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BELMONT — Animal showings, music, food, tractors and monster trucks, and opportunities for kids to shine could be found at the annual Belknap County 4-H Fair.

The 74th annual fair took place over the weekend at the county fairgrounds with a wide array of events and offerings for people of all ages.

Past fair president Fran Wendelboe said numbers over the weekend were near record, especially on Saturday. Despite earlier concerns about possible rain on Saturday, they had record numbers that day. The weather turned out ideal on Sunday and brought in good sized crowds. This year also saw a large increase in participants. Wendelboe said a few years ago, they had six pigs that year, they had 27. The amount of cattle entries has doubled.

“The food vendors were having smiles on their faces,” Wendelboe said.

Now this year were the Monster Trucks, which kids were allowed to climb inside.

“Kids from 4-H programs across the state displayed their many skills and even inspired many more potential members. Wendelboe said many parents came up to her and asked how they could get their children involved in 4-H.

“I like when I get to walk her around during the fairs,” Olivia said. George and Vernon LeClair of Mason showed their own pairs of holsteins. George, nine, has been working with Bow and Ari for six months.

“We’re very proud of them,” said George and Vernon’s dad Matt LeClair. “It’s quite a learning experience for the cows and their kids and their parents.”

George LeClair spends some time with his holsteins Bow and Ari.

Olivia Nason gets Star ready for a costume contest.

Record numbers turn out for Belknap County Fair

Kids compete in the Belknap County Fair’s pie eating contest.

Landon Akerstrom with his sleeping pig Snowflake.

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“At the beginning it’s a little annoying because when you want them to go forward they pull back,” George said. “As you train them more and more as they get older, they have to learn a lot of things and it’s an everyday thing, it’s not just a summer,” said their mom, Beth LeClair.

In the swine barn, cousins Landon Akesson of Gilmanton and Noah's mom Rebekah Cullen said this is the boys' first fair with their pigs. She said she thought 4-H is a great program that teaches them a lot of things. “It’s so far been the best experience with animals,” Noah said.