

Adventures in Agriculture -- "Come Back to the Barnyard..."



The 93rd Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair will provide a wide variety of experiences for youth and adults as we showcase agriculture.

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 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..."

Opening August 1, 2019 at the 93rd Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair

From the chicken house, to the Big Barn, to the Fair Office, the Cultural Arts Building and all over the fairgrounds we will feature farm animals, gardening and field crops, and domestic arts to emphasize the importance of farm life in today's society.

Our Petting Zoo and Farmer for the Day are the starting place for children and adults to see farm animals up close. Then it's a short hop over to the Chicken House where renovations have taken place and new ideas are visible. Around the fair office we will feature a horse, cow, sheep, mule, hog and goat so everyone can see all the different species that feed us, entertain us, and carry us along our way.

Our Junior Fair Board is providing the leadership for much of this new initiative with support from our volunteers and the fair board. They have created games, displays for all the species, and even a scavenger hunt focused on farm animals, plants and crops and farm equipment. A new farm equipment display will help us remember the tools and equipment used many years ago to grow our food and cultivate the land and some of the new equipment in use today. All this is complimented by the the Master Gardener's exhibit which reminds us of the beauty and importance of appreciating Nature's gifts of flowers and plants.

Thanks to the Putnam County/UT Extension Service and 4-H and the College of Agriculture & Human Ecology at Tennessee Tech who have partnered with us to make "Bringing Agriculture to the Community" possible.

Additionally, our fair will feature seven nights of motorsports in the main arena, including the Antique Tractor Pull, western horse show, Lone Star Rodeo, the Middle Tennessee Junior Rodeo, traditional beef, dairy, sheep, hog and goat shows. Our Open to the World Walking Horse Show, Draft Horse and Mule Show and Team Roping will be held July 13. The Fairest of the Fair Pageant will be held July 31, the night before the fair opens. Our fair has grown so much that we can no longer get everything into ten days.

The County Horse Show, Corn Hole and Horse Shoe Tournaments, Adopt a Pet Day at the Fair, CRUZ In, Pet Show, and over 60 live demonstrations round out the ten day schedule.

The Junior Fair Board presents a new "Farmer for the Day" an interactive series of exhibits, games and fun things to do for children of all ages and even adults. Experience farm animals close up and learn about how important farming and agriculture is to our lives. It's located in the middle of our new Petting Zoo and Pig Races at the West Exhibit Hall.

We will have the Pick Tennessee Products Eating Contest near the fair office and in the main arena we will have the Greased Pig Catching Contest, and the Herding Dogs Demonstration and our Salute to Veterans on stage.

You will want to stop and listen at one of our outdoor concerts on the Wilson Bank stage near the Petting Zoo. These concerts will offer some of the best bluegrass, gospel and ole' time music in the shade of our oak trees. Bring a partner and enter the new horseshoe tournament or our ever popular Corn Hole tournaments.

Don't miss the 93^d Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair – August 1-10, 2019.