

North Carolina Agricultural Fairs

Alamance County Agricultural Fair **Burlington, NC**

The Disabled American Veterans of Alamance County started the first Alamance County Agricultural Fair in 1980. Since 1990, Russell and Jeanette Isely, co-managers of the Alamance County Fair Committee, have been responsible for presenting the Fair each year.

Spread across 14 acres of the Isley's farm land, this event currently features five shows and 50 attractions including a unique "Glass Flower House" made from recycled school windows that contains flower entries from more than 200 exhibitors. There is also a County Store which has built-in plexiglass cabinets perfect for displaying baked goods, rods to display quilts and clothing, and many antiques including an old sewing machine, ironing board, and a kitchen cabinet more than 100 years old.

Now located approximately five miles from I-85 near Bellemont, off of Highway 49 in Burlington, NC (4371 Bellemont-Mt. Hermon Road), The Alamance County Fair continues to grow each year in attendance, exhibitors, and entries. It offers visitors a variety of attractions, rides, and delicious foods.

Alexander County Agricultural Fair **Taylorsville, NC**

The Alexander County Agricultural Fair began in October, 1946, and has been presented each year since the Taylorsville Lion Club. Covering 42 acres, the Fair currently features many shows and rides. The Fair also has a day when senior citizens and handicapped students are invited to come enjoy shows, rides, foods, and entertainment free.

Although it has had many homes over the years the Fair is now located off of highway 16, two miles south of Taylorsville. The Alexander County Agricultural Fair offers visitors, a variety of livestock, and agricultural to see, entertainment shows and amusement rides to enjoy, and tasty foods to eat.

Cabarrus County Agricultural Fair **Concord, NC**

The Agricultural Committee of the Concord Chamber of Commerce formed the first Cabarrus County Agricultural Fair in 1953. Since then, a board of 20 directors has operated it.

Reaching across 12 acres, this event currently features 22 shows and 33 attractions. Located at 789 Cabarrus Avenue West in Concord, NC, The Cabarrus County Fair featuring 4-H displays, live craftsmen demonstrations, livestock, poultry, flower and art exhibits, free entertainment including a variety of musical and animal acts, pig races, thrill shows, and a fantastic midway. The Cabarrus County Agricultural Fair offers visitors of all ages something to enjoy.

Chowan County Fair **Endenton, NC**

The American Legion Post 40 founded the Chowan County Fair in 1947, and together with the Chowan County Fair association, continues to manage the fair today. The Fair, which spreads across five acres, currently features 25 rides, five shows and 10 free grandstand entertainment performances including a circus, various bands and acts, the Little Miss Pageant, gospel music, and a talent show. The Fair is located off of U.S. Highway 17 Business, on West Queen Street in Endenton, NC.

Cleveland County Fair **Shelby, NC**

The first Cleveland County Fair took place in October, 1924, and was formed by the Shelby Kiwanis Club. Now operated by the Cleveland County Fair Committee, this event is held on a 65-acre fairground located at 1751 East Marion Street in Shelby, NC.

Near the front gate is a turn of the century water wheel from Peeler's Mill—a favorite meeting spot for many visitors. The fair currently features 44 shows and 35 attractions, including a rodeo, circus, demolition derby, talent contests, bands, pig races, and fireworks. Visitors can see various livestock and 4-H Goodness Grows exhibits, and enjoys a variety of delicious food and amusement rides.

Davidson County Agricultural Fair **Lexington, NC**

The Lexington Kiwanis Club founded the Davidson County Agricultural Fair in 1946, and continues to run and operate the fair today. Located on a 17-acre fairground, this event currently features eight shows and 30 attractions.

Located at 400 Greensboro Street in Lexington, NC, The Davidson County Agricultural Fair has several livestock exhibits including a petting area with goats and sheep, amusement rides, food and desserts.

The Lexington Kiwanis Club uses the proceeds from the fair to sponsor Kamp Kiwanis, a summer camping experience for more than 180 Davidson County boys and girls selected for attendance by the Department of Social Services. Fair proceeds help to maintain the camp's wooden cabins, nature trails, playground, and swimming pool.

Dixie Classic Fair **Winston-Salem, NC**

Since 1882, The City of Winston-Salem has presented The Dixie Classic Fair. Spread across 75 acres, this event currently features 30 shows and 75 attractions including a "Yesterday Village" showcasing 17 restored log structures from the early 1800's. In the village, visitors can tour a general store, one room church, one room school house, two story log cabin, animal barn, tobacco barn, and grainery. Adults and children alike can experience what it is like to live in the 1800's as they watch village performers demonstrate activities of yester-year.

Located at 421 West 27th Street in Winston-Salem, The Dixie Classic Fair offers visitors the opportunity to see livestock exhibits and entertainment shows, enjoy a variety of amusement rides, taste delicious foods, and create lasting memories. This fair has become one of the three largest fairs in the state.

Drexel Community Fair **Drexel, NC**

The first annual Drexel Community Fair was organized in May, 1949, and was held on the old Drexel Elementary School playgrounds. Lee's Amusements Inc. provided the first midway. The exhibition hall was held in 17 classrooms within the school. The citizens of the Drexel Community continued to support its fair, which soon outgrew its location at the Elementary school and had to be moved to a larger site. In 1956, with the help of the Town of Drexel, the fair was moved to eight acres of town owned property on Community Drive where it is still being held today.

The Drexel Community Fair will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in August, 1999. This fair is one of only three free admission fairs in the state of North Carolina and is a member of the North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs. With 22 attractions on the midway including a children's barnyard and newly built concession stands and an eating shelter, the Drexel Community Fair promises to be a memorable and enjoyable time for visitors of all ages.

Greensboro Agricultural Fair **Greensboro, NC**

In 1998, the Greensboro Agricultural Fair will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Operated by the Greensboro Fair, Inc., this event is located on the Lee Street side of the Greensboro Coliseum Complex parking lot and covers approximately five acres.

The Greensboro Agricultural Fair features 35 attractions on the midway, and two free entertainment shows including an aerial daredevil act with stunts performed 70 feet in the air. The fair now offers ride wristbands every day. Specials and coupon discounts are also available throughout the week as well.

The fair's agricultural and commercial exhibits can be found within the hallways and meeting rooms of the Special Events Center of the Coliseum. Also featured every year are pony rides, a petting zoo, pie-baking and watermelon eating contests, musical bands, talent shows, and clowns.

The Greensboro Agricultural Fair continues the county fair traditions and preserves the heritage and nostalgia of North Carolina.

Hickory American Legion Fair **Newton, NC**

In 1913, a group of Hickory businessmen founded the Hickory American Legion Fair. Today the fair is owned and operated by American Legion Post 48. Located off of Highway 70 at East Conover Boulevard (Exit 128 off of I-40), this event features 31 attractions and 18 entertainment shows spread across 79 acres. Its current board members are volunteers who help raise money to continue the fair each year. The fair has been held each year since 1913, except for two years during World War II.

From the corn dog stands and the popcorn tents to the livestock exhibits and the water gun games, this fair prides itself in having one of the cleanest fairgrounds in North Carolina. The Hickory American Legion Fair continues the North Carolina tradition of county fairs and provides a setting for a fun family affair.

Lenoir County Fair **Kinston, NC**

In 1954, the Kinston Jaycees founded the Lenoir County Fair. Currently located on Highway 11 South on Goodman Road in Kinston, NC, this fair covers 50 acres. Each year, the Lenoir County Fair features 26 attractions including amusement rides and games on the midway and 25 free entertainment shows throughout the week. On Saturday there is a large livestock show featuring a variety of animals. Visitors can enjoy the atmosphere of colorful rides, tents, and foods.

Moore County Agricultural Fair **Carthage, NC**

In 1946, the Carthage Jaycees formed the Moore County Agricultural Fair. Now operated by the Moore County Agricultural Committee, this fair, located off of Highway 15-501 features 22 attractions and six entertainment shows.

Covering 21 acres, the fair features amusement rides, games, foods, and livestock exhibits. A great county fair experience for all!

North Carolina Mountain State Fair **Fletcher, NC**

Since 1994, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has operated the North Carolina Mountain State Fair in Fletcher, NC. Spread across 84 acres, this event currently features 38 attractions on the midway, and seven free entertainment shows.

Located at 1301 Fanning Bridge Road, The North Carolina Mountain State Fair presents a variety of indoor livestock and equipment exhibits, entertainment shows, amusement rides, and delicious, aromatic foods.

North Carolina State Fair **Raleigh, NC**

The North Carolina State Fair was founded in 1853, by the State Agricultural Society. Its mission was to spread constructive and helpful agricultural information. The fair was moved in 1873, to what is now the home of the Raleigh Little Theatre. In 1928, the State Fair was moved to its present site at 1025 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh, NC. Additional land for the fairgrounds was acquired in 1952.

The State Fair was placed under the auspices of the State Department of Agriculture in the late '30s. The event covers 344 acres, features 30 shows and 83 attractions including a 75 ride midway, modern horse complex, flower gardens and shows, a Village of Yesteryear, and a renowned hobbies and craft display. Educational exhibits including FFA and 4-H are also featured each year. The "Best of Show" exhibits from county fairs are on display as well.

In 1996, the State Fair saw record attendance with 759,500 visitors. With a grandstand capacity of 3,500 spectators and a coliseum seating capacity of 7,300, the North Carolina State Fair is the largest fair in North Carolina.

New Hanover County Fair **Wilmington, NC**

The Wilmington Jaycees founded the New Hanover County Fair in the 1960s. Currently operated by the New Hanover County Fair Association, this events covers 60 acres and features 38 rides and attractions and eight free entertainment shows.

Located on Carolina Beach Road in Wilmington, NC, the New Hanover County Fair continues the North Carolina county fair tradition by offering a variety of indoor livestock exhibits and entertainment shows, amusement rides and tasty foods--a great time for visitors of all ages!

Pitt County American Legion Agricultural Fair **Greenville, NC**

As one of North Carolina's county fairs, the Pitt County American Legion Agricultural Fair has been in operation since 1920. Originally founded by the Pitt County Fair Association, it is now operated by American Legions Posts in Greenville, Farmville, and Ayden, NC.

Covering 51 acres of land, this event's midway features 38 rides and shows. At least 10 free entertainment shows are presented each year. The fair presents a yester-year village, rated as one of the best of its kind. The village buildings were built in 1978, and include a church and school. These structures create a sense of nostalgia from fairs in years gone by. Also featured are antique fairground organs which play throughout the grounds of the fair.

Located off of the Highway 264 East in Greenville, NC, The Pitt County American Legion Agricultural Fair presents a variety of shows, amusement rides and great tasting foods. This fair consists of a total of 24 buildings devoted to exhibits and farm antiques.

Robeson County Fair **Lumberton, NC**

The Robeson County Fair was founded in 1947, by the Robeson County Agricultural and Industrial Exposition. Featuring 36 rides and attractions on its midway, and a dozen free entertainment shows, this fair continues to be operated by the Exposition today.

Located at Highway 41 South in Lumberton, NC. The Robeson County Fair offers visitors the county's annual entertainment, agricultural, and educational event of the year. From its white tents, food stands and carnival games, to the livestock exhibits and amusement rides, the Robeson County Fair is fun time for all.

The Rocky Mount Agricultural Fair **Rocky Mount, NC**

Three generations of the Chambliss family have operated the Rocky Mount Agricultural Fair since 1925; more than three-quarters of a century! The fairground spans 60 acres off Highway 64 East and offers 30 rides and shows on its midway, as well as six free entertainment shows.

Norman Y. Chambliss III now operates the fair and carries on an annual Rocky Mount tradition started by his grandfather.

Rowan County Agricultural & Industrial Fair **Salisbury, NC**

The Rowan County Agricultural & Industrial Fair was founded by the Salisbury Jaycees in 1951. Today it is operated by the Spencer and Faith Jaycees. Located off of Julian Road, a quarter mile east of Interstate 85, the fairground covers 45 acres. Its colorful midway includes numerous rides and shows, carnival games and food stands. The fair also offers many entertainment shows which are free to all visitors!

For more than 45 years, the Rowan County Agricultural & Industrial Fair has continued a North Carolina tradition of celebrating agriculture and community together.

Stanly County Fair **Albemarle, NC**

The first Stanly County Fair was held in 1934 on a vacant lot in the west-end of Albemarle. It was founded by the American Legion Post 76. The following year, the fair was held on a 12-acre lot on Badin Road in Albemarle. In 1989, the American Legion Post 76 opened the fair's present 56-acre location on Highway 52 South, approximately two miles from the Albemarle city limits.

Visitors of the fair can enjoy a variety of amusement rides and shows; nearly 30 on the midway. The Stanly County Fair offers 17 free entertainment shows along with many livestock exhibits and colorful food stands.

Surry County Agricultural Fair **Mount Airy, NC**

The Surry County Agricultural Fair, located at Veterans Memorial Park, 691 West Lebanon Street in Mount Airy, NC, was founded by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1947. This event features 25 rides on the midway and eight free entertainment shows.

The Surry County Agricultural Fair presents a colorful environment and highlights agricultural and livestock exhibits. The food and amusement rides can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages!

Warren County Agricultural Fair **Warrenton, NC**

Since 1936, the Warrenton Lions Club has organized and operated the Warren County Agricultural Fair. The fairgrounds cover 5-acres at 535 West Ridgeway Street in Warrenton, NC. The fair features 20 amusement rides on its midway including an old-fashioned carousel and Ferris Wheel. Six entertainment shows are performed at no charge to visitors.

Visitors of the fair can enjoy a variety of food, games, and livestock exhibits. Each year, the Warren County Agricultural Fair preserves the traditions of North Carolina agriculture.

Wayne County Agricultural Fair **Goldsboro, NC**

The Wayne County Livestock Development Association, Inc. originated and currently operates the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair. Since 1948, this fair has featured livestock exhibits, food, and games. Currently, the fairgrounds spread across 42 acres and the midway features 44 amusement rides, as well as 11 free entertainment shows.

Along with an array of colorful rides and display tents, the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair features a western show "Sandspur" with gunfight shows nightly.

Wilson County American Legion Fair **Wilson, NC**

In October 1934, American Legion Post 13 presented the first Wilson County American Legion Fair. Currently located at 2331 U.S. 301 Highway South in Wilson, NC, this fair covers 38 acres. It features 25 amusement rides and shows on the midway. There are several entertainment shows.

The Wilson County American Legion offers various livestock exhibits, food, games, and rides. The American Legion Post 13 prides itself with offering one of the best county fairs of North Carolina.