

178<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
Exhibition  
1840-2018

# Farmington Fair



*Franklin County  
Agricultural Society*

**September  
16-22**



Morning Sentinel



Special Advertising Supplement

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

# There are always more things to enjoy at the Farmington Fair

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

The Farmington Fairgrounds will open its doors on Sunday, September 16, for the Franklin County Agricultural Society's 178th year of rides, music, fair food, crafts, races and livestock exhibitions.

Several new attractions have been added to this year's schedule. Because of the efforts of dedicated volunteers in New Sharon, the town's original library building was moved last year to the fairgrounds and will welcome the public during fair week. Among the many area residents, Diana Oliver, the current town library director, and Michelle Winslow, a member of the Board of Directors, were concerned that the building on US Route 2 was not going to be preserved by their town, so they asked the fair committee if it could be added to their collection of original historic structures.

"We call this our LOL, which means "little old library," and it has quite a story to tell," Oliver said.

This library has a unique history, according to Oliver. In the late 1850s, the town matched a donor's \$500 and opened the library with 160 books. The building has been refurbished, with volunteers spending many hours repairing the original horsehair plaster, painting and adding a ramp for easy access.

"We will have some of the original collection on display for visitors," she said.

Storytellers, baby animals, sheep riding in the Mutton Bustin' competition, the Western Mountains Blacksmith Shop, a maple syrup sap house and the restored one-room Red School House will be just a few of the options for family entertainment and education.

The Agricultural Museum houses a vast collection of rural farming artifacts. Booths in the large barn-sized space display rooms as they might have looked many generations ago. The farm kitchen tempts visitors to sit at the table or look around for some hot apple pie that was cooked in the Household Charm wood stove. Volunteers dress in vintage costumes to complete the scene. Homes didn't have washing



Valerie Tucker photo

The competition always heats up at the annual Farmington Fair, as growers bring their best pumpkins, tomatoes, cucumbers and other produce they have been carefully nurturing all year. This year's fair starts on Sunday, Sept. 16 and ends on Saturday, Sept. 22.

machines and dryers, so the museum displays the implements housewives used a century or more ago to clean the overalls their husbands wore when they plowed the fields or worked in the barn each day. Expanded in 1994 to its present size of 68' x 125,' additions to the side and the rear of the building provide space for larger pieces of equipment. The Exhibition Hall will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., featuring quilts, photos, produce displays, and other examples of timeless expertise passed down through generations.

As they do every year, Smokey's Greater Shows will offer ride specials during the week.

Throughout the week, musicians will perform for audiences, playing and singing a variety of country and western, mellow rock and popular favorites. This year, Denny Breau will make his first appearance on the music scene, offering his fans a concert from 3-5 p.m. on

Wednesday, Sept. 19. Breau was inducted into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame in 2004, the youngest inductee in the history of the organization. Singer, songwriter and guitarist Jim Gallant has shared the stage with such nationally recognized artists as Doc Watson, Taj Mahal, Livingston Taylor, Jessie Colin Young, Dave Van Ronk and he will offer his eclectic style from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, September 22. Among the many traditional crowd pleasers will be Sammi Angel, Barry Wood, Off the Hill Gang, Crooked Bill and Travis Pinkham. Throughout the week, bagpipers will stroll the grounds and Don Grady's marionettes will perform for the youngsters.

According to committee president Rupert Pratt, campers can bring their RVs and pop-ups to the grounds.

"Space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis," he said. "We usually have a crowd, but



Contributed photo

The Franklin County Agricultural Society's 178th year includes exhibits that celebrate agricultural and community history. Each year, a local historical society reserves a space located on the south end of the Exhibition Hall. This year is the Phillips Historical Society's turn. Curator Jane Stinchfield has organized a collection that includes an empty bottle of an 1800s medicinal concoction that was a combination of alcohol and opium.

there usually are spaces for everyone."

Hook-ups are available, and pets must stay outside the grounds. The fair schedule is online and at local retail venues. For more information, call 778-6083, or email [farmingtonfair@beeline-online.net](mailto:farmingtonfair@beeline-online.net).

Admission is \$6 for ages 12 and over, \$2 for those ages 8 to 11, and free for those 7 and under. For those 62 and older, the gate fee is \$2 Tuesdays and Thursdays.



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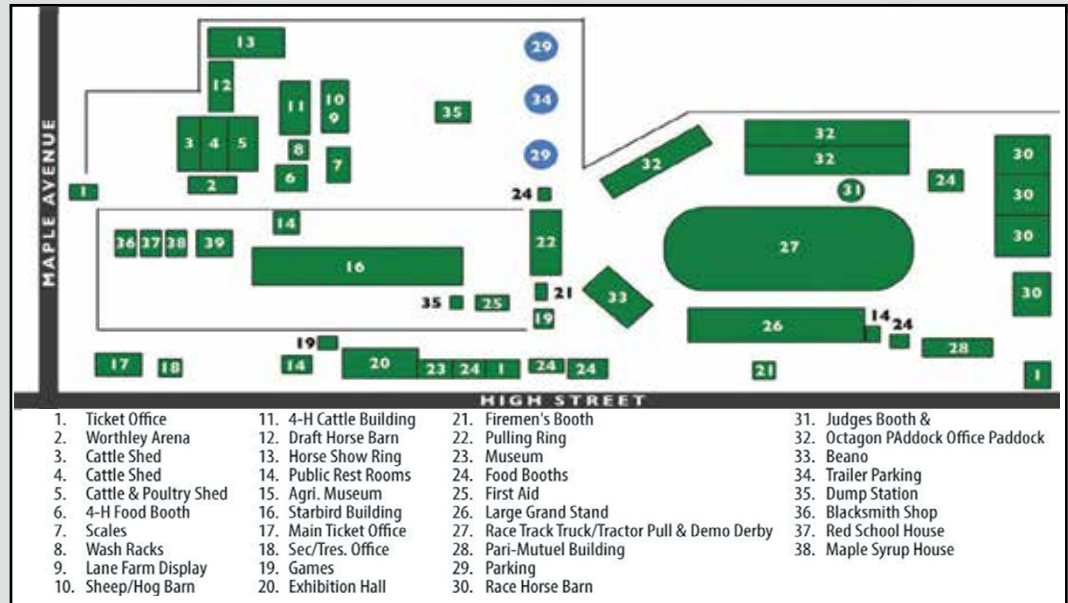


# Farmington Fair

**Sunday through Saturday in the Livestock Area:**  
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**Western Maine Beekeepers - M.**  
**Western Maine Blacksmiths - M.**  
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**Check Saphouse for Schedule**

## 178<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EXHIBITION 1840-2018 FRANKLIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SUNDAY, September 16 through SATURDAY, September 22**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

- 10:00 a.m. Maine Barrel Racing - S.R.
- 10:00 a.m. Steer & Oxen 2100, 2500 and under - P.R.
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mike Chase "Alderun Wood Creations" - M.
- 10:00 a.m. 4-H Working Steer Pull followed by 4-H Working Steer Show - W.A.
- 12 - 2 p.m. Arizona Rose & Rich Ric Band - P
- 1:00 p.m. Oxen 2900, 3300, and under, kids class - P.R.
- 1:00 p.m. Midway open
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 2:30 p.m. **Costume Contest (3 & 4 year olds) - W.A.**
- 3 - 5 p.m. Danny Taylor, Taylor Made Music - P
- 5:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P *Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 6 - 7 p.m. Gil Hembree - P
- 6:30 p.m. Miss Farmington Fair Pageant - P.R.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION DAY**

- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mike Chase, "Alderun Wood Creations" - M.
- 9:00 a.m. 4-H Horse Show
- 10:00 a.m. Oxen 3700 and under - P.R.
- 12 - 2 p.m. Mark Gentle - P
- 1:00 p.m. Oxen Sweepstakes - P.R.
- 2:00 p.m. Midway open - Ride Specials 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$15
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 2:00 p.m. 2900 & under 6 ft. elimination - P.R.
- 3 - 5 p.m. Chris Fyfe - P.
- 3:30 p.m. Oxen 3300 and under 6 ft. elimination -P.R.
- 4:00 p.m. 4-H Dairy - W.A.
- 6:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P *Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 6:30 p.m. Drag Your Neighbor - R.G.
- 6 - 7 p.m. Craig Hutchinson & Friends - P.
- 6:30 p.m. Oxen 3700 and under and over elimination - P.R.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
 ADMISSION SPECIAL \$4 RIDE SPECIAL \$2**

- 9:00 a.m. Farmer's Steer & Ox Scooting -P.R.
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mike Chase "Alderun Wood Creations" - M.
- 10:30 a.m. Exhibition of Best Oxen & Steer Teams - S.R.
- 12:00 p.m. Farmer's Steer & Ox Pull - P.R.
- 12 - 2 p.m. Debbie Myers - P.
- 12:30 p.m. Best and Best Matched Oxen & Steers, Beef Oxen & Steers. - S. R.
- 2:00 p.m. Midway Open
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Two Walk About Bag Pipers - P.
- 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Barry Wood - P
- 4:00 p.m. 4-H Baby Beef show followed by 4-H Beef Heifer show and Market Steer show - W.A. 4-H Swine show followed by Market Swine show - W.A. 4-H Sheep Show followed by Market Lamb Show - S.B.
- 6:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P *Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 6 - 7 p.m. Tux Burke - P
- 6:30 p.m. Firemen's Muster - R.G.
- 7 - 9 p.m. NAWA -Wrestling - P.R.

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**Building Key**

1. E - Exhibit Hall	6. S.R. - Show Ring
2. P. - Park	7. S. - Stage
3. P.R. - Pulling Ring	8. W.A. - Worthley Arena
4. R.G. - Race Grandstand	9. M. - Museum
5. S.B. - Sheep/Hog Barn	10. R.S - Red Schoolhouse

**PARI-MUTUEL RACING**  
**Sunday, Sept. 16 - Saturday, Sept. 22**  
**2:00 p.m.**



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19  
 RIDE SPECIAL DAY**

- 9:00 a.m. Horse Twitching - P.R.
- 10:00 a.m. Horse Scooting - PR
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mike Chase "Alderun Wood Creations" - M.
- 11:00 a.m. Farmer's Draft Horse Pull - P.R.
- 12 - 2 p.m. Sammi Angel & Jim Harris - P.
- 1:00 p.m. Horse Pull 2900 & 3000 & Under - P.R.
- 1:00 p.m. Midway open - Ride Special 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$20
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 2 - 4 p.m. Dan Grady's Marionettes - M.
- 3:30 p.m. Horse Pull 3000 12 ft. Elimination - P.R.
- 3 - 5 p.m. Denny Breau - P.
- 5:00 p.m. Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull - P. R.
- 6:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P
- Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 6 - 8 p.m. Mark Gentle - P.
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Market Lamb, Steer & Hog & Poultry Show & Sale - S.B.
- 6:30 p.m. Horse versus Ox 6 ft. Sweepstakes - P.R.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20  
 SENIORS 62+ UP - \$4.00**

- 9:00 a.m. Sheep Show - S.B.
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mike Chase "Alderun Wood Creations" - M.
- 10:30 a.m. Horse Pull 3100 & under - P.R.
- 12 - 2 p.m. Country Gentlemen - P.
- 1:00 p.m. Horse Pull 3200 and under & 2-lb of Rock - P.R.
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 3:00 p.m. Midway open
- 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Two Walk About Bag Pipers - P.
- 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sammi Angel & Jim Harris - P
- 5:30 p.m. **Pie Eating Contest (5-8 yr olds) - W.A.**
- 6:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P
- Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 6 - 7 p.m. Paul Bright - P.
- 6:30 p.m. Truck & Tractor Pull - R.G.
- 7:00 p.m. Horse Pull 3100 & under, 12 ft. elimination 2 hitch - P.R.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mike Chase "Alderun Wood Creations" - M.
- 10:30 a.m. Horse Pull 3300 & under - P.R.
- 12 - 2 p.m. Shawna Bell & The Mayberry Drifters - P.
- 1:00 p.m. Horses Pull 3400 & under & Sweepstakes - P. R.
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 3:00 p.m. Midway open
- 3 - 5 p.m. Barry Wood - P.
- 4:00 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Show - W.A.
- 6:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P
- Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 6 - 7 p.m. "Off the Hill Band" - P
- 6:30 p.m. Truck/Tractor Pull - R.G.
- 6:30 p.m. Horse Pull 3300 lbs - under/over 12 feet elimination - P.R.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- 9:00 a.m. Heart of Maine Dairy Goat Show
- 10:00 a.m. Midway open
- 10:00 a.m. **Junior Farmers Frolic - S.R. (weather permitting)**
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Travis Pinkham and the Backwoods Misfits - P.
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mike Chase "Alderun Wood Creations" -M.
- 12:00 p.m. Mutton Bustin' kids, 7-8 yrs old - P.R.
- 1:00 p.m. 3 Horse distance pull - P.R.
- 1 - 3 p.m. Jim Gallant - P.
- 2:00 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Racing - R.G.
- 3:00 p.m. 3 Horse 20 ft. short pull - P. R.
- 3 - 4 p.m. Two Walk About Bag Pipers - P.
- 4 - 6 p.m. Crooked Bill - P.
- 5:00 p.m. Bike Drawing - P
- Must be present to win (Sign up in Exhibition Hall)*
- 7:00 p.m. Demolition Derby - R.G.
- Sponsored by Franklin Chrysler, Hight Chevrolet, Farmington Ford and Health Quest Chiropractic

# Farmington Fair this year offers old and new activities for kids

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

This year, the 178th Franklin County Agricultural Fair that starts on Sunday, September 16 promises both traditional and new activities for all youngsters.

A costume contest for children ages 3-4 years old starts at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. The event will be a chance for the littlest fairgoers to be part of the excitement with friends and families cheering them on. On Thursday, at 5:30 p.m., kids ages 5-8 can participate in a pie-eating contest and can get as messy as they want. Both events are in the Worthley Arena.

Besides the 4-H show and sale of livestock on Tuesday, a Wednesday evening show will be open to youngsters who aren't members of local clubs but still want to raise animals for sale. They register in May to participate and are expected to care for their animals and be able to show them for potential buyers.

"Don't expect bargain prices for market animals," said event organizer Sarah Churchill. "These animals have been hand-raised, and the bidders know they're getting a high-quality animal."

Although it's not an official 4-H-sponsored event, it gives many young people the chance to put their earnings into a fund to pay for their higher education. The grain and veterinarian bills and grooming accessories can cost quite a lot and youngsters have a chance to recoup their expenses and hopefully make a profit, Churchill said.

Her niece and nephew, Avery and Alden Pratt, have been raising their sheep at her parents' River Run farm on the South Strong Road. Although the two don't belong to a club, they follow a similar protocol and do as much caring for the animals as time allows.

Another event for kids will be the daily bike raffle. Randy Hall, a member of the fair committee and organizer of the event, said children can enter the daily raffle at the

Each year, Smokey's Greater Shows offers kids a chance to come straight from school on Monday and Wednesday and pack in all the rides they can for discounted rates. These two afternoons of ride specials are very popular and the midway is packed, so those looking for less excitement can ride the midway favorites the other days of the fair.



Valerie Tucker photo

Avery Pratt, 7, and her brother Alden, 10, have been raising their sheep at their grandparents' River Run Farm on Strong. The Pratt siblings, along with dozens of other youngsters, will participate in the Farmington Fair's youth auction of livestock on Wednesday, Sept. 19. The 6:30 p.m. auction in the sheep barn includes lambs, steers, hogs and poultry.

Exhibition Hall.

"Kids can get a raffle ticker when they come to the fair and we'll do a drawing at the grandstand," he said. "Kids have to be present to claim their bikes."

Current drawing times will be at 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Local business have sponsored this new event and he predicts it will be a popular addition. Other events

include a kids' pedal tractor pull at 5 p.m. on Wednesday in the pulling ring, a marionette show from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday outside the Agricultural Museum and strolling bagpipers on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Each year, Smokey's Greater Shows offers kids a chance to come straight from school on Monday and Wednesday and pack in all the rides they can for discounted rates. These two afternoons of ride specials are very popular and the midway is packed, so those looking for less excitement can ride the midway favorites the other days of the fair.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, the Junior Farmers' Frolic promises fun and friendly competition. The event is for all younger fairgoers and they must be accompanied by an adult. The timed series of tasks will require participants to complete a series of farm tasks, all geared for the chance to have fun while they learn just how much work farmers do every day.

"Contestants will have a chance to roll and stack hay bales, milk a pretend cow and do all sorts of other things they might do on a regular farm," said Judy Smith, Franklin County Cooperative Extension's Community Education Assistant. There's a guaranteed opportunity for everyone to go home a winner, Smith said.

One of the most popular events is the Mutton Bustin' challenge, which will start at noon on Saturday, the last day of the fair. Kids ages 7-8 years old stand at one end of the pulling ring and a dozen sheep stand at the other end. The sheep wranglers push an unwilling animal to meet the contestant, who is required to don a helmet and padding before climbing onto the sheep's back. The sheep only wants to get back to its friends at the other end as fast as possible, so the winning boy and girl only has to hang on for as long as possible. The audience cheers each contestant enthusiastically, no matter how long contestants manage to stay on board.

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*Contributed photo*  
4-H member Samantha Davis from New Sharon mentored state legislator Russell Black of Wilton in the 2017 Politically Cow-Rect competition with local officials. Judy Smith, Community Education Assistant for the Franklin County Cooperative Extension, said she has invited state and local officials to partner with a 4-H young person to learn and demonstrate show skills at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 17.

# Youngsters in 4-H show off animal skills during this year's Fair

**BY VALERIE TUCKER**  
*Correspondent*

This year's 178th Farmington Fair offers a chance for 4-H participants to show visitors that farming skills are alive and thriving in Franklin County. Judy Smith, Community Education Assistant for the Franklin County Cooperative Extension, said she got great response from her first Politically Cow-Rect show, so she's going to host it again at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 17. She has invited municipal, county and state officials in Franklin County to pair with a 4-H club member to learn the proper way to show an animal for judges.

"I've sent out invitations to town managers and county commissioners, our local senators and representatives," she said.

Those who respond are matched with an experienced 4-Her who serves as a mentor. Participants learn to walk the cow around the ring, explain how the animal is raised and answer related questions.

**"We are very happy that we have a new horse group called The Dusty Boots Club. We'd love to have more clubs, but we can't without having leaders."**

**JUDY SMITH, COMMUNITY EDUCATION ASSISTANT  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

The local 4-H clubs will also have more space in the Exhibition Hall this year to display the projects they've worked on all year. Many of them have been raising animals as projects, leasing or buying or having their own farm animal to care for. On Tuesday, 4-Hers will have a chance to show and sell their critters to the highest bidder at the annual market shows. Starting at 4 p.m. in the Worthley Arena, the baby beef, beef heifer and market steer shows will be followed by the swine and the market swine shows. The sheep show will be followed by the market lamb show. Bidders come to buy meat for the freezer and the

competition is always fierce.

Smith noted that 4-H leaders are needed, and even though the job is a labor of love, the Cooperative Extension Office provides training, support, materials and links new leaders with great mentors. She was happy to announce that a new club will offer children a chance to show their horses and show skills at 9 a.m. on Monday.

"We are very happy that we have a new horse group called The Dusty Boots Club," she said. "We'd love to have more clubs, but we can't without having leaders."

The other 4-H activities include a Sunday

morning working steer pull, followed by working steer show, a horse show on Monday morning, a Monday afternoon dairy show, and a Friday afternoon dairy goat show.

Judges for the 4-H shows want to know the youngsters know what they're doing. They want to know that 4-Hers have been closely involved with the day-to-day feeding, milking and other chores that can be a lot more work than they expected. Education is a key component. Judges don't care which animal is the prettiest or most perfect if the young person doesn't know what its best qualities and strengths are, according to dairy goat judge Abby Schofield.

She looks for confidence when things get lively in the show ring. Animals who are in an unfamiliar location and among other goats they don't know can become skittish. Younger animals may decide they want to play with their new neighbors and start tugging and skipping on the lead. That's when a youngster faces a personal challenge that only he or she can conquer.

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# It's Barrel Racing excitement on Sept. 16 at the Farmington Fair



Tina Penley Photography photo

MaKayla Leeman of Anson and her horse Dulce competed recently in the National Barrel Horse Association State Finals in Sidney. Leeman, 22, and a nurse at Redington-Fairview Hospital, has been competing for 17 years. She had to qualify in what the NBHA calls the "short go" round, where competitors are judged on time and accuracy in tight turns at high speeds around a series of barrels in specific patterns.

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

The Franklin County Agricultural Association's 178th Farmington Fair will offer an exciting rodeo-style kick-off at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 16. The Maine Barrel Racing Association will host up to 50 competitors from all over the state, vying for top spots in several classes of heated competition. The competition will be in the Show Ring, located off the Maple Street entrance behind the livestock barns.

According to Jamie Leeman, president of the MBRA, riders enter the arena at a full gallop toward the first barrel, trying to reach maximum speed before they hit the timer. They continue around other barrels in a cloverleaf pattern, trying to be the fastest without knocking over any barrels. Speed and accuracy are essential to this exciting, rodeo-style challenge. Before today's electronic technology, judges used stopwatches. Today's electric timer automatically starts and stops when the horse's nose runs past the sensor, making the timing much more accurate.

Riders are disqualified if they tip a

barrel, and they lose points if they deviate from the cloverleaf pattern, Leeman explained. Every rider and horse will receive a round of applause from the audience, regardless of errors.

Leeman said she and her daughter, MaKayla enjoy watching their fellow competitors improve and become more confident. Horses must be extremely athletic to be able to run full speed and turn 180 degrees without falling, slipping or slowing down.

Outfitting a horse for barrel racing requires specific equipment, according to Jamie Leeman. A racing saddle is essential for comfort and safety.

"They have deep seats and short skirts, allowing for more contact with the horse's back for greater stability," Leeman said.

Riders can add a breast collar to keep the saddle from shifting back during quick starts. A bridle with a soft bit is necessary for guiding the horse around the arena.

Also, the horse should be fitted with durable sport boots prior to every run.

"They support the horse's tendons as he

More BARREL RACING, PAGE 7

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# Barrel Racing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

charges around the arena,” she said. The Leeman family bought The Tack Stop business recently from a friend in Pittsfield and are in the process of moving everything to their location at 468 West Mills Road in Anson. They’ll continue to carry all the gear for horse lovers and barrel racers, including online shopping at *thetackstop.com*. Since the 1970s, the Maine Barrel Racing Association has drawn members who span at least three generations, with younger riders often learning from their grandparents. Some of the senior competitors who can’t ride still enjoy watching. Opportunities for women are more popular than ever. The Women’s Professional Rodeo Association, originally known as the Girls Rodeo Association, is the oldest organization in barrel racing. The National Barrel Horse Association is the other major barrel racing organization in the United States.

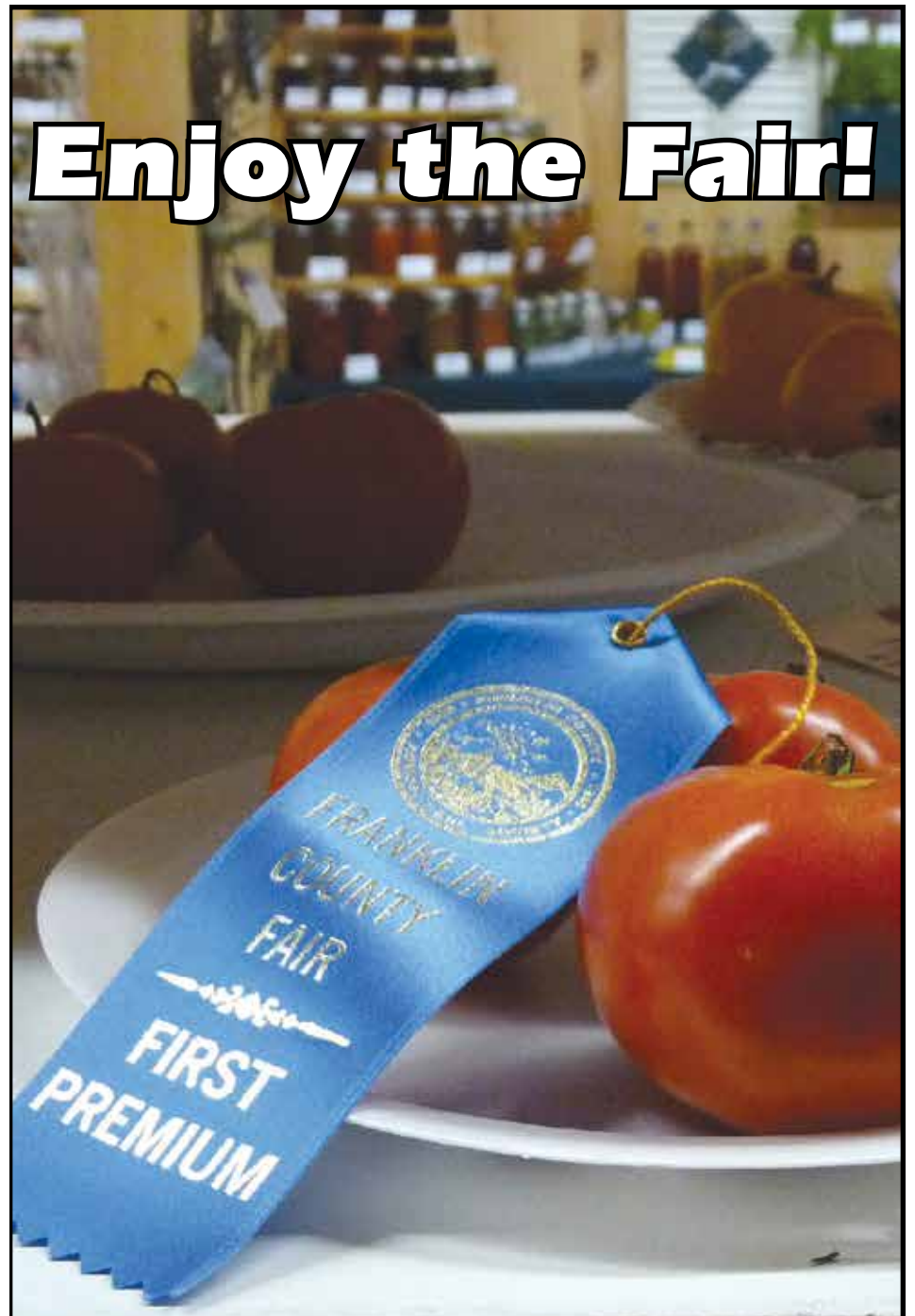
The fair’s racetrack challenges, starting daily at 2 p.m., draw hundreds to the grandstands for a daily dose of excitement and pari-mutuel betting. To make each day a seamless production, dozens of people are hard at work behind the scenes. Not only are there owners, drivers, trainers,

photographers, announcers, promoters and track maintenance workers, there also are farriers, veterinarians and transporters who make sure each horse is ready to run. David Dunn, who has been in charge of the pari-mutuel racing schedule for more than 30 years, said this year will be one of their best.

“We’ll be trying to break records for trotters and pacers on Saturday, which is the last day of the fair,” he said. “We have a great lineup this year, so we’re expecting a good crowd.”

The Monday night Drag Your Neighbor competition has become an annual crowd pleaser. Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the track in front of the grandstand, competitors with a street-legal car follow the traditional drag racing rules with the classic Christmas tree light countdown. Cars can be registered starting at 5 p.m. The Demolition Derby will be a free-for-all smash-up at 7 p.m. on Saturday night, ending the fair with a grandstand packed with fans who start claiming their seats by mid-afternoon. The event is loud and rowdy and continues until one champion vehicle is able to limp off the field to claim the trophy.

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