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# PROGRAM OF EVENTS 2021

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3**
- **Harness Racing**
- **SUNDAY FAMILY STYLE TIMESHARE**
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**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6**
- **Fiber Demonstrations 9 am - 9 pm**
- **Llama/Alpaca Demonstrations Daily @ 11 am and on-going**
- **Agricultural Exhibition Center Open Daily 9 am - 9 pm**
- **Free Admission to Grandstand (Except Racing Boxes)**
- **(Drawing)**
- **Show of Working Steers Handy Class for kids**
- **Show of Draft Horses, Tandem, Fair, Horse/ Pony Hitch, 8 Horse - RG**
- **9:00 am**
- **Sheep Show - MVP**
- **10:00 am**
- **Following Races is 4WD Pull - RG**
- **11:00 am**
- **Catholic Mass - Hayseed Theater**
- **10:30 am**
- **Speaker - American Farm Bureau - RG**
- **10:00 am**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **12:00 pm**
- **Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 8-10) Entries close at 9:30 am**
- **11:00 am**
- **Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 6-8) Entries Close at 12 PM**
- **10:00 am**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **12:30 pm**
- **Scooting Contest - SGG**
- **10:00 am**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **1:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **2:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **3:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **4:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **5:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **6:00 pm**
- **Night Show - Motor Beauty Affair**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7**
- **Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 8-10) Entries Close at 9:30 am**
- **11:00 am**
- **Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 6-8) Entries Close at 12 PM**
- **10:00 am**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **12:30 pm**
- **Scooting Contest - SGG**
- **10:00 am**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **1:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **2:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **3:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **4:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **5:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **6:00 pm**
- **Night Show - Motor Beauty Affair**
- **7:00 pm**
- **Night Show - “Motor Beauty” & a Beatles Tribute Night**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8**
- **9:00 am**
- **On-Pulling Youth Trainer Class 1100 lbs. - (Teamage age 12 & under)**
- **10:00 am**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **11:00 am**
- **On-Pulling Youth Trainer Class 1500 lbs. - (Teamage age 16 & under)**
- **12:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **1:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **2:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **3:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **4:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **5:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **6:00 pm**
- **Night Show - “Motor Beauty” & a Beatles Tribute Night**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9**
- **10:00 am**
- **On-Pulling Youth Trainer Class 1100 lbs. - (Teamage age 12 & under)**
- **11:00 am**
- **On-Pulling Youth Trainer Class 1500 lbs. - (Teamage age 16 & under)**
- **12:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **1:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **2:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **3:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **4:00 pm**
- **Flower Show - Expo I**
- **5:00 pm**
- **Harness Racing - RG**
- **6:00 pm**
- **Night Show - “Motor Beauty” & a Beatles Tribute Night**

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Crowds throng the fairgrounds on opening day

BY MARK GUERRINGUE
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

FRYEBURG, Maine — After going virtual last year during the pandemic, the Fryeburg Fair didn’t miss a beat Sunday as crowds thronged the fairgrounds for opening day.

“With COVID precautions and the rain, I thought the crowd might be a little down, but it was just a mob scene of people at the opening,” said Rachel Damon, head of publicity and advertising for the fair. “A ton of people came out for the first day, it was awesome.”

Paid attendance on Sunday, which had overcast skies all day, was 16,235, according to Vince Osgood, ticket department superintendent at the fair. That compares to 25,498 on open day in 2019, which Osgood noted was a beautiful, sunny day.

Daily paid attendance records over the years are: Sunday — 29,995 in 2001; Monday — 26,017 in 2014; Tuesday — 17,014 in 2006; Wednesday — 20,125 in 2001; Thursday — 20,438 in 2009; Friday — 31,451 in 2012; Saturday — 46,834 in 2000; Closing Sunday — 28,011 in 2001.

The fair in 2019 drew 161,476 paid attendees. COVID, of course, forced the fair to go virtual-only in 2020, and this year, with nearly 70 percent of Maine’s population vaccinated — one of the most vaccinated states in the union — few masks were seen.

The fair, however, said Damon, worked proactively to assure that fairgoers would feel comfortable.

“This year was all about COVID,” said Damon. “We put up signage and sanitizers, and require all employees to mask up when getting something to eat. We are pretty stringent.”

Damon said the fair made no special requirements of the public other than requesting that they wear masks inside buildings, though she admitted she didn’t “notice very many people doing that.”

Another change this year: Two of popular food vendors were absent. Tom of Tom’s Donuts retired three years ago and Sunflower Pizza reportedly bowed out due to lack of help.

Replacing Tom’s is 88 Donuts, which Damon she heard is good, though she hadn’t tried any of the 88 varieties.

Overall, she said, there are lots of new food vendors.

Stalls and food trucks offering barbeque sandwiches, bloomin’ onions, fried dough, sausage and peppers and all the traditional fair treats were much in evidence Sunday.

“We are not down on vendors,” Damon noted. “It is packed out there.”

In addition, craft beer fans will find solace in knowing that instead of having to walk all the way around the commercial displays on the north side of the grounds, a second beer tent is now located by the Natural Resources building.

Sunday’s highlights always include the Fireman’s Muster, which this year was won by Lovell, Maine.

The pig scramble is also an opening
Fairgoers stroll past the front entrance of the Fryeburg Fair on Sunday. (MARK GUERRINGUE PHOTO)

Fall Foliage in the Mt. Washington Valley, Fryeburg Fair and a visit to Zeb's.

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What could be better?
FRYEBURG, Maine — The night show at Fryeburg Fair shifts into high gear on Wednesday with Rave X, The Outer Limits Tour. This freestyle motorsports show promises spectacular stunts and big air.

The Outer Limits Tour, based in South Portland, Maine, includes all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and dirt bikes.

The owners of Rave X Motorsports, Ralph Gallagher and Dave Carlberg, started hosting freestyle shows in 2005 with a small freestyle ramp and some good friends. The show was a hit, and over the years the air kept getting bigger, the ramp gaps longer and the tricks gnarlier gaining fans across North America.

Today, Outer Limits Tour performs in front of thousands of people and features riders from all over the world. But you can see them right here at the fair. Find out more at ravenxmotorsports.com.

Other night shows will include:

• On Thursday, Studio Two — The Beatles Before America will take the stage to bring the Fab Four's music to life. Studio Two re-creates the Fab Four's music, appearance, instruments and onstage banter, and performs hits that promise to bring people to the dance floor.

Hailed as "New England's Best Beatles Tribute Band" by The British Beer Co., Studio Two is a headlining Beatles band that pays tribute to the early Beatles years, choosing songs from before the Sgt. Pepper era.

The band includes Stephen Murray as John Lennon, Al Francis as Paul McCartney, Robert Murray as George Harrison and Richard Rampino as Ringo Starr. For more info, go to studiotwotributeband.com.

• Thursday's Night Show will include a special "Dress for the '60s" event. To participate, 1960s-themed fairgoers must stop by at the Front Gate Information Booth between 5-6:30 p.m. for a photo and to complete an entry form. Three winners will win prizes of four fair tickets per prize awarded at the beginning of the Night Show. Winners will be called up on stage and must be present to win.

• On Friday, the '70s disco band Motor Booty Affair takes the stage. Motor Booty Affair has been lighting up stages across America with their '70s extravaganza for several years, continually improving on the show that has been dubbed "The Ultimate Disco Party Band."

The band plays hits from '70s greats like Earth Wind & Fire, The Bee Gees, KC and the Sunshine Band, Chic, The Commodores, Barry White and Abba.

Decked out in wigs, bell-bottoms, platform shoes and polyester, the band also brings to their performance the dance moves and lingo of the '70s, the highest quality sound and light show this side of 1975. Find out more at motorbootyaffair.com. Friday's performance will be followed by the fair's annual fireworks show.

• Saturday brings country music with Peter Allen & Hurricane Mountain, playing all styles, including...
swing, Southern rock and classic rock. The lineup is classic, contemporary and outlaw country, with a little classic rock, blues, and swing.

You will hear music from artists including the Eagles, Zac Brown Band, Steve Earle, Lee Roy Parnell, Jamie Johnson, Brad Paisley and Chris Stapleton, among others.

Allen received the recent Maine Country Music Association award of Male Country Vocalist of the Year.

The band is comprised of musicians Frank Coffin on bass guitar and vocals, Tedd Hamilton on lead guitar, harmonica and vocals, Rick McAlister on drums and Chris Floyd on lead guitar and vocals.

All night shows begin at 8 p.m. at The Racing Grandstand.

Studio Two — The Beatles Before America will perform Thursday, paying tribute to the early years. Thursday is also “Dress for the ‘60s” night. See story for details. (FACEBOOK PHOTO)
Steve Norton (right) is the superintendent of Show Steers & Oxen at Fryeburg Fair, while Paule Cote (left) is assistant superintendent. Norton and Cote have been heading this department for 15 years. (COURTESY PHOTO)

**Fryeburg Fair’s oxen couple: Steve Norton and Paule Cote**

BY RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON

SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

At Fryeburg Fair, we have two departments for oxen — one for pulling oxen and one for show steers and oxen. For those confused about what an oxen or steer is, here you go: A female cow is a heifer. They show in the Dairy Department. A male cow is a bull. When a bull is castrated, it becomes a steer. At 4 years old it becomes an ox. Two or more are oxen.

Farms keep a few bulls for breeding. Otherwise, too many bulls can be difficult to handle. Castration totally calms down a bull’s disposition because testosterone is removed.

Breeds of oxen include Brown Swiss, Jerseys, Holsteins, Shorthorns, Devon, Guernsey, Lineback and some crossbreeds.

Steve Norton and Paule Cote are the superintendents of the Show Steers & Oxen Department at Fryeburg Fair. There’s a lot of organization involved in this department and many details to tend to before the fair’s opening.

see **OXEN page 9**
Norton and Cote have been heading this department for 15 years.

Norton grew up on Oaklawn Farm, a dairy farm in Albion, Maine, with Holsteins and Jerseys. His hometown fair was Windsor Fair, where he participated in 4-H with his twin Jersey heifers, Lucy Locket and Little Lulu.

“Daily chores were the priority in all our lives. Chores always needed to be done and, as a youngster, it was a big responsibility caring for the lives of animals,” he said.

Because of these fond memories and early lessons, Norton later gravitated back to his cattle and farming roots by getting involved with agricultural fairs in Maine.

Cote was born in Fort Kent, Maine. Her connection to farming and oxen has been through her relationship with Steve Norton. She’s taken to it like a pro.

Norton and Cote met through mutual friends 32 years ago. They live in Windham, Maine, and have a property on Sebago Lake.

Norton has three children and two granddaughters. His career was in home building, and he specialized in interior finish and trim. His most recent big project was building his son’s home.

Cote retired in 2015 after 44 years in information technology at Maine Med.

She also owned and operated a company that sold catamarans and pontoon boats and started a children’s clothing company called Guppies. She has been a custom painter of canvas pieces for floors and sailboats.

“I can multitask, and I like to stay busy,” she says.

Norton and Cote volunteer at Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, Maine, and Waterford Fair. Norton has been oxen coordinator at Common Ground for 20 years.

At the Fryeburg Fair, Norton said: “We have 700 classes of show steer and oxen, and judging and competitions within every breed and crossbreed all based on weights.

“The handler — man, woman or child — is called a teamster,” he explained. “Judges will critique the oxen and their teamster on control, handiness, smoothness, training and their use of voice commands. No sticks. The goad stick is used to gain the oxen’s attention and to strike the yoke, not the animal. You can usually tell immediately how much time a teamster has spent working with their pair.”

“There’s a lot of paperwork and organization,” said Cote. “After the entries come in, we assign stalling in one of four barns. In 2019, we had 114 pair competing.

“I’m much more comfortable with these massive horned animals than I used to be,” she added. “One time, one of them ran up behind me and I jumped up on a fence and was hanging on a light pole until the...”

see OXEN page 10
owner came along.”

Norton recommends attending the demonstrations on Monday and the scooting contests.

“Scooting is taking a pair of steers and they are hooked to a wood scoot, a sled of sorts, and then they negotiate an obstacle course similar to what they would do in the woods to clear land and bring out logs,” he said.

“Winners are the oxen that score closest to zero as they receive points if they hit something. This really shows how much effort the teamster has put in and demonstrates how well the three of them communicate.”

For the past four years, Norton and Cote have managed to bring all the pulling and show oxen together for a group photo on the Wednesday of Fryeburg Fair at 4 p.m. in an attempt to gain the world record for the largest number of yoked oxen in one place.

Cote is working with the Guinness Book of World Records to make it official. Norton said: “Families come back year after year. It’s generational, and for them it’s often their vacation time. A lot of them have farmed enough to sustain their passion for keeping steers. It’s their vocation and hobby. They pick four or five fairs on the circuit to attend.

“Our show steer and oxen people come in and stay Sunday to Sunday while pulling oxen go in and out of the fair during the week.

“We have lots of socializing, partying and ‘talking oxen’ at Fryeburg Fair. We have line dancing, a pizza party, barbecue and pot-luck dinner. It helps breed fellowship in our oxen community,” Norton said.

“I really like the fact that tradition continues with young people following their parents’ and grandparents’ heritage. It builds lots of self-confidence in kids and teaches responsibility.”

Norton is proud to say: “Oxen built this country. We all get very attached to these animals. They are incredibly strong and have great and calm personalities. They are the original loggers. They have tilled the soil and cleared the land since the beginning.”

For more information on the fair’s Show Steers & Oxen Department, go to fryeburgfair.org.

Rachel Andrews Damon is a trustee of the West Oxford Agricultural Society and head of publicity and advertising for the Fryeburg Fair.

Jake Cash is from Poland, Maine. He raises shorthorns but has owned various breeds as well. He is the superintendent of 4H Working Steers at Fryeburg Fair. Steve Norton says, “Jake Cash is an expert at showing cattle and he’s very meticulous and particular about his herd.” (JANE LOUNSBURY PHOTO)
Harness racing: Much more than just wagering on horses

Horse racing with pari-mutuel betting has been one of the principal features of agricultural fairs in the state of Maine since 1935.

Fryeburg Fair, held annually in the first week in October, is fortunate in getting many of the better horses in New England because of lack of competition from other tracks this time of year.

It is noteworthy to acknowledge that the money handle at Fryeburg Fair surpasses the per-race handle anywhere in the state. The total bet was over a million dollars for the week for the years 1992-94.

Some years, Fryeburg Fair has close to 10 percent of the entire live handle for the year in the state with a total of 60 races over six days.

Regarding betting, Paul Lusky, consultant for the racing division at the Fryeburg Fair, said, “The basic bet, which is a $2 bet, hasn’t changed in my time, and it probably goes back even further than that. It is not reflective of inflation. I mean a $2 bet today compared to, say, 40 years ago, you are not even beginning to talk the same thing. Naturally, you are not limited to betting $2, but the basic bet and return on it for the amount of time (if you wish to bet $2 on an odds-on favorite horse), you might get back $2.40 or $2.60. So, you’d better be getting enjoyment other than what you are receiving for your money,” he said.

“You’ve got to be getting your entertainment enjoyment, which, as I alluded to earlier, is a love of the animal, a love of the sport, everything that goes along with it — pageantry, if you will, the ambiance, friendship. It is a lot more than just making money. If you want to make money, you can put your quarter in a slot machine and have instant gratification,” Lusky said.

A commercial racetrack has basically one source of revenue for the fair, and that is the revenue from the pari-mutuel wagering and the fair’s cut from that wagering.

The fair gets its revenue from many different sources. Racing is just a minor part of it. It used to be about a third: there was always the midway,

see HARNESSE page 12
The horses that run in the harness races at Fryeburg Fair come from as far away as Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia and as close as New Hampshire and Vermont. Harness racing takes place at the fair Tuesday-Sunday. (COURTESY PHOTO)

HARNESS from page 11

then ticket sales, and there was racing.

Well, guess what: Campers have pulled in, and now racing is fourth as far as the amount of income it brings in.

Over the week, how many horses do you need? “If we were to have an ideal situation,” said Lusky, “running 60 races in a week, eight horses for each race, 10 races a day for six days, we would need 480 horses. Now, over six days (harness racing takes place at the fair from Tuesday-Sunday) some horses that race on the first day may come back and race again.”

Where do the horses come from? “They come from the Maritime Provinces in Canada, New Brunswick in particular, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. They come from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York State, and there will be a certain amount of ownership that goes farther away,” Lusky said.

“Of course, with our stabling facility, we are able to move some in. The ones that come down from...”

see HARNESS page 13
Harvest from page 12

Montreal are coming in just for us. It would be impossible to operate without our stabling system, and each year it becomes more and more imperative that we are able to get facilities for these people who want to come.”

Lusky has become a racing leader in Maine, representing the fair, particularly as far as dealing with the Maine Harness Racing Commission.

Could he give advice to other fairs? “Over a 20-year period, a lot rubs off on you. I try to use very strong business practices. The racing industry historically has been the most loosely managed industry that you can imagine. I think Fryeburg Fair has been on the forefront with commonly accepted business practices.”

After the size of the grandstand was doubled and the betting facilities improved, Wilbur Hammond Jr. went to considerable effort to get other fairs interested enough to make it attractive to a computerized betting company to move to the area with betting machines and a tote board.

This was accomplished in 1986 with a signed contract and since then, all betting facilities after a trial period have improved, Wilbur Hammond Jr. went on to the forefront with commonly accepted business practices.”

I think Fryeburg Fair has been on the forefront with commonly accepted business practices. The racing industry over a 20-year period, a lot rubs off on you. I try to use very strong business practices.”

“Blue Ribbon Fair” by the readers of Hoof Beats Magazine in 1996.

Fryeburg Fair was selected as a “Blue Ribbon Fair” by the readers of Hoof Beats Magazine in 1996.

This article was excerpted from the Fryeburg Fair website, fryeburgfair.com.
Camping at the Fryeburg Fair is popular, economical

By Rachel Andrews Damon
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

If you want to avoid the traffic at Fryeburg Fair, just get yourself a camper and spend the week. A very popular vacation destination, Fryeburg Fair has 3,000 campsites. Many campers return annually.

Arthur Adams, 34, of Fryeburg is the camping supervisor. He is also a local tax practitioner and part of a family that is heavily involved with the fair.

Arthur’s father, Terry Adams, is the treasurer, and his brother, Charlie, works in the buildings and grounds department. The Adams family also owns T & A Accounting on Main Street in Fryeburg.

According to Arthur, “The vast majority of our campers are older and come here with other family and friends. They are pretty friendly and easy to work with.

“It’s a really fun week and enjoyable seeing everyone come back year after year.”

He added: “Our campers come from mostly the New England states. We have quite a few from Canada and from as far away as Texas, California and even Germany.”

For those interested in getting a camping spot at Fryeburg Fair, call the Camping Office at Fryeburg Fair at (207) 935-2912. Sites are $29 per night for a regular 16-foot-wide site and $34 for a slideout 20-foot site, plus state of Maine 9 percent lodging tax. There is no minimum number of nights required.

“You can stay just one night, but we don’t do reservations for one night,” Arthur said. “Just show up and we will find you the best possible spot possible.”

The fair does not allow tents. Many employees camp at the fair all week.

Rachel Andrews Damon is a trustee of the West Oxford Agricultural Society and is the head of publicity and advertising for the Fryeburg Fair.
day tradition, and Damon reported that 10 happy kids left with a pig.

New this year is duck herding. This event involves the same sheep dogs that corral sheep for a crowd favorite event, but instead of chasing around mutton, the canines round up ducks.

Not to use a fowl pun, but in terms of this year’s opening day, Fryeburg Fair organizers have plenty to quack about. Bart Bachman contributed to this article.