

176TH WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR

FAIR

AUG. 27  
TO SEPT. 1

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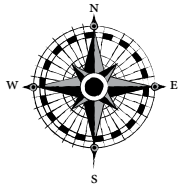
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## 176TH WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR





Children have many opportunities for fun at the fair. They got a chance to participate in a number of eating contests at the '24 fair, including pickles and cupcakes (shown here). In addition to farm animals, Lakeland Animal Shelter is on the grounds with pets available for adoption, such as Sarah Krueger is shown doing last year.

**on the cover:** Among the Grand Champions at the 2024 Walworth County Fair was Landon Rehberg with his steer. His 1,412-pound animal captured a \$72 per pound bid at the auction Ted Grant Farms and Southern Lakes Plumbing and Heating. Read the story on last year's Meat Animal Sale beginning on page 10.

TOM GANSER AND  
JENNIFER EISENBART  
2025 Walworth County Fair



# 'As The Fair Turns'

## Walworth County Fair to wrap up summer

The 176th annual Walworth County Fair will be at the county fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn, from Wednesday, Aug. 27, through Labor Day, Sept. 1.

During the fair, the grounds will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday. The fair office hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the fair.

The County Fair celebrates the area's youth and agriculture with numerous contests, animal shows and projects.

This family-friendly event attracts large crowds during its six-day run, offering people of all ages – from kids to the young-at-heart great food, fun rides, interesting displays, live music and more.

The 2024 Fairest of the Fair is Kloie Potts and Fair Royalty is Leslie Reinke. The 2026 Fairest will be crowned during this year's fair.

### A few highlights

**Sensory friendly time** – being sponsored through a partnership between the Walworth County Fair Association and North American Midway, it allows kids and adults between the ages of 3 and 21 who have special needs (and are county residents or attend a school in the county) special time to enjoy the fair.

On Friday, Aug. 29, between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon, the carnival will shut down the flashing lights and music. Additionally, ride staff take extra time and care loading rides and a guardian or caregiver is allowed to ride along.

Register by Aug. 25 but note that space is limited, so the deadline may be moved up. Check the fair website for details.

**Golden Vanilla Cupcake Challenge** – sponsored by King Arthur Baking Company, this event, slated for Sunday, Aug. 31 in North Hall, does not require pre-registration and offers two categories, youth and adult.

Open to all, bake your favorite cupcake recipe using King Arthur Baking Company flour. Bring six cupcakes in or on a disposable container. Include the recipe, your name and phone number (on back) and attach the King Arthur flour UPC code.

Cupcakes need to be in place by 2:45 p.m., judging will begin at 3 p.m. Criteria for judging will be: taste, 50 points; overall taste

### If you go...

**WHAT:** 176th Walworth County Fair

**WHERE:** 411 Court St., Elkhorn

**WHEN:** Aug. 27 to Sept. 1

**COST:** \$13 for adults, \$10 senior daily (62-plus on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), \$8 junior daily (5-12 years old); free (kids 4 and younger). Season passes: \$50, adult; \$20, junior

**INFORMATION:** visit [walworthcountyfair.com](http://walworthcountyfair.com)

and creativity, 25 points; texture, 25 points; for 100 points total.

**Pies in the Park** – sponsored by Seymour Kremer Koch LLP, will be held Saturday, Aug. 30 at Peggy's Park Stage, beginning at 10:30 a.m. for pies in place and judging, followed by the pie auction at approximately 11:30 a.m.

This is open to all bakers and bidders to the best of homemade, delicious pie fun with prizes for the top three bakers. Ice cream pies not allowed and note that there is no onsite refrigeration No pre-registration or fees. Simply

bring your pies to the park!

**Plein Air at the Fair** –Fairgoers can see participating artists create art inspired by and created solely at the Walworth County Fair throughout the grounds on Thursday, Aug. 28.

Judging of Plein Air entries will be at 5:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29 in the Cultural Arts Building.

**Barnyard Adventure** – The award-winning area remains proud to emphasize the diversity of agriculture with numerous learning stations including Crops, Gardening, Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Bees, Butterflies and more.

Visit with incredibly knowledgeable beekeepers and butterfly experts, take part in free activities, and view their displays, including an enclosed working beehive and Monarch hatching presentation.

Also in the Barnyard Adventure area, don't miss the Learning Coop Tent, The Barnyard Bin, Nana & Bubba's Pond and the Adventure Stage (which features Nick's Kids Show, Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Magic Mike the Magician and a variety of contests.

Topics and activities will include: freshly picked food tastings, story time events, a variety of make and takes for kids and/or adults, butterfly releases (daily at 5 p.m.), freshwater vs. saltwater aquarium care, beekeeping, gardening in the fall, a paint pour, pumpkin/watermelon carving, wood turning, honey, pottery, stained glass, water bath canning and more.

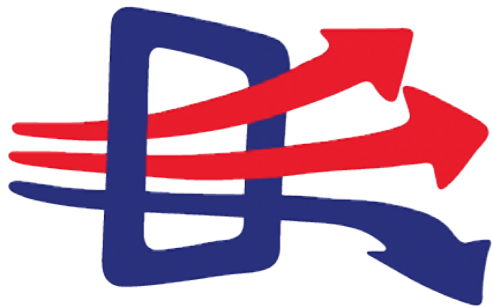
This is only a small sampling of the many events and activities that take place throughout the fair. For more information, visit the website, [walworthcountyfair.com](http://walworthcountyfair.com).



# Art around the fair

Plein Air painters are scattered throughout the fairgrounds capturing fair scenes. This year, the artists will be hard at work on Aug. 28. Their creations will be featured in the Cultural Arts Building at 5:30 p.m., Aug. 29.

JENNIFER EISENBART  
2025 Walworth County Fair



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# Leading the way

## The crew behind the scenes of the fair

The Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc. puts on the annual County Fair. The people behind the scenes include:

### Board of Directors

David Adams, director/board president  
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David Mann, director  
Gregory Sawtelle, director  
Jon Tanis, director  
Thomas Cook, director  
Cindy Klewin, director

### Fairgrounds Management Staff

Larry Gaffey, general manager  
Clare Doane, grounds and maintenance manager

### Fairgrounds Staff

Melody Judge, office manager/marketing  
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Richard Hall, office staff  
Dianne Kegley, office staff  
Patti Hall, office staff  
Rita Jasurda, office staff  
Jean Rieken, office staff  
Kelly Karcher, seasonal office staff  
Bryan Tanis, grounds  
John Martin, seasonal grounds  
Cindy Moyer, ticketing  
Kerry Trampe, IT and photography

### Fair Superintendents

Cultural Arts - Megan Rassmussen-Silman  
Antiques - fair office  
Barnyard Adventure - Kathy Papcke  
Campgrounds - Jennifer Hadley  
Beef - Marleen Siegler

Dairy - Tony Fincutter  
Discovery Barn - Shawn McCarthy  
Draft Horse - Mike Deneen  
Horticulture - Cheri Lasch  
Goats - Jamie Bowey  
Home Economics - Jodi Swatek  
Machinery - Don Henningfeld  
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Sheep - Kevin Slack  
Swine - Rick Schoenbeck

### Junior Class Superintendents

Beef - Leon (Doc) Sterken  
Dairy - Tony Fincutter  
Junior Exhibits Building - Caroline Cornelison  
Dairy Goats - Jordann McPherson  
Meat Goats - Chris Schlicher  
Horse & Pony - Jeff Markham  
Poultry - Jeff Schmalfeldt  
Rabbits - Kyle Adams  
Sheep - Trisha Knip  
Swine - Rick Schoenbeck

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FAIR

The Constitution of the Walworth County Agricultural Society was adopted April 28, 1842.

The first annual fair and cattle show that the society has any record was held in the Village of East Troy on Oct. 16, 1850. A total of 35 first premiums, 17 seconds and three thirds were given at that time.

The first County Fair held in Elkhorn was in 1851, and again in 1852, in the block southwest of the City Park. In 1853 the fair site was moved to Delavan but returned

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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# It does the body good

It wouldn't be the county fair without plenty of fun for the kids from rides and games to activities and contests. Shown at a past fair are a group of kids taking part in a milk chugging contest.

FILE PHOTO 2025 Walworth County Fair



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# Walworth County Fair • “As the Fair Turns” • Aug. 27-Sept. 1, 2025

## Wednesday, Aug. 27

*Honorary Marshals Day  
Senior Citizens Day  
North American Midway Entertainment  
Wristband Day, 3 to 11 p.m., \$35*

### Judging/demonstrations

**8 a.m.** – Jr. Swine Barrow Show, Swine Barn  
**9 a.m. events**  
Open Antiques, Antiques Building  
Open Farm Products, Horticulture Building  
Jr. Dog Obedience and Showmanship,  
Activity Center  
Jr. Plant & Soil Science, Flowers &  
Houseplants, Jr. Exhibits Building  
Open Flowers, Horticulture Building  
**9:30 a.m.** – Open Crafts, Cultural Arts  
Building  
**Noon** – Open Foods, North Hall  
**6 p.m.** – Jr. Poultry Non-Animal, Small  
Animal Barn  
**7 p.m.** – Open Adult Dairy Showmanship,  
Activity Center

### Peggy’s Park Stage

**10 a.m.** – Opening Ceremony, Honorary  
Marshals, Outstanding Senior Citizens,  
Vendors, Exhibitors, Friends of the Fair  
Awards  
**Noon** – Blue Rhythym Band  
**3 p.m.** – Nicole Nystrom Band  
**6 p.m.** – Banana Wind (Jimmy Buffet music)

### Gazebo in the Park

**2 p.m.** Guest Daily Contest Theme: Premiere  
Day, “As The Fair Turns”

**Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music Hall**  
**Noon (to 5 p.m.)** – BINGO, managed by  
Darien Cornfest  
**6 p.m.** – Chris Kohn

### Family Adventureland

**Noon, 2, 4 & 6 p.m.** – Nick’s Barnyard  
Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m., 1, 3 & 5 p.m.** – Live glassblowing  
performance  
**12:30, 2:30, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.** – Bear Hollow  
Wood Carvers (chainsaw artist)

## Grandstand

### Wednesday, Aug. 27

Rice Pro Rodeo  
with Bella Cain concert

### Thursday, Aug. 28

Chris Tomlin

### Friday, Aug. 29

PI Motorsports Truck & Tractor Pulls

### Saturday, Aug. 30

Alabama with special guest Jonny  
Lyons and The Pride

### Sunday, Aug. 31

Warrant with special guest SIIN

### Monday, Sept. 1

Demolition Derby

**3:30 & 5:30 p.m.** – Amazing Anastasini Circus  
**All day** – Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery  
Experience  
**Noon to 4 p.m.** – Demos by Superior  
Construction and Atlas Bobcat

### Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden

**10 a.m.** – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, tent  
**11:30 a.m.** – Story Time, Binzebo  
**5 p.m. events**  
Make & Take for KIDS, tent  
Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

### Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop

**10 a.m.** – Freshwater vs. Saltwater Aquarium  
Care (Aquatics Unlimited, Aquatic Realz)  
**11 a.m.** – Kristine Karlson Beekeeping  
Extraordinaire  
**Noon** – Intro to Crystals by Howl at  
The Moon Gems  
**1 p.m.** – Rushing Waters, Premium  
Trout Farm

### Grandstand

**5:30 p.m.** – American Legion VFW Flag  
Ceremony  
**7 p.m.** – Rice’s Pro Rodeo with Bella Cain,  
sponsored by Jake Leiser Painting  
& Tanis Construction

## Thursday, Aug. 28

*Senior Citizens Day  
North American Midway Entertainment  
Wristband Day, 3 to 11 p.m., \$35*

### Judging/demonstrations

**8 a.m. events**  
Jr. Beef, Activity Center  
Jr. Sheep, Sheep Barn  
**9 a.m. events**  
Open Canned Goods, North Hall  
Open Antiques, Antiques Building  
Plein Air at the Fair Painting, fairgrounds  
**11 a.m.** – Open Woodworking, Cultural  
Arts Building  
**5 p.m.** – Jr. Meat Goats, Activity Center

### Peggy’s Park Stage

**11 a.m.** – The Box Band  
**2:30 p.m.** – Charley Thornton Band  
**6:30 p.m.** – Rocks Off, Rolling Stones Tribute

### Gazebo in the Park

**2 p.m.** Guest Daily Contest Theme: Barnyard  
Betrayal “All My Barnyard Youngins”

### Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music Hall

**Noon (to 5 p.m.)** – BINGO, managed by  
Darien Cornfest  
**6 p.m.** – Tiny Country Duo

### Family Adventureland

**Noon, 2, 4 & 6 p.m.** – Nick’s Barnyard  
Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m., 1, 3 & 5 p.m.** – Live glassblowing  
performance  
**12:30, 2:30, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.** – Bear Hollow  
Wood Carvers (chainsaw artist)  
**3:30 & 5:30 p.m.** – Amazing Anastasini Circus

**All day** – Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery  
Experience  
**Noon to 4 p.m.** – Demos by Superior  
Construction and Atlas Bobcat

### Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden

**10 a.m.** – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, tent  
**11:30 a.m.** – Story Time, Binzebo  
**5 p.m. events**  
Make & Take for KIDS, tent  
Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

### Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop

**10 a.m.** – Gardening in the Fall  
with Brenda (Pesche’s)  
**11 a.m.** – A Paint Pour by A Glass of  
Art & More  
**Noon** – Pumpkin/Watermelon Carvin’  
Workshop by Studio Dori & Pumpkin Passions  
**1 p.m.** – Make & Take with Laura Zaraza  
& Stampin Up!

### Midway Area

**5 p.m.** (registration at 4 p.m.) – Kindschi’s  
Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls

### Grandstand

**7:30 p.m.** – Chris Tomlin, sponsored by  
Thrivent Shoreline Group

## Friday, Aug. 29

*Tanis Construction Day  
Senior Citizens Day  
North American Midway Entertainment  
Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

### Judging/demonstrations

**8 a.m.** – Open Sheep, Sheep Barn  
**8:30 a.m.** – Jr. Dairy, Activity Center  
**9:30 a.m.** – Open Arts, Cultural Arts Building  
**10 a.m.** – Draft Horse Halter Class, Draft  
Horse Arena  
**10:30 a.m.** – Jr. Rabbit Showmanship, Small  
Animal Barn  
**1 p.m.** – Dairy Auction/Miss “Q” Contest,  
Activity Center (Little Britches Contest to  
follow Supreme Championship)  
**2:30 p.m.** – Jr. Non-Rabbit Project, Small  
Animal Barn  
**4 p.m.** – Jr. Rabbits Pet Show, Tent near  
Small Animal Barn  
**5:30 p.m.** – Plein Air Art, Cultural Arts Building

### Wiswell Center

**9:30 a.m.** – Meat Animal Sale  
**3 p.m.** – Meat Animal Sale of Champions

### Horse Arena

**8 a.m.** – Wisconsin Open Horse Show  
Association

### Peggy’s Park Stage

**Noon** – Indigo Canyon  
**4 p.m.** – LUDY and his LADY, melodies  
of America  
**7 p.m.** – Rearview, a Pearl Jam and  
90s Rock Tribute

## Must see events

- Opening Ceremony – (Wed.)  
Peggy’s Park Stage
- Fairest of the Fair Finals – (Sun.)  
Peggy’s Park Stage
- Farmer Wally Worth – Strolling
  - North American Midway
- Daily contests – Park Gazebo
  - \$5,000 Pinewood Derby  
Showdown – Not A Scout, Not A  
Problem! – (Sun.) North Hall tent
    - Award-winning agriculture  
education areas
  - Barnyard Adventure
    - Discovery Barn
  - BINGO! (Wed., Thurs., Fri.) –  
Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music  
Hall
    - Pies in the Park judging and  
auction – (Sat.) Peggy’s Park Stage
      - Tree Of Life – strolling
      - Camel Rides – Family  
Adventureland
  - Bear Hollow Wood Carvers –  
Family Adventureland
  - Combine Rides for Kids – (Sat.)  
Track
    - Plein Air at the Fair artists –  
(Thurs.) Fairgrounds

### Gazebo in the Park

**2 p.m.** Guest Daily Contest Theme: Flashback  
Friday – “Fair of our Lives”

### Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music Hall

**Noon (to 5 p.m.)** – BINGO, managed by  
Darien Cornfest  
**6 p.m.** – Sarah Teale Music

### Family Adventureland

**Noon, 2, 4 & 6 p.m.** – Nick’s Barnyard  
Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.** – Live glassblowing  
performance  
**12:30, 2:30, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.** – Bear Hollow  
Wood Carvers (chainsaw artist)  
**3:30 & 5:30 p.m.** – Amazing Anastasini Circus  
CONTEST: Barnard Stage  
**11 a.m.** – Infant/toddler “Barnyard Stars”  
Costume Contest  
**1 p.m.** – Hula Hoop Contest  
**All day** – Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery  
Experience  
**Noon to 4 p.m.** – Demos by Superior  
Construction and Atlas Bobcat

### Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden

**10 a.m.** – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, tent  
**11:30 a.m.** – Story Time, Binzebo  
**5 p.m. events**  
Make & Take for KIDS, tent  
Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden





Jacob Dutton walks his Grand Champion Swine around the ring during the 2024 Walworth County Fair. The auction for his 286-pound crossbred swine was won by Conserve FS-Zenda at a price of \$21 a pound.

TOM GANSER 2025 Walworth County Fair

# ‘Sale of Champions’ highlights county fair

By Tom Ganser  
CORRESPONDENT

The Walworth County Fair highlights the achievements of young people in their many talents, including crafts, arts, and photography. There was no better example than the Meat Animal Sale on Aug. 30, 2024 in the Wiswell Center that featured the auction of more than 400 livestock.

Additional auctions during the Fair also included poultry and rabbits.

The “Sale of Champions” includes Grand Champion, Reserve Grand

Champion, Grand Champion Carcass, and Reserve Grand Champion Carcass beef, lambs (listed as wethers) and swine (listed as barrows).

Lainey Popp, who was a junior at the time at Platteville High School, proudly showed her 159-pound Hampshire lamb, which was purchased by Kunes RV for \$10 a pound.

Popp, who transferred from the Walworth 4-H to the Richmond 4-H last year, described the challenge of “having confidence in the ring and not overworking

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myself," increased even more due to "high expectations from my family and everybody I show with."

Admitting that her lamb was "really not looking the part for going to the County Fair as he matured," she was pleasantly surprised that he was "looking really good" the week before the big event.

"We walked into the fair thinking he was only going to get fifth in class," she said last fall, and described it as "a big surprise for all of us" that he was judged to be the Grand Champion.

Asked for her advice to others to raise champion livestock successfully, Popp pointed to the importance of having a regular, basic, daily routine with sheep that includes feeding, working their leg hair and developing showmanship skills.

"It helps the sheep to be ready for shows themselves and helps you as a person and showman to be successful," she added.

For Popp, a valuable life lesson that she's learned in and out of the ring includes "always being happy for one another even if you don't win, and always being happy

for the person who did win."

She said sportsmanship is a huge thing she's learned.

"It's something that everyone struggles with because obviously everyone wants to win but not everyone can win," Popp said.

Also included in the sale of champion market lambs were Wyatt Nixon (Richmond 4-H) for Reserve Grand Champion, Thomas Sorg (Delavan-Darien High School FFA) for Grand Champion Carcass and Alice LaBadie (Spring Prairie 4-H) for Reserve Grand Champion Carcass.

This year's Grand Champion Swine recognition went to Jacob Dutton, a 2023 graduate of Delavan-Darien High School and a member of the Ridge Prairie 4-H Club.

The auction for Dutton's 286-pound Crossbred swine was won by Conserve FS-Zenda for \$21 per pound.

Billy Johnson, Conserve-FS local crop specialist, said, "We feel the youth livestock projects are invaluable for raising the next generation of ag. We recognize the

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Lainey Popp shows her 159-pound Hampshire lamb, which was purchased at last year's Meat Animal Sale by Kunes RV for \$10 a pound.

TOM GANSER  
2025 Walworth  
County Fair

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**SALE OF CHAMPIONS** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

amount of commitment and responsibility it requires, often at the expense of giving up much of their summer.”

He said Conserv-FS wants to show its admiration and support of these kids and assist in rewarding them appropriately.

“We see the passion, dedication, and effort when we walk the barns prior to the sale and know it’s our duty as a leading business of local ag to extend our support as we all applaud these projects ... and what better animal to buy than the Grand Champion,” Johnson said.

“The Dutton family is a longstanding example of excellence in the local ag community, and it was our honor to be a small part of this animal’s journey,” he added.

For Dutton, a challenge in raising his swine was “just learning how to feed it the right feed and getting it broke to walk.” Lifelong lessons for Dutton included, “teaching you to take care of something

other than yourself,” and he added that, “you get what you put into your project, and I feel life is the same way.”

Dutton is an employee in the Grain Division of The Scharine Group, and Marcus Scharine from the company paid Dutton his due.

“His hard work and dedication have really paid off, and we are proud to have him as an employee, as he gives this type of effort each and every day,” he said.

Also taking to the ring for the sale of champion market swine were Landon Rehberg (Spring Prairie 4-H) for Reserve Grand Champion, Addison Babcock (Springfield 4-H) for Grand Champion Carcass, and Katrina Kilpin (Elkhorn Area High School FFA) for Reserve Grand Champion Carcass.

Rounding out the champions this year, Rehberg’s 1,412-pound steer that came from Indiana captured a \$72 per pound bid by Ted Grant Farms and Southern Lakes

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No stranger to the world of grand champion livestock, Rehberg’s efforts have resulted in past Walworth County Fair awards. This year, his crossbred swine captured the Reserve Grand Champion Swine spot.

Rehberg graduated from Elkhorn Area High School in 2024 and has been a member of the Spring Prairie 4-H club since third grade.

“The biggest challenge I had this year,” Rehberg said last fall, “was working on three different steers and having to ensure they all were worked to the best of my ability. The biggest surprise I had this year was being able to sell two of my steers at the Wisconsin State Fair in the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction.”

Rehberg has shown livestock at the Wisconsin State Fair as well as at the Walworth County Fair. He said the procedures at the Walworth County Fair

are identical to those at the Wisconsin State Fair, an indication that the Walworth County Fair’s standards are very high.

“One big piece of advice I have for the younger exhibitors is to ask people for advice on how to improve your skills that are a level above you or where you want to be,” Rehberg said. “The thing that I have learned during this project that will be valuable is discipline. Without discipline, you will not be able to stay focused on the end goal.”

Rehberg is attending Iowa State University and majoring in agricultural engineering.

The spotlight for champion market beef also included Aubrey Ganhs (Sugar Creek 4-H and Elkhorn Area High School FFA) for Reserve Grand Champion, Jaclyn Kollwelter (LaGrange 4-H) for Grand Champion Carcass, and Jace Mann (Sugar Creek 4-H and WalCo Ag Society Jr.) for Reserve Grand Champion Carcass.

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- Junior Class Competitive Exhibit Areas, showcasing Junior Class non-livestock and livestock exhibits;
- Open Class Exhibit areas, featuring displays of Open Class non-livestock and livestock exhibits;
- All of the Peggy's Park Stage entertainment;
- Displays in North Hall and the Cultural Arts Building
- Daily contests with prizes
- Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden, and Agriculture Learning Coop
- Wiswell Center events including

animal sales, the Walworth County Cloggers, Antique Appraisals and the Fur & Feather Sale

- Family Adventureland, featuring the ever-popular "Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show," live performances and demonstrations
- New and exciting – Bear Hollow Wood Carvers
- Open Horse Shows and Draft Horse Pulls;
- Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls
- Plein Air Art Competition
- Scavenger Hunt
- ... and more!
- Discovery Barn – piglets, baby bunnies, calves and ducklings are among

the newborn animals on display.

There are also sliding ducks, and goat-milking and sheep-shearing demonstrations.

## Barnyard Adventure

The Barnyard Adventure team is looking forward to visitors, showcasing an area of the fair where families and folks of all ages can make themselves at home; rest, regroup, relax, and enjoy the country hospitality offered throughout its two acres of agricultural wonders.

The Barnyard Adventure area remains proud to emphasize the diversity of agriculture with numerous learning stations including crops, dairy, beef, swine, sheep,

goats, poultry, bees, butterflies and more!

This two-acre spot features a Kiddieland Stage packed with shows and contests, from cupcake eating to straw bale throwing to milk chugging.

New this year will be the Amazing Anastasini Circus with acrobats, aerialists and clowns. Shows will be at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 1:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

There will also be a chainsaw artist and live glassblowing performances.

Visitors can learn about agriculture and explore a koi pond, a giant bee colony

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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# Grandstand features variety of entertainment

A variety of additional events take place during the fair requiring tickets to be purchased in addition to general fair admission.

## Rice Professional Rodeo with Bella Cain concert

7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 27

“Put on your cowboy boots and hats and join us for the Rice Pro Rodeo on opening night of the 176th Walworth County Fair,” organizers said.

It aims to be “an evening packed with bronc bustin’, bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing,” they said.

After the rodeo, Bella Cain will perform.

## Chris Tomlin

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28

TIME magazine heralded Chris Tomlin as the “most often sung artist in the world” as his music has inspired and uplifted an entire generation of believers.

Along the way, Chris has scored 21 number-one singles, 30 top-ten hits (more than any other Christian artist), and spent a total of 157 weeks at number-one during his career. He’s sold more than 12 million albums with 6.8 billion career global streams, won a Grammy, three Billboard Music Awards, 28 Dove Awards, became a two-time BMI Songwriter of the Year honoree and an ASCAP Songwriter of the Year.

In 2016, he was named one of only four artists ever to receive the Sound Exchange Digital Radio Award for over 1 billion digital radio streams, alongside Justin Timberlake, Pitbull, and Garth Brooks. Chris is also the first Christian artist to reach the billion streams threshold on Pandora and was presented with their BILLIONAIRE award.

As one of the most successful Christian touring artists today, Chris has sold out venues everywhere including New York City’s Madison Square Garden, the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena, Red Rocks in Denver, and more. Chris recently set a career attendance record with an unprecedented concert at LA’s Banc of California Stadium.

## PI Motorsports Truck & Tractor Pulls

7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29

Grandstands open at 6 p.m. and the pulls start at 7 p.m. See the spectacular power of professional truck and tractor pullers as they compete for the Walworth County Fair Championship.

## Alabama with special guest Jonny Lyons and The Pride

7:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 30

It’s been over 50 years since a trio of young cousins left Fort Payne, Alabama, to spend the summer playing in a Myrtle Beach, South Carolina bar called The Bowery.

It took Randy Owen, Teddy Gentry and Jeff Cook six long years of tip jars and word of mouth to earn the major label deal they’d been dreaming of, but then



Chris Tomlin



Alabama



Warrant





seemingly no time at all to change the face of country music.

Alabama is the band that changed everything. They reeled off 21 straight #1 singles, a record that will probably never be equaled in any genre.

They brought youthful energy, sex appeal and a rocking edge that broadened country's audience and opened the door to self-contained bands from then on, and they undertook a journey that led, 73 million albums later, to the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

#### **Warrant with special guest SIIN** 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 31

At its core, Warrant is an American rock band through and through. Hitting it big in 1989, the Hollywood, CA based band rose through the ranks of the local Sunset Strip scene to the level of multiplatinum selling, chart-topping success. The band first came into the national spotlight with their debut

album Dirty Rotten Filthy Stinking Rich. This album produced radio and MTV chart toppers "Down Boys," "Sometimes She Cries," and the massive hit "Heaven" which reached #1 in Rolling Stone and #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 for two weeks in a row. The single "Heaven" enjoyed Gold sales and the album went platinum in Canada as well, eventually selling over 3 million copies.

The band toured the globe performing 262 shows in support of DRFSR and closed the year with a Platinum Home Video. Warrant's sophomore album Cherry Pie was released in September 1990. This album, which spawned the MTV & radio hits "Cherry Pie," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and "I Saw Red," all reached the Top 10 in the United States and went onto sell 3 million copies, reaching platinum sales in Canada and Australia. The band played 200 shows in support of Cherry Pie and finished the tour headlining all over the USA and ended up being one of the top grossing

tours of 1991.

Over the course of their career, Warrant has sold over 10 million albums worldwide. The song "Cherry Pie" has taken on a pop culture life of its own, being featured in countless movies, TV shows, commercials and the hugely popular video game Guitar Hero.

In September 2008, Robert Mason replaced Jani Lane (RIP) as lead vocalist joining the other four original members, Jerry Dixon, Steven Sweet, Joey Allen and Erik Turner. Their current album Louder Harder Faster, released on Frontiers Records, has been highly regarded in reviews and embraced by fans. Warrant has been headlining festivals, casinos and fairs all over the country in support of their latest CD Louder Harder Faster and the 30-year anniversary of their debut album Dirty Rotten Filthy Stinking Rich.

The band is fired up and tighter than ever musically. These rockers can't wait to play not only all the hits fans know

and love, but also new tunes/videos like "Louder Harder Faster" and "I Think I Will Just Stay Here & Drink."

#### **Demolition Derby** 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

On Monday, Sept. 1, the fair's entertainment will wrap up with the demo derby. Tickets are \$15 per person in addition to fair admission.

"Prepare to go out with a bang as we close out the 176th Walworth County Fair with an EPIC blast of excitement at the three-heat Demo Derby, Presented by International Demolition Derby," organizers said.

Packed with non-stop action and guaranteed to be a hit with the crowd, this event is a hot commodity, and tickets generally sell out, according to organizers.

"Don't miss your chance to be part of the exhilarating finale to an unforgettable fair experience," they said.

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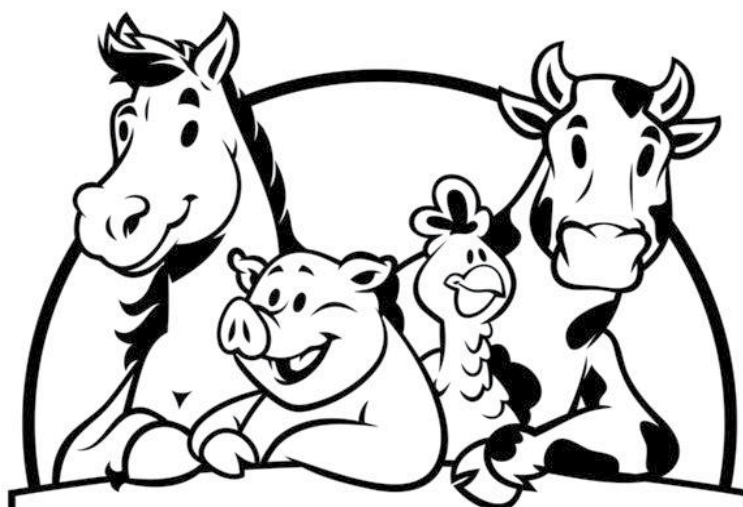




# So much to see

You never know what you might spot at the Walworth County Fair. Last year, dinosaurs were evident on the fairgrounds with the Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure show. The show was advertised with the dino making his way around the grounds.

JENNIFER EISENBART  
2025 Walworth County Fair



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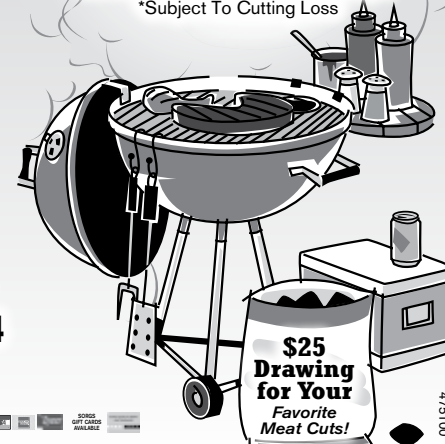
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SCHEDULE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

**Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop**  
**10 & 11 a.m.** – Wood Turning Demo by Gary Datka  
**Noon** – Sourdough 101 by Good Oak Farmstand  
**1 p.m.** – Make & Take with Laura Zaraza & Stampin Up!

**Midway Area**  
**10 a.m. to noon** – “Sensory Friendly” Carnival Experience, sponsored by Tanis Construction and North American Midway Entertainment  
**5 p.m.** (registration at 4 p.m.) – Kindschi’s Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls

**Grandstand**  
**Noon** – Antique & Stock Truck and Tractor Pulls, sponsored by Odling Construction  
**7 p.m.** – PI Motorsports Truck & Tractor Pulls, sponsored by Great Lakes Components

**Saturday, Aug. 30**  
*Kunes Auto Group/RV Day  
North American Midway Entertainment  
Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

**Judging/demonstrations**  
**8 a.m.** – Jr. Poultry, Small Animal Barn  
8:30 a.m. events  
Jr. Dairy Goats, Goat Barn  
Open Dairy, Activity Center  
**9 a.m.** – Jr. Rabbit, Tent near Small Animal Barn  
**10 a.m.** – Draft Horse Cart/Hitch, Draft Horse Arena  
**10:40 a.m.** – Pies in the Park pie judging, Peggy’s Park Stage, open to everyone  
**11 a.m.** – Wisconsin Honey Dairy Dessert Showdown, Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop tent, open to everyone  
**6 p.m.** – Master Showman Contest, Activity Center

**Wiswell Center**  
**5 p.m.** – Walworth County Cloggers

**Horse Arena**  
**8:30 a.m.** – Boots & Saddle Open and Speed Show  
**9 a.m.** – Walenton’s Rocking “B” Ranch Speed Show

**Peggy’s Park Stage**  
**11:30 a.m.** – Pies in the Park Auction, all welcome  
**1:30 p.m.** – Van Wailin’  
**4 p.m.** – Underground Sound Jazz Band  
**7 p.m.** – NEW Dueling Pianos

**Gazebo in the Park**  
**2 p.m.** Guest Daily Contest Theme: Sweetheart Saturday “Days of Our Fair”

**Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music Hall**  
**Noon** – Jenny Hundt  
**3 p.m.** – Karen Shook  
**6 p.m.** – Tony John & The Flathead String Band

**Family Adventureland**  
**Noon, 2, 4 & 6 p.m.** – Nick’s Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage

**11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.** – Live glassblowing performance  
**12:30, 2:30, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.** – Bear Hollow Wood Carvers (chainsaw artist)  
**1:30, 3:30 & 5:30 p.m.** – Amazing Anastasini Circus  
**CONTEST:** Barnyard Stage, celebrating 25 years of Barnyard Adventure  
**11 a.m.** – Barnyard Doody Race  
**1 p.m.** – Cupcake Eating Contest  
**All day** – Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience  
**Noon to 4 p.m.** – Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

**Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden**  
**10 a.m.** – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, tent  
**11:30 a.m.** – Story Time, Binzebo  
**5 p.m. events**  
Make & Take for KIDS, tent  
Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

**Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop**  
**10 a.m.** – Wisconsin Honey Dairy Dessert Showdown  
**11 a.m.** – Wisconsin Honey Queen  
**Noon** – Herbal Infused Honey by the Apothecary  
**1 p.m.** – Make & Take with Laura Zaraza & Stampin Up!

**Grandstand**  
**9 a.m.** – Combines for Kids, combine rides, sponsored by Rote Oil  
**Z:30 p.m.** – Alabama with special guest Jonny Lyons & The Pride, sponsored by Kunes RV/Auto/Trucks

**Sunday, Aug. 31**  
*Edge Broadband Family Fun Day  
North American Midway Entertainment  
Wristband Day, Noon to 8 p.m., \$35*

**Judging/demonstrations**  
**7:30 a.m.** – Open Rabbit Show Registration, tent near Small Animal Barn  
**8 a.m.** – Open Beef, Activity Center  
**9 a.m. events**  
Open Goats Sanctioned ADGA Show, Goat Barn  
Open Rabbit Show Judging, tent near Small Animal Barn  
**Noon** – Wool Fleece Contest, Sheep Barn  
**3 p.m. events**  
Golden Vanilla Cupcake Challenge, North Hall, open to everyone, sponsored by King Arthur Baking Co.  
Dairy Futurity Show, Activity Center

**Wiswell Center**  
**10 a.m. to Noon & 1 to 3 p.m.** – Antique Appraisals

**North Hall**  
**Noon** – \$5,000 Pinewood Derby Showdown – Not a Scout, Not a Problem, managed by Glacier’s Edge Council – Boy Scouts of America, sponsored by Advanced Auto Clinic, Delavan

**4-H Centennial Picnic Pavilion**  
**2 p.m.** – Poultry Awards

**Prizes/souvenirs**  
**Scavenger Hunt** – Make your time at the fair even more fun by participating in the daily fair scavenger hunt that includes daily prizes! Stop by the Park Gazebo for forms and more information.  
**Souvenirs** – Don’t forget to purchase your official 176th Walworth County Fair souvenirs. They can be found at the Souvenir Shop, located in the Historic Log Cabin.

**Horse Arena**  
**8:30 a.m.** – Linn Youth Benefit Open Horse Show  
**9 a.m.** – Walenton’s Rocking “B” Ranch Speed Show

**Peggy’s Park Stage**  
**10 a.m.** – Ecumenical Church Service  
**Noon** – Sounds of Soul & Motown, Dave Alan Mehner  
**3 p.m.** – Woodcarving Auction to benefit the Walworth Co. Fair Foundation  
**5 p.m.** – Fairest of the Fair Finals  
**7:30 p.m.** – Tennessee Whiskey, Chris Stapleton Tribute

**Gazebo in the Park**  
**2 p.m.** Guest Daily Contest Theme: Plot Twist Sunday “The Young and the Barnless”

**Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music Hall**  
**Noon** – Georgia Rae  
**3 p.m.** – Acoustic Generation  
**6 p.m.** – Kyle Young

**Family Adventureland**  
**Noon, 2, 4 & 6 p.m.** – Nick’s Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.** – Live glassblowing performance  
**10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.** – Bear Hollow Wood Carvers (chainsaw artist)  
**1:30, 3:30 & 5:30 p.m.** – Amazing Anastasini Circus

**CONTEST:** Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m.** – Cream puff eating contest  
**1 p.m.** – Flicker Chicken Oh My!  
**All day** – Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience  
**Noon to 4 p.m.** – Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

**Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden**  
**10 a.m.** – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, tent  
**11:30 a.m.** – Story Time, Binzebo  
**5 p.m. events**  
Make & Take for KIDS, tent  
Butterfly Release, garden

**Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop**  
**10 a.m.** – Success with your Houseplants (Brenda from Pesche’s)  
**11 a.m.** – Build a Pottery Container with A Glass of Art & More  
**Noon** – Pottery Wheel Demo and Experience with A Glass of Art & More

**1 p.m.** – Tallow 101 with Crooked Oak Farm & Feral Farm Skincare

**Grandstand**  
**11 a.m.** – Antique Tractor & Car Parade  
**7:30 p.m.** – Warrant with special guest SIIN, sponsored by The Ecklund Group @properties

**Monday, Sept. 1**  
*Demo Day  
North American Midway Entertainment  
Wristband Day, Noon to 8 p.m., \$35*

**Wiswell Center**  
**10 a.m.** – Fur & Feather Sale

**Horse Arena**  
**8 a.m.** – Wisconsin Open Horse Show Association  
**11 a.m.** – Timmermann’s Drill Team Competition

**Activity Center**  
**10 a.m.** – Bale Throwing Contest

**Peggy’s Park Stage**  
**11 a.m.** – Yves Francois, Rocambu Jazz  
**2 p.m.** – Drums & Roses  
**5 p.m.** – Gary McAdams Band

**Gazebo in the Park**  
**2 p.m.** Guest Daily Contest Theme: Cliffhanger Monday, To Be Continued...

**Duesterbeck’s Brew Haus Music Hall**  
**1 p.m.** – Fredneck  
**4 p.m.** – The Thompson Duo

**Family Adventureland**  
**Noon, 2, 4 & 6 p.m.** – Nick’s Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.** – Live glassblowing performance  
**1:30, 3:30 & 5:30 p.m.** – Amazing Anastasini Circus

**CONTEST:** Barnyard Stage  
**11 a.m.** – Sweet corn eating contest  
**All day** – Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience  
**Noon to 4 p.m.** – Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

**Barnyard Adventure Tent & Garden**  
**10 a.m.** – Freshly Picked Food Tasting, tent  
**11:30 a.m.** – Story Time, Binzebo  
**5 p.m. events**  
Make & Take for KIDS, tent  
Butterfly Release, Barnyard Garden

**Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop**  
**10 a.m.** – From Poultry Production to Passion with Karen Gefvert  
**11 a.m.** – You CAN Do It, an introduction to water bath canning by Stephanie Slater  
**Noon** – Stained Glass Demo by The Vinery  
**1 p.m.** – Fused Glass Demo by The Vinery

**Grandstand**  
**8:30 a.m.** – Horse Pulling contest  
**12:30, 3 & 5:30 p.m.** – Demolition Derby, sponsored by American Truck Center, Pete’s Tire Elkhorn and Superior Construction



to Elkhorn in 1854. In 1855, the first purchase of land, from Colonel Edward Elderkin, was made consisting of six acres within the Village of Elkhorn limits.

The cost was \$100 an acre with 10% interest, a high price for the time. The city

## **FREE** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

(safely behind glass!) and herb and hops gardens. Or unwind in a "Binzebo" — a grain bin turned into a gazebo.

And at 5 p.m. daily, don't miss the monarch butterfly release over in Family Adventureland.

On Saturday morning at 9 a.m., kids have an opportunity to ride in a combine harvester, courtesy of area farmers who drive their machines to the fairgrounds.

Twice each day there are demonstrations featuring heavy-duty dirt-moving machines — a thriller for kids and many young-at-heart adults.

of Elkhorn donated \$300 to fence the land, erect pens and sheds and to dig wells. The fair site has remained in Elkhorn since 1855 on this same location. On April 5, 1965, the Articles of Incorporation for the Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc., were signed by the Secretary of State.

In its early years, many visitors traveled to the fair by train. At one time, there were 19 special trains which arrived daily directly at the fairgrounds and departed again each evening after the harness races. Guests came from Libertyville, Rockford, Freeport, Walworth, Beloit, Madison, Janesville, Milwaukee and Waukesha.

The Walworth County Fairgrounds, throughout history, has been well-regarded as a live entertainment venue. 1933 was the beginning of live entertainment night shows at the Walworth County Fair, such as the WLS entertainers.

Throughout the years, the grandstand main stage has welcomed the talents of such nationally-acclaimed artists, such as

Minnie Pearl, Johnny Cash, Keith Urban, Josh Turner, Little Big Town, Styx, Doobie Brothers, Cheap Trick, Foreigner, Skillet, Newsboys United, and The Beach Boys. Visit the link below for more information.

Today, the Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, welcomes hundreds of thousands of guests year-round to its nearly 100-acre facility. From beautiful campgrounds, spacious buildings, open green spaces, large grandstand, and recently improved and expanded equine facility, the fairgrounds attracts visitors and events from coast-to-coast, renowned for its Midwest charm, affordability, and hospitality.

Additionally, the Walworth County Fair and fairgrounds is a consistent award-winning fair industry leader in agriculture education, competitive exhibits, non-Fair facility usage and sponsorship with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.



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# Time to recharge

While visitors to the fair get to go home and sleep in their beds, fair exhibitors stay at the fair with their animals. They can sometimes be seen in the barns catching a quick nap in between chores and showing their animals.

TOM GANSER  
2025 Walworth County Fair



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**We'll see you  
at the Walworth  
County Fair!**



**L.E.A.D.  
AWARD**

## **Attention Fair Exhibitors!**

### **Scholarship Opportunity Available**

Community State Bank is excited to present The LEAD Award, a scholarship created to honor Walworth County Fair exhibitors who demonstrate a strong commitment to service and leadership in their communities.

**LEARN MORE & APPLY ONLINE: [csb.bank/lead-award-2025](https://csb.bank/lead-award-2025)**



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