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## Families ready to flock to Belknap County 4-H Fair



73rd annual event arrives in Belmont this weekend

By ED PIERCE

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BELMONT — If the weather holds up, it's going to be a perfect weekend for families visting the 73rd annual Belknap County 4-H Fair in Belmont.

And for those who've never been, it's a perfect activity for kids of all ages, jam-packed with wholesome, safe and affordable family fun.

Billed as the 'Biggest Little Agricultural Fair in New Hampshire,' the fair opens at 9 a.m. Saturday and runs through 5 p.m. Sunday off Route 106 in Belmont.

Parents bringing small children will love the admission price too. Kids under 10 are admitted free and for everyone older than 10, it's just \$7 for a visit filled with fun and entertainment.

Active duty military and veterans with identification also are admitted free.

For decades, the fair has been offering participants great animal exhibits featuring ox pulls, draft horse demonstrations and a barn full of 4-H student animal displays.

The fair's historic Colonial Barn is adorned with craft and educational projects worked on by area students in conjunction with the 4-H program.

No matter how many times you've visited the fair, there always seems to be something new to see and do. This year is no exception, as there will be demonstrations of old time engines, a blacksmith and yarn spinning, and an amazing wildlife exhibit of preserved animals containing fisher cats, coyotes, beavers and raccoons.

The fair's entertainment stage will be lively Saturday with musical performances by The Rockin' Daddios at 10 a.m. and noon, The Funky Divas at 2 and 3:30 p.m., and Joel Cage at 5 p.m. On Sunday, Studio Two, a Beatles tribute band, performs at 10 and 11 a.m., The Bittersweet Band takes the stage at 1 and 2:30 p.m. and Ed the Wizard entertains throughout the day.

Fairgoers will find pony rides for the little ones, a garden tractor pull Saturday and motor doodebugs on Sunday.

No county fair would be complete without traditional children's games, and this year's event has plenty of free games such as bubble gum blowing, pie eating contests, jello eating and water balloon throwing.

Traditional fair food offered includes Italian sausage subs, french fries, onion rings, ice cream, fried dough and an array of grilled items.

The complete fair schedule and additional information can be found at \_\_\_\_\_.

Fairgrounds can be reached off Route 106 in Belmont by taking Bishop Road to Mile Hill Road and following the signs.

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