

***The Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair will be 93
Years Old – in 2019***

It's a wonderful history of community caring --



For 93 continuous years Putnam County has come together in late summer to celebrate the harvest, enjoy a carnival, and visit with neighbors at the Putnam County Fair. Neighbors meeting neighbors, sharing the abundance of the harvest from gardens and fields and exhibiting livestock, dairy cattle, horses, hogs and poultry.

It all began when Putnam became a county ...

Putnam County was re-established as a Tennessee County in 1854 and our first Putnam County Fair was held two years later in 1856 just north of the square on C.E. Wilson's property on Dixie Avenue. The fair was not held during the Civil War. Six years after the Civil War in 1871 the fair board purchased six acres of land for \$60. This site was still known as the old fairgrounds in 1909 when Dixie College acquired the land. That property is now the quad at Tennessee Technological University.

In 1895, five years after the railroad came to Cookeville, a new fairgrounds was built next to the railroad near 10th Street and Washington Ave. The fair had its own railroad spur, which would bring fair goers from as far away as Nashville and Harriman. In 1932 another site became the fairgrounds at 4th Street and Maple Avenue.

The fair stayed there for 24 years until a fire broke out during the 1956 fair and burned several buildings. The next year we moved to our present location on Jefferson Ave. and we have been in this location for 61 years.

*In 2013 the fair board set out to create the **fair of our memories – a clean, safe fairground with lots of events and activities available anytime the gates are open** -- and each year we have moved closer and closer to that dream. The 93rd Putnam County Fair will be the sixth year of "Making Lifetime Memories..." as the theme and we expect it to be another award winning fair.*

This year's fair offers the largest premium offering in history -- \$100,000, that's -- \$100,000 offered in premiums, cash and awards. We hope that will provide the incentive for more people to bring entries and be part of this year's fair.

Adventures in Agriculture – "Come Back to the Barnyard" will be our agricultural focus.

We will reach back to our roots and recall and recreate the farm barnyard – the safe place we played as children on our grandparents' farms. Long summer days spent with loving family members helping with the farm chores, and learning about animals and life.

The touch of Grand Ma's hand as she gently squeezed on the milk cows teats for milk for our family, Grand Dad's cautious voice as we ran to help him feed the pigs, up in the barn loft to help him toss down hay for the horses and cows, finding a hen's nest in the hay and helping collect the eggs that would be cooked for breakfast.

Bucket feeding a baby calf that lost its Mom, and brushing on the new colt to help Grand Dad gentle him knowing one day he would pull a plow and be saddled for a trip to a neighbor's house or ridden at the Putnam County Fair Horse Show.

Puppies and kittens galore playing around the barn and stealing a drink of milk from Grand Ma when she finished milking the cows. Sheep and goats, a donkey or two, and chickens, geese, turkeys, ducks and guineas looking for seeds and grain as they worked their way around the pond nearby.

We had long summer days that never seem to end -- helping Grand Ma hoe weeds in her garden. We picked blackberries in July, apples in September, and pears in late October and gathered corn in November – all needed chores on the farm. It was all part of a way of life that we miss. It was all memories that have lasted a lifetime.

So, we are creating some of those memories for young people who will come to this year's fair and **"Come back to the Barnyard..."**

This year's line-up will be the biggest and most diverse in our fair's history...so big, we have to have the Draft Horse and Mule Show, the Open

Walking Horse Show, and Team Roping two weeks before the fair on July 13. Then the Fairest of the Fair Pageant will be held on July 27, and Media Night will be offered the night before the fair opens. That's a 13 days fair in order to get everything in that our folks want to see.

Opening night will feature – an Antique Tractor Pull, then the Lone Star Rodeo kicks off Friday night, Monster Trucks on Saturday night, the Demolition Derby Sunday evening – always one of our biggest nights.

Monday night will feature a new Heavy Equipment Rodeo and Tuesday will offer a new Garden Tractor event. Wednesday night Motorcycle races will be the feature, Thursday night the County Horse Show, a Truck and Tractor Pull Friday and Saturday nights will close the fair.

The Middle Tennessee Junior Rodeo will return on the second Saturday starting but starting at 10a this year.

A market hog show along with our Beef, Dairy, Sheep and Goat Shows will highlight farm animals. The Petting Zoo will feature farm animals this year and our Pet Show will be on the final Saturday morning. New emphasis is being given to Poultry and Rabbits this year with new paint and continuing renovations in the chicken house.

Over fifty live demonstrations featuring a variety of subjects and promoting Pick TN Products will happen during the ten day fair. Programs for Senior Citizens, Pacesetters and Special Children continue to be an important emphasis for our fair.

***Come join us and celebrate the 93rd Putnam County
Agricultural & Industrial Fair.***