

The Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair will be 92 Years Old – in 2018

It's a wonderful history of community caring --



For 92 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 has 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 big 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 59 years.

Four years ago the fair board set out to create the fair of our memories and each year we have moved closer and closer to that dream. The 91th Putnam County Fair will be the fourth 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 -- \$120,000, that's -- \$120,000 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.

This year's line-up will be the biggest and most diverse in our fair's history...so big, we have to have the Open Walking Horse Show and Team Roping two weeks before the fair on July 14. Then the Fairest of the Fair Pageant will be the night before the fair opens along with Media Night at the Fair.

Opening night will have a new feature – Antique Tractor Pull, a first for our fair then the Lone Star Rodeo kicks off Friday night, Truck and Tractor Pull on Saturday night, the Demolition Derby Sunday afternoon, Mule Night at the Fair on Monday followed by the County Horse Show on Tuesday night. Wednesday night Motorcycle races will be the feature, Thursday night Lawn Mower races, a second Truck and Tractor Pull on the second Friday night and finally Monster Trucks on the final Saturday night.

The Middle Tennessee Junior Rodeo will return on the second Saturday afternoon.

A market hog show is new this year along with our Beef, Dairy, Sheep and Goat Shows. 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 renovations in the chicken house.

The county is looking at converting the Cultural Arts Building into an auditorium that can be used year around with heating and air conditioning. If this happens the South Grandstand will be where we feature domestic arts and 4-H and Youth exhibits.

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 92nd Putnam County
Agricultural & Industrial Fair.***