are also various 4-H judging events held in the Rhodes Center on certain days.

### **Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden** (*formerly Shoppes at North Commercial - 1905*)

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3)

Visit the open-air pavilion and enjoy all things Ohio — savor the delicious local food cooked to order by Ohio agriculture commodities including the Ohio Pork Council, the Ohio Poultry Association, and the Ohio Beef Council. Don't miss the Ohio beer and wine garden offering local pours alongside daily entertainment. See beautiful horticultural displays throughout the pavilion and browse homegrown Ohio products in the Ohio Proud Market.

### **Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center** *presented by Ag-Pro Companies* (1995)

8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

This building houses beef cattle, the Cattlewomen's Shop, the Ohio Cattleman's putt putt mini golf course, and in 2025 the Quiet Room.

### **WCOL Celeste Center** (1991)

Show schedules available at [ohiostatefair.com](http://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

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### **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 Live Certified BOP Tour**

*Wednesday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m., \$37.40*

Get ready to sing, dance, and party with the KIDZ BOP Kids as they bring today's biggest hits to life on stage, including "Espresso," "HOT TO GO!," and "Dance Monkey." This high-energy, family-friendly concert is perfect for kids of all ages.

#### **Foreigner: Farewell Tour**

*Thursday, July 24 at 7 p.m., \$78.80, \$68.50*

Rock legends Foreigner bring their iconic sound to the stage! Get ready for a high-energy show packed with classic rock anthems and fan favorites.

#### **Warren Zeiders: Relapse Tour with special guest Hailey Whitters**

*Friday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m., \$69.55, \$59.25*

Warren Zeiders brings his gritty country sound and viral hits to the stage, joined by rising star Hailey Whitters. It's a night of fresh, high-energy country music fans won't want to miss!

#### **Morris Day and The Time with special guest ConFunkShun**

*Saturday, July 26 at 7 p.m., \$40.75, \$30.50*

Get ready to groove! Morris Day & The Time bring their signature funk and style to the stage, with legendary R&B group ConFunkShun delivering smooth hits and soulful vibes.

### **Tauren Wells with special guest Josiah Queen**

*Monday, July 28 at 7 p.m., \$36.50*

Experience the powerful vocals and uplifting energy of Tauren Wells, joined by rising artist Josiah Queen. Get ready for an unforgettable night of inspirational pop and worship hits that move the soul.

### **Leanne Morgan: Just Get Started Tour**

*Tuesday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m., \$64.40, \$54.15*

Leanne Morgan brings her hilarious Southern charm and relatable storytelling to the stage in a night of comedy that'll have you laughing from start to finish. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of wit, warmth, and laughs!

### **T-Pain with special guest DJ Montay**

*Wednesday, July 30 at 7 p.m., \$71.60, \$61.35*

Grammy-winning artist T-Pain brings his chart-topping hits and signature sound to the stage, joined by special guest DJ Montay. Get ready for a thrilling night filled with unforgettable music and nonstop excitement!

### **Quinn XCII and Chelsea Cutler**

*Thursday, July 31 at 7 p.m., \$56.20, \$45.90*

Grammy-winning artist T-Pain brings his chart-topping hits and signature sound to the stage, joined by special guest DJ Montay. Get ready for a thrilling night filled with unforgettable music and nonstop excitement!

### **AJR with special guest Valley**

*Friday, Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m., \$92.25, \$85*

Grammy-winning artist T-Pain brings his chart-topping hits and signature sound to the stage, joined by special guest DJ Montay. Get ready for a thrilling night filled with unforgettable music and nonstop excitement!

### **Trace Adkins: What Color's Your Wild Tour with special guest Alex Miller**

*Saturday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m., \$56.20, \$45.90*

Country legend Trace Adkins brings powerhouse vocals and timeless hits to the stage. From emotional ballads to boot-stomping anthems, this unforgettable show delivers the heart and grit fans love.

## **Free Events in the WCOL Celeste Center**

### **All-Ohio State Fair Band & Youth Choir**

*Sunday, July 27 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.

### **Let's Sing Taylor – An Unofficial Live Tribute Show**

*Sunday, July 27 at 7 p.m., FREE (no tickets required)*

Calling all Swifties! Sing and dance along to your favorite Taylor Swift hits at this high-energy tribute concert. This free performance is included with Fair admission, so bring your friends and get ready to shake it off!

**Senior Day Concert: Sixteen Candles *presented by AARP Ohio***

*Tuesday, July 29 at 1 p.m., FREE (no tickets required)*

This Senior Day concert is not just for seniors. Relive the magic of the '80s with Sixteen Candles, the ultimate tribute band delivering high-energy performances of your favorite retro hits. Get ready to sing along, dance, and flash back to an awesome decade

**Sale of Champions Livestock Auction**

*Sunday, Aug. 3 at 1 p.m., FREE (no tickets required)*

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, 2024

### 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

### Boyz II Men

2024

### The Buckingham

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, 2024

### George Thorogood

2017

### Ginuwine

2023

### Hank Williams Jr.

1993, 2019

### Heart

2010, 2014

### Ice Cube

2022, 2024

### Jade Eagleson

2024

### Jake Owen

2015

### Jamey Johnson

2024



**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, 2024

**Kool & the Gang**

1981-1983, 1986, 1988

**Kris Kristofferson**

1987, 1992, 2012

**La Zenda Norteña**

2024

**Lady Antebellum**

2014

**Lakeside**

2022

**Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers**

1982, 1983, 2013

**Lauren Daigle**

2024

**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, 2024

**Night Ranger**

1985, 1987, 2011, 2019

**Nelly**

2022

**Oak Ridge Boys**

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

**The Ohio Players**

2024

**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

**Preacher Lawson**

2024

**Rascal Flatts**

2002, 2005-2007, 2009, 2010, 2017

**Raheem DaVaughn**

2022

**Ray Bull**

2024

**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

**Soul Asylum**  
2024

**Stephen Sanchez**  
2024

**Stone Temple Pilots**  
2024

**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**  
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)

 **Amy Newhart Duo** (Southern Ohio; modern honky tonk) | July 24 at noon and 2 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Amy is wildfire fun on stage with her contagious energy and smile. Her bell-bottom bandanna style paired with a moving country sound is everything you've been missing!

 **Andy Shaw** (Columbus; folk) | July 23 at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Andy Shaw brings a raw, emotional energy to the stage with their signature harmony and soul-stirring folk sound.

 **Angela Perley Duo** (Columbus; alternative country/roadhouse rock-n-roll) | July 30 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Angela Perley makes music for road trips across the American heartland. Rooted in cosmic alt-country, roadhouse rock & roll, witchy-woman psychedelia and amplified Americana. It's a vintage sound for the modern world, glued together by a singer-songwriter who's played everything from dive bars to arenas.

 **Ari Bolin** (Sidney; 70s) | July 26 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Heavily inspired by Stevie Nicks and the timeless sound of the 70s, Ari's music blends classic influences with her own unique voice. Her setlist is a mix of nostalgic covers and heartfelt originals, each song a reflection of her journey and connection to the music.

 **Bill Foley** (Columbus; 50s, 60s and 70s) | July 23-24 and July 30-31 at 1:30 p.m.

*Natural Resources Park Amphitheater*

With a set list full of 50s, 60s and 70s music, Bill Foley always strives to provide an enjoyable and entertaining experience for each and every audience.

 **Bohemian Highway** (Columbus; contemporary folk) | July 28 at 4:30 p.m.

*Natural Resources Park Amphitheater*

Beki Test and Mike Neely present beautiful, original harmonies and a wonderful mixture of contemporary folk with a dash of flute, whistle, guitar, mandolin, percussion, and bass.

 **Chuck Starr Band** (Columbus; R&B, pop and rock) | July 26-28 at 2 p.m.


*Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

Rooted in the soul of R&B, pop, and rock, Chuck's sound blends high-energy performances with heartfelt storytelling. His album Love Math—featuring fan-favorite "Swipe Right"—is a testament to his ability to turn life's moments into unforgettable melodies.

 **Doug Hare** (Columbus; jazz) | Aug. 2 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Doug Hare has been making all sorts of audiences happy for almost thirty years with his flexibility and versatility, performing a wide range of genres through both covers and original material on both piano and guitar.

 **Eric Clemens** (Columbus; feel-good folk soul) | July 31 at noon and 2 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Healing the world through authentic music and unforgettable live performances, Eric Clemens built his foundation of music in open mics during his teenage years. Testing out song after song, this is where the music grew from rudimentary chords to the stories they are today.

 **Giana Allen Duo** (Columbus, cover artist) | Aug. 1 at noon and 2 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Giana Allen has an incredible range as well as a very diverse musical interest. She will cover everything from Adele to Amy Winehouse to Gabby Barrett. Expect some John Mayer, Tina Turner, Fleetwood Mac, Carrie Underwood and all your favorites from the last seven decades.

 **hOm Sound Bath** (Columbus; sound therapy) | July 28 at 11 a.m.

*Natural Resources Park Amphitheater*

hOm is a unique and immersive sound bath experience based out of Columbus, where modern sound therapy, traditional sound healing and musical composition all come together, providing a space for rest, relaxation and healing.

 **Jeff German** (Columbus; Americana and roots-rock) | July 29 at noon and 2 p.m.

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Jeff German has been a fixture on the Columbus roots-rock scene for a few decades. His music sits perfectly in your collection next to your Westerberg, Old '97s, Whiskeytown, and early REM albums. Don't miss his captivating vocals, tight rhythm section and lean arrangement!


 **Jessie Barr** (Columbus) | July 28 at 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

 **J London (Columbus; smooth jazz)** | July 27 at 5 p.m.


*Natural Resources Park Amphitheater*

J London is a music producer, songwriter and a continuing educator in the art of record production. A soul jazz experience where the mind meets the heart, due to the mixture of original and cover vocal songs (R&B/smooth jazz) sung and played.

 **Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers** (Xenia; bluegrass and gospel) | July 27, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Bluegrass band Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers have consistently delivered chart-topping radio hits and energetic performances for nearly 15 years. As one of today's most heralded torch-bearers in mainstream bluegrass and gospel music, audiences won't want to miss this!

 **Jonathan Hape** (Central Ohio; cover artist) | July 25 at noon and 2 p.m.


*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Jonathan Hape is a live-looping singer/songwriter who specializes in entertaining shows of both originals and an eclectic array of covers spanning 60 years.

**Kazual** (Atlanta, Georgia; R&B, pop and hip hop) | July 23-25, July 28-29 and July 31 - Aug. 2 at 5p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; July 26-27 at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 3 at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.


*Main Street Stage*

A powerhouse family band of 3 brothers + 1 cousin blending R&B, pop, hip hop and smooth a cappella harmonies into one unforgettable show.

 **MojoFlo** (Columbus; neo-funk and soul) | July 23 at 4:30 p.m.


*Natural Resources Park Amphitheater*

MojoFlo is a powerhouse Neo-Funk band, known for their infectious rhythms, soulful vocals and captivating stage performance.

 **Open Highway Bluegrass Band** (Circleville; bluegrass) | July 25 at 4:30 p.m.

*Natural Resources Park Amphitheater*

The Open Highway BGB is built on the traditional bluegrass sound along with solid instrumentation, vocals and original material. Most of all, the band looks forward to getting the crowd involved in their performance.


 **Rock This Way Duo** (Thornport; jazz, pop, and R&B) | July 29-31 at 2 p.m.

*Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

Rock This Way is a "mini tribute band" that performs multiple tunes from the likes of Journey, Bruno Mars, The Who, and many more. The boys in RTW have the tunes for you!


 **Stache Duo** (Columbus) | July 27 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*


 **The Makeshifts** (Columbus; rock/power pop) | July 23-25 at 2 p.m.

*Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

Central Ohio based rock/power pop trio featuring Mike Clark, Jarrod Maille and Tony Burlingame. High energy hits from the 60s to 80s with excellent musicians and vocals from all three members.

 **Tyler Cooper** (Pitchin; Americana soul) | Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

*Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

 **Will Freed Band** (Columbus; blues, country and rock) | Aug. 1-3 at 2 p.m.

*Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

Will Freed is a versatile and award-winning singer-songwriter with a soul deeply rooted in the traditions of blues, rock and country music. Hailing from West Virginia and currently residing in Columbus, Will brings heartfelt performances that captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression.

## Free Daily / Strolling Entertainment

It is easy to walk several miles in a day at the Fair. Take a load off for a few and relax with an engaging performance at one of our free entertainment stages with performances from the following amazing entertainers. Be sure to also keep an eye out for many entertainers strolling around the Fair. A variety of free live music is also offered at the Fair! Visit the free live music page for a full list of performing artists.



## **The Amazing Giants** | Daily

### *Strolling*

The Amazing Giants have walked across all types of terrain on their stilts while representing Columbus, Ohio! They have the best costumes and a stack of one-liners that will have you belly laughing in no time. The Amazing Giants are personable, hilarious, and so much fun. Make sure to keep an eye out for them at this year's Fair; we promise they are easy to find if you look up!

## **Billy Kidd** | Daily

### *Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Magician Billy Kidd excels in all types of magic performances. With her expertise in close-up artistry on stage and on the street, Billy has been able to showcase her talents worldwide.

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

### *Strolling*

Mingle with Fair mascot Butters D. Cow up near the main Cardinal Gate. Be sure to stop them for a photo!

## **Catherine Hickland - Hilarious Hypnotist** | July 24 - July 29 **NEW!**

### *Main Street Stage*

Join Catherine Hickland on an extraordinary adventure that fuses entertainment with enlightenment—where the art of illusion meets the magic of the mind.

## **Chainsaw Carver** | Daily **NEW!**

### *Kiddieland*

Witness the incredible skill and creativity of the artist as they transform a raw piece of wood into a magnificent work of art using only a chainsaw. The roaring sound of the chainsaw, the flying wood chips, and the mesmerizing movements of the artist create a thrilling and dynamic spectacle that is both awe-inspiring and unforgettable.

## **Cincinnati Circus** | Daily **NEW!**

### *South end of Mountain Dew Midway*

The Cincinnati Circus Company is a spectacle unlike any other. Witness a breathtaking display of human skill and daring stunts as the performers push the boundaries of physical ability.

## **Cup Guy** | July 23-August 28 **NEW!**

### *Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

The Cup Guy is a totally unique, high-energy comedy show that features trick shots, hilarious stunts and of course, RED CUPS.

## **Doc Magic's Fun Time Variety Show** | July 29-August 3 **NEW!**

### *Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

The Doc Magic Show is a mix of fantastic magic, balloon shenanigans, and engaging comedy. It's jam packed with audience participation and just plain ole' FUN!

## **Jason D'Vaude - The Circus Man** | July 29-August 3 **NEW!**

### *Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Watch as he conquers the tall unicycle, dazzles with the Chinese yoyo, juggles hats and objects high into the air, and balances his way through handstands and high-flying feats. It's comedy, chaos, and circus thrills all rolled into one unforgettable show!

## **Kazual** | Daily

### *Main Street Stage*

Kazual is a family band with a distinct sound created through mixing R&B, pop and hip-hop together with old-school classic hits and their own originals. A Fair favorite, this Georgia-based band of three brothers and a cousin can dance just as well as they sing acapella. Don't miss them at the Main Street Stage!

## **Louie Foxx** | Daily

### *Main Street Stage*

Audiences across North America love Louie Foxx's One-Man Side show and you will too! In addition to amazing magic and hilarious comedy, Louie is an award-winning two-time Guinness World Record Holder. This is a show you don't want to miss!

## **The Makeshifts** | July 23 – July 25

### *Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

Central Ohio based rock/power pop trio featuring Mike Clark, Jarrod Maille and Tony Burlingame.

## **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 [ohiostatefair.com/events](http://ohiostatefair.com/events).

## **Pig Races** | Daily

### *The Barnyard*

Watch three lightning-fast breeds of racing pigs dash around the track in a squeal-worthy showdown! Pick your favorite, cheer them on, and see which speedy swine brings home the prize. It's fast, it's fun, and full of oink-tastic excitement!

## **Ron Diamond** | July 29 - Aug. 3

### *Main Street Stage*

A master at all levels of magic and hypnosis, Ron Diamond entertains 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.

## **SupaFun Band** | Daily

### *Strolling*

SupaFun Band is a four-piece daily, strolling party band that brings the music, fun, and great costumes! Their material includes TV and movie theme songs, classic cartoon music, pop songs, polka, and other ditties you may have heard. Keep an ear out for them as you stroll through the Fair!

## **Ventriloquist - Steve Brogan & Company** | July 23-July 28 NEW!

### *Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

One of America's top ventriloquists delivers non-stop comedy, crazy characters, and crowd interaction you won't forget. Get ready to laugh 'til it hurts!

## Special Attractions and Displays

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### 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 feature the talents outstanding high school musicians from across the state. Each ensemble performs selections from challenging repertoire from various genres and styles while presenting nearly 175 performances during the Ohio State Fair. Members from each group are selected each spring on the basis of their ability and experience, the recommendation of their high school music director, geographical considerations, and the consent and support of their parent or guardian. For more information about the Choir, visit [aosfyc.org](http://aosfyc.org) or the Band, visit [aosfb.com](http://aosfb.com).

#### Department of Children & Youth Children's Passport

The Ohio Department of Children & Youth welcomes your family's participation in the 2025 Children's Passport. Stop by any participating Ohio state agency booth to pick up your Children's Passport. Complete all stops along the way, collect stamps, and submit your completed passport to any state agency booth for a chance to win a prize!

#### Kayak Pond

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

Grab a life jacket and try one of the fastest growing activities in the country – kayaking. Paddlers of all ages (50" tall minimum, 300 lbs. maximum) can kayak daily. Those interested must check in at the Discovery Pavilion in the Natural Resources Park.

#### Kids' Fishing Pond

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

Kids age 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!

#### Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*

*10 a.m. - 7 p.m.*

Fun for the whole family! Visit this exciting building to participate in fun interactive activities from Ohio youth organizations including Ohio 4-H, America 250-Ohio, COSI, OSU College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, OSU Phun with Physics, Girl Scouts, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Ohio Department of Higher Education, and Scouting America. Don't miss Deep Fried Math, the Family Fun Area, a Tiny Town play area, and more.

#### Little Farmers

*10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center Lawn*

Fun hands-on activities are geared toward preschool and elementary-aged kids, roughly ages 3-10. Nine different stations, as well as a pedal tractor course, will be located in a single large outdoor area on the lawn northeast of the Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center *presented by Ag-Pro Companies* allowing kids to explore different aspects of Ohio agriculture: Start Barn, Sheep and Fiber Barn, Grain Bin, Chicken Coop, Dairy Barn, Garden,

Swine Barn, Beef Barn, and Farmer's Market/Prize Collection. There are no live animals in this exhibit. Stations will feature simulated animals, real grains, planting and faux fruits and vegetables, and more.

### **Monster Mural**

*10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 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**

*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 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, throughout each day of the State Fair.

### **Ohio History Center**

*10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*Museum Highlights Tour 1:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.*

Throughout the Ohio History Center Museum, find thousands of objects with a story to tell. On our Museum Highlights Tour, a guide will take you through their favorite gallery, or point out some of their favorite objects. Every object tells a piece of Ohio history- join us to learn more!

Fairgoers can visit the Ohio History Center included with their Ohio State Fair admission.

### **Ohio Proud General Store**

*11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

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

### **OVMA Animal Care Center – Meet baby animals!**

*9 a.m. - 10 p.m., OVMA Animal Care Center*

Learn about animal care and meet different baby animals — Lambs, goats, pigs, ducks, and more!

### **Pig Races**

*Monday - Friday: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., The Barnyard*

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

Watch three lightning-fast breeds of racing pigs dash around the track in a squeal-worthy showdown! Pick your favorite, cheer them on, and see which speedy swine brings home the prize. It's fast, it's fun, and full of oink-tastic excitement!

### **Petting Zoo presented by CareSource**

*10 a.m. - 10 p.m., The Barnyard*

Meet over 50 amazing animals from around the world—including goats, llamas, zebras, kangaroos, antelope, highland cows, and more! Fun, free, and full of friendly interactions for all ages.

### **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 Ohio State University Big Brutus**

*10 a.m. – 10 p.m., Inside the OHIO Gate*

Snap a photo with giant Brutus!

## **Limited-time attractions**

Listed by date

### **ACT Ohio Construction Trades Exhibit**

*July 23-24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Cardinal Patio*

Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) Ohio advocates for quality, safe construction by contractors and skilled craftsmen with integrity. Come visit their exhibit at the Fair to learn more about this industry and how you can become involved in the trades!

### **Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons Unions**

*July 23-24, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. — Cardinal Patio*

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.

### **Sensory-Friendly Morning**

*Thursday, July 24, 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, and wait cards.

### **WOSU Kids Day**

*Thursday, July 24, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Central Park*

Join WOSU Public Media on Thursday, July 24 at the Ohio State Fair from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM to meet PBS KIDS characters from the hit show Peg+Cat! Keep the whole family entertained with hands-on activities, exciting photo opportunities, and a chance to share why you value Central Ohio's Public Media station. Our booth in Central Park offers fun for all ages!

### **Ohio Lottery with WCOL**

*Friday, July 25, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Join the Ohio Lottery and WCOL radio station at the Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage near Central Park, for a radio remote and spin to win filled with fun & prizes.

### **50 Year Club Meeting**

*Monday, July 29, 10 a.m. — FFA Center*

Did you attend the Ohio State Fair in 1975 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.

Registration at 9:30 a.m. and meeting starts at 10 a.m.

### **Ohio Department of Aging's Healthy Aging Expo**

*Tuesday, July 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. — Cardinal Patio*

The Ohio Department of Aging returns for the ninth time, with a new location and new name – the Healthy Aging Expo. This year's Expo features 9,000 square feet of FREE health screenings, wellness demonstrations, and



lifestyle programs promoting healthy aging and 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 lives to ensure they live a healthier, more active life. Make memories and set new health and wellness goals at the Healthy Aging Expo, today only, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### **AARP Ohio**

*Tuesday, July 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Join us at the Celeste Center before the Senior Day Concert to play a game of putt-putt golf for a chance to win a voucher for one free ice cream at the Dairy Barn, courtesy of AARP Ohio. While you're there, stick around for the free Senior Day Concert sponsored by AARP Ohio featuring Sixteen Candles—the nation's premiere 80s pop experience!

### **Ohio Pork Council Rib-Off**

*Tuesday, July 29, 11:30 a.m. — Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden*

Pork and barbecue lovers alike are invited to join the Ohio Pork Council for their 27th Annual Rib-Off at the 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.

### **Ronald McDonald House Celebrity Steer Show**

*Wednesday, July 30, 4 p.m. — Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center presented by Ag-Pro Companies*

Beef exhibitor's work with local celebrities to host a charity steer show. Proceeds from this show benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

### **Joint Legislative Agriculture Committee Meeting**

*Wednesday, July 30, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Kasich Hall - A*

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.

### **“Battle for the Bacon” Legislative Pig Showmanship**

*Wednesday, July 30, 6 p.m. — O'Neill Swine Barn*

Please join the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Pork Council during the Ohio State Fair to watch Ohio's Representatives versus Ohio's Senators in a hog handling showdown! 4-H and FFA youth will help the participants with tips and tricks.

### **Kroger Health**

*July 31 – Aug. 3, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.\* — In front of Kasich Hall*

Team Tune Up is a state-of-the-art mobile tour that brings many of the benefits that consumers can enjoy in their local Kroger pharmacy to their hometown community events. From vaccinations to health screenings and nutrition counseling, there is a variety of opportunities available when Team Tune Up comes to town. You can also check out a NASCAR Cup Series race car! Please stop by for a visit in front of Kasich Hall.

*\*Opens at 10 a.m. on July 31 / Closes at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3*

### **Marathon Pipe Line**

*Friday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. — Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center Lawn*

With over 110 years in the energy business, Marathon Pipe Line is an industry leader of safely and reliably operating pipelines, storage tanks, and marine facilities. We're passionate about connecting with our communities and raising awareness about safe digging practices—especially the critical step of calling 811 before any digging project. Visit us at our booth to test your 811 knowledge and walk away with a fun gift.

## Ohio Lottery with WNCI

*Friday, Aug. 1 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Join the Ohio Lottery and WNCI radio station at the Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage near Central Park, for a radio remote and spin to win filled with fun & prizes.

## Ohio Lottery

*Saturday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. — Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage*

Join the Ohio Lottery from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. for a fun filled promotion, stop by the Ohio Lottery Gazebo Stage near Central Park, today only.

## Rides

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### Ohio Lottery SkyGlider

*9 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Closes at 9 p.m. Aug. 3)*

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 \$5 per rider for a one-way ticket or \$8 for a roundtrip ticket. The SkyGlider is not included with Midway or Kiddieland ride tickets or the ride-all-day wristband.

### Mountain Dew Midway & Kiddieland Hours

- Wednesday, July 23: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Thursday, July 24: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. \*\*Sensory-friendly morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Friday, July 25: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Saturday, July 26: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Sunday, July 27: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Monday, July 28: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 29: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 30: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Thursday, July 31: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 1: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 2: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 3: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

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!

Parents and children alike can enjoy a visit to Kiddieland with nearly 34 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 60 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 were made cashless as of 2023; they only accept Magic Money.

## **Food**

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### **Notable and Interesting Vendors and Food Stories**

#### **\$3 Thursdays**

Both Thursdays at the Fair, July 24 and July 31 all vendors will be offering a menu item of their choice at a smaller size for just \$3! This is the perfect way to try all the best Fair foods without breaking the bank. Visit [ohiostatefair.com/3-Thursday](http://ohiostatefair.com/3-Thursday) for a full list of miniature food items and locations.

#### **NEW Schmidt's Cream Puff flavor at Ohio State Fair — Caramel Apple!**

Schmidt's newest cream puff masterpiece is here! Try this delicious caramel apple cream puff featuring the perfect blend of caramelly-apple cream puff filling complete with small apple chunks and topped with caramel drizzle. This delicious puff is the perfect treat on a summer Fair day.

#### **Ohio Cattlemen's Association**

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

#### **MarketPlace Food Court**

A variety of cuisines are available in the indoor, air-conditioned Bricker MarketPlace Building. Enjoy Chinese, Mexican, Italian, American food, and even beer and wine.

#### **WNCI Food Highway**

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

### **Taste of Ohio Pavilion & Beer Garden**

Sit down for a locally produced meal or a glass of Ohio beer or wine in Taste of Ohio Pavilion. 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 pavilion include the Ohio Cattleman's Association, Ohio Pork Producers Council, Ohio Poultry Association, and Ohio Grape Industries Committee.

### **Wild and Wacky Foods**

With more than 130 vendor locations, there's something for every appetite across the grounds. Special dietary options are also available, visit [ohiostatefair.com/food](http://ohiostatefair.com/food) for more information.

### **Food on a stick**

Among the hundreds of food options, there are approximately 20 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 gator on a stick! Here is the full list of Fair stick foods:

- Boiled Egg on a stick
- Chicken on a stick
- Cotton Candy
- Candy Apple
- Caramel Apple
- Corn Dog
- Chocolate Covered Banana
- Fried Twinkies on a stick
- Fried S'mores on a stick
- Fried Candy on a stick
- Gator on a stick
- Ice Cream Sandwich on a stick
- Italian Breaded Meatball with Mozzarella Cheese
- Mini Watermelon on a stick
- Mozzarella cheese on a stick
- Moonshine Chicken on a stick
- Nashville Hot Chicken on a stick
- Pepper jack cheese on a stick
- Pork Chop on a stick
- Steak on a stick
- Swiss cheese on a stick

### **Can it be fried?**

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

- Bologna Sandwich
- Bombz (buffalo chicken, cheeseburger, and Philly cheese)
- Brownie
- Buckeyes
- Candy bars (Snickers, Three Musketeers, Milky Way, Charleston Chews)
- Cheese (mozzarella, swiss, and pepper jack)

- Cheesecake
- Chicken
- Cream cheese
- Cookies (Oreo, Nutter Butter)
- Cookie dough
- Corn on the cob
- Egg rolls
- Grilled cheese sandwich
- Mini hamburger gummies
- Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut butter and jelly sandwich
- Pickles
- Pop tart
- Strawberry Shortcake
- 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.
- **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](https://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 24.](#)



## Youth

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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 18 and July 20 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](http://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. In 2025, 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 53 counties, 100 cities, and 86 schools.

#### **All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir**

*directed by Dr. Jon C. Peterson*

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. In 2025, the Choir is composed of 85 members chosen from schools across Ohio. This year's Choir members were chosen from applicants representing 41 counties, 70 cities, and 47 schools. For more information on the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir, visit [aosfyc.com](http://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, members are selected for a two-year term.

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 Smokey Bear, Butters D. Cow, as well as many other programs and activities throughout the 12 days of the Fair.

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

#### 2025 Junior Fair Board Members:

- Sydney Hamilton (Highland)
- Emma Lowe (Noble)
- Leah Herring (Wyandot)
- Lilly Stocksdales (Madison)
- Drew Thomas (Wood)
- Kyana Crum (Wyandot)
- Campbell Reese (Geauga)
- Evelyn Hill (Fairfield)
- Laramie Cotton (Hamilton)
- Madison Wasmer (Jackson)
- Emma Kruis (Franklin)
- Lexie Berry (Mercer)
- Mallory Thomason (Clinton)
- Lola Rubi (Hamilton)
- Isabelle Busey (Fairfield)
- Samantha Bader (Fairfield)
- Rose Billing (Defiance)
- Landon Frank (Mahoning)
- Alexis West (Highland)
- Mariann Woodruff (Hardin)

## Youth Organizations

All youth organizations listed below can be found in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*

### 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 working with partners from all over Ohio related to the aerospace/aeronautics industry. COSI will be doing a wearable, hands-on STEAM activity throughout the Fair.

### Scouting 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 Scouting America.

## Girl Scouts

Welcome to the Past, Present, and Future of Girl Scouts! Explore the Past, Present, and Future of Girl Scouts through our hands-on activities, including indoor archery and crafts. Join us and discover how Girl Scouts can open up a new world of endless fun and possibilities! Girl Scout Troops will also be selling cookies at our Booth!

## Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

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

Have fun learning why Ohio is The Heart of Education by visiting the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) during the Ohio State Fair! At our booth in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*, you can take a virtual reality tour of Ohio's campuses, spin the prize wheel, and visit with different colleges, universities, and career technical centers each day! Learn how students in grades 7-12 can earn college credit while still in school through College Credit Plus, or map out a career in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and STEM education fields with a Choose Ohio First scholarship. Families can learn about saving for college through the College Advantage 529 Plan, and you may even get a picture with a mascot or two! 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). See you at the Fair!

## OSU Phun with Physics

The OSU Physics Department invites you to try hands-on science activities led by OSU scientists. Explore the relationship between light and color and learn about how scientists use color to study the stars. Make some noise and explore sound and waves; learn how scientists use sound to study the shape of our world. Test your reaction time and learn about the scientists studying how to measure very small amounts of time. Feel the effect of angular momentum on our special "Spinning Barf Wheel of Science." Several times throughout the day, OSU scientists will present an interactive science show with opportunities for audience participation. Stop by and dance like a molecule with us

## Additional Youth Activities Located in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council*

### Family Fun Area

Come join us for some family fun! Giant board games, the library reading nook, coloring, and more.

### Tiny Town

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

## Livestock

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

- Beef cattle: July 20 - Aug. 3
- Dairy cattle: July 22 - Aug. 2
- Goats: July 14 - 20

- Dogs: July 16 – 18 and July 23
- Draft Horses: July 29 – Aug. 1
- Junior Horses: July 14 - 18
- Llamas/Alpacas: July 17 - 19
- Poultry: July 26 - Aug. 2
- Pygmy Goats: July 14 - 15
- Rabbits: July 30 – Aug. 2
- Sheep: July 22 – Aug. 2
- Swine: July 20 – Aug. 2

## **Sale of Champions Livestock Auction**

Sunday, Aug. 3 at 1 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. In 2022, 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. In 2024, sales totaled \$260,500, of which \$421,500 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 \$5,247,150 to approximately 46,473 youth exhibitors since its inception.

## **Sale of Champions - Facts and Figures**

- 57: The anniversary of the Sale of Champions will celebrate in 2025; there was a Sale of Champions held in 2021 during the livestock-only event
- 541: Youth champions honored since the first Sale of Champions in 1968
- \$9,398,034: Total amount made from livestock sales since 1968
- \$5,247,150: 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
- 46,473: Youth that have benefited from the Youth Reserve Program

## **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.

## Youth Reserve Program Caps

The generosity of youth supporters and the phenomenal record-breaking 2022 Sale of Champions Livestock Auction gave the Ohio Expositions Commission the opportunity to thoroughly review past data and make future plans, including increasing the caps for all champions beginning 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

## 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.

## 2024 Sale of Champions Results

<b>Exhibit</b> Exhibitor	<b>Price</b> Cap in 2024
<b>Grand Champion Market Beef</b> Annistyn Oszust, Tuscarawas County	<b>\$40,000</b> \$25,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef</b> Essie McGuire, Champaign County	<b>\$22,000</b> \$18,000
<b>Grand Champion Market Barrow</b> Kylie Locke, Clark County	<b>\$37,000</b> \$13,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow</b> Kole Bishop, Champaign County	<b>\$35,000</b> \$9,000
<b>Grand Champion Market Lamb</b> Ava Shroyer, Logan County	<b>\$13,000</b> \$13,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb</b> Marshall Miller, Tuscarawas County	<b>\$12,000</b> \$9,000
<b>Grand Champion Meat Chickens</b> Alec Genter, Fulton County	<b>\$21,000</b> \$7,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Meat Chickens</b> Ava Hester, Clinton County	<b>\$11,000</b> \$5,000
<b>Grand Champion Market Goat</b> Maya McCoy, Fayette County	<b>\$15,000</b> \$8,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat</b> Braxton Method, Auglaize County	<b>\$7,000</b> \$4,000
<b>Grand Champion Turkey</b> Isabel Newman, Muskingum County	<b>\$15,000</b> \$6,000

<b>Grand Champion Swiss Cheese</b> Produced by Pearl Valley Cheese, representing the seven dairy champions and supreme dairy showmen Exhibited by: Grand Champion Ayrshire: Audry Sidle, Wayne County Grand Champion Brown Swiss: Aubree Topp, Shelby County Grand Champion Guernsey: Savannah Thomas, Champaign County Grand Champion Holstein: Colton Thomas, Champaign County Grand Champion Jersey: Lily Elsass, Auglaize County Grand Champion Milking Shorthorn: Aubree Topp, Shelby County Grand Champion Red and White: Allison Francis, Darke County *Supreme Showman Week 1 – Exhibited by: Lily Elsass, Auglaize County Week 2 – Exhibited by: Carissa Pittman, Wayne County	<b>\$32,500</b> \$9,000
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\*indicates new record

2024 total sale: \$260,500

2024 amount earned for Youth Reserve Program: \$134,500

## Sale of Champions All-Time Records

Animal Buyer	Price Year	Current 2023 Cap
<b>Grand Champion Market Beef</b> S&S Volvo	\$225,000 2022	\$25,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef</b> Steve R. Rauch, Inc., Ohio Transparent Telecom along with Mark and Megan Kvamme and family	\$100,000 2022	\$18,000
<b>Grand Champion Barrow</b> Giant Eagle, Sugardale Bacon	\$100,000 2023	\$13,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Barrow</b> Mark and Megan Kvamme and family	\$52,500 2022	\$9,000
<b>Grand Champion Market Lamb</b> 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
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb</b> Mark and Megan Kvamme and Family	\$31,000 2023	\$9,000
<b>Grand Champion Meat Chickens</b> The Kroger Company, Gerber Poultry and Ohio Harness Horseman's Association	\$40,000 2023	\$7,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Meat Chickens</b> Meijer Inc.	\$33,000 2023	\$5,000
<b>Grand Champion Market Goat</b> Mark and Megan Kvamme and family	\$32,000 2023	\$8,000
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat</b> <i>New champion added in 2023</i>	\$30,000 2023	\$4,000
<b>Grand Champion Turkey</b>	\$45,000	\$6,000

Mark and Megan Kvamme and family and Bernie Moreno	2023	
<b>Grand Champion Swiss Cheese</b>	\$51,000	\$9,000
A.G. Boogher & Son, Inc., S&S Volvo	2023	

## Livestock Terminology

**Barrow:** a young, neutered male pig  
**Boar:** male pig that has not been neutered  
**Bovine:** scientific name for cattle  
**Broilers:** market chickens 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

Celebrating the diverse medium of painting, this juried exhibition features a perspective on artists who explore the vast possibilities of this rich medium. From traditional canvases to unconventional surfaces, this prospectus

showcases a variety of painting techniques, styles, and expressions. This year also features the annual live Plein Air Painting Competition, the second annual "Tiny Art Exhibition," as well as the second annual live Mural Competition.

**Mural Competition:** Returning for the second year is the Ohio State Fair Mural Competition within the Fine Arts Exhibition. Artists submit their artwork and then recreate their masterpiece in the form of a mural during the Fair. Artists paint these murals live during the first weekend of the Fair, July 25-27. Watch these masterpieces come to life in the new location on the Cardinal Patio north of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## Cox Fine Arts Center

View the 362 pieces of art that have been accepted in the 2025 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 has hosted the Fine Arts Exhibit since 1932. The visual and performing arts have been a part of the Fair since the very first Fair in 1850.

Returning for the second year is the Tiny Art Show within the Fine Arts Exhibition. Fairgoers with an eye for art won't want to miss the Tiny Art Show in the Cox Fine Arts Center. Each artist accepted into the Fine Arts Exhibition was given the opportunity to submit a small piece of art, priced at \$250 or less, to hang for sale in the exhibit. This is a great way to support local artists and start or enhance an art collection on a budget. There are 62 pieces of art in the show.

Numbers for the Fine Arts Exhibition:

- Total Art: 362
  - Professional Art: 264
  - Amateur Art: 98
- Tiny Art Exhibition Entries: 62
- Muralist Participants: 10
- Plein Air Painters: 15

## Creative Arts

A variety of competitions and demonstrations take place throughout the Fair during the Creative and Youth Arts Exhibit in Kasich Hall, which cover a diverse range of talents and hobbies. This year's theme is Tales of the Deep. Some activities include quilting entries, cooking competitions, Christmas Tree Decorating, and Lego design. Below are some of the hundreds of Creative Arts activities:

- Art Glass
- Baked Arts, Culinary Arts and Food Preservation
- Cake Decorating
- Christmas Tree Decorating
- Laser Cut Designs
- Fashion Arts
- Honey and Bee Items
- Jewelry
- Knitting
- Lacemaking
- Leather
- LEGO & Brick Design
- Needle Arts

- Painting
- Photography
- Stained Glass
- Tablescaping
- Upcycling
- Woodworking

## Cooking and Baking Competitions

Within the Creative Arts Competitions, there are 57 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
- Jams and marmalades
- Jellies
- Pickles & relishes
- Preserved fruits & vegetables
- Sauces
- Sourdough

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

## Sports

### Columbus Recreation & Parks Amateur Boxing Tournament

July 24-26, 2025



Times:

- July 24: 3 p.m.
- July 25: 3 p.m.
- July 27: Noon – 3 p.m.

Kasich Hall - A

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

## Baton Twirling

July 27, 2025, 9 a.m. (doors open at 8:15 a.m.)

Kasich Hall - A

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 Competition

Aug. 2, 2025, 11 a.m.

Kasich Hall - A

The Ohio State Fair Cheerleading Championship is administered by AmeriCheer/AmeriDance.

## Entry Statistics

In 2025, there are a total of 8,279 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 2024.

<b>Livestock categories</b>	<b>2024 Entries</b>	<b>2024 Exhibitors</b>
Junior Fair Beef	681	387
Junior Fair Dairy	596	229
Junior Fair Goats	420	279
Junior Fair Sheep	1750	447
Junior Fair Swine	1912	674
Junior Fair Poultry	748	127
Junior Fair Rabbits	515	75
Junior Fair Horse	2042	626
Junior Fair Skillathon	4488	N/a
Junior Fair Dogs	627	150
<b>(Total Junior Fair)</b>	<b>13,779</b>	<b>2,994</b>

<b>Open Livestock</b>	<b>2024 Entries</b>	<b>2024 Exhibitors</b>
Open Beef	1041	421
Open Dairy	860	273
Open Goats	1040	206
Open Sheep	2744	598
Open Swine	2273	690

Open Poultry	1532	62
Open Rabbits	655	100
Llamas	233	63
Open Horse	651	-
<b>(Total Open)</b>	<b>11,029</b>	<b>3,133</b>

## 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

- Professional Division
  - **Celeste Malvar-Stewart** is a sustainable fashion designer and founder of the label MALVAR = STEWART. Known for her thoughtful use of salvaged materials and Ohio-sourced wool, Celeste blends traditional techniques like felting with modern design. Her work centers on environmental consciousness and empowering design.
  - **Kirsten Zirngibl** is a concept artist and illustrator whose intricate, imaginative worlds merge technology, nature, and design. With experience spanning gaming, advertising, and installation art, she brings a visually complex, systems-inspired perspective to digital and traditional media.
- Amateur Division
  - **Suzanne Cotton** is Chair of Fashion Design at the Columbus College of Art & Design. With more than 18 years of experience in the industry and a background in both fashion design and marketing, Suzanne now guides future designers while continuing to advocate for excellence in craft and concept.

### Creative Arts

- Approximately 40 judges contribute their expertise, with certifications from esteemed organizations such as the National Quilting Association.
- Culinary competition judges are award-winning, with most trained in food and nutrition. Some have been associated with The Ohio State University in food education, either currently or as retirees.
- Many judges in our arts competitions, including sewing/fashion and photography, hold BFA degrees and years of experience in the fields of the divisions they judging.
- Several judges are recommended by many of the esteemed local arts organizations and guilds who partner with the Ohio State Fair.
- Many 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**

### **Beef cattle**

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

### **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.

### **Dairy cattle**

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

### **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.

### **Dogs**

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

### **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.

### **Llamas**

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

### **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.

### **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.

## Sheep

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

## 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 2025. However, Girl Scouts will still be present and can be visited at their booth in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space *presented by the Ohio Soybean Council* 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.

## Podcast

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## “A Fair to Remember”

[ohiostatefair.com/podcast](https://ohiostatefair.com/podcast)

Learn more about the people and stories of the Ohio State Fair by listening to the Ohio State Fair podcast, ‘A Fair to Remember.’ Listen anywhere you listen to podcasts.





## 2025 Expositions Commission

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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.

- Rodney Arter
- Brian Baldridge, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director
- Michael Curtin
- Andrew Doehrel
- Rose Hartschuh (Chair)
- Donald Jakeway (Vice Chair)
- Representative Don Jones, House Agriculture Committee Chair
- Cathann Kress, OSU College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Vice President & Dean
- Erin Limes Stickel (Secretary)
- Mary Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director
- Lydia Mihalik, Ohio Development Services Agency Director
- Doug Preisse
- Senator Tim Schaffer, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Chair
- Adam Heffron, Ohio Expo Center & State Fairgrounds Executive Director
- J. Michael Townsley