

Draft Horse Show First Event of the 2017 Harford Fair

Nestled in the rolling Endless Mountains of Susquehanna County, half way between Scranton and Binghamton, New York is the village of Harford whose residents enjoy a simple, quiet existence for fifty-one weeks a year. However, everything will change next week, August 21-26th, 2017, when approximately 65,000 visitors from near and far will come to celebrate a long-standing tradition, the **HARFORD FAIR**. While the first full day of the fair is Monday, August 21st, you won't want to miss the many events beginning on Sunday with free admission and free parking.

The well-groomed main arena will open with the Draft Horse and Pony Driving Class Show at 2:00 PM. The precision of the drivers and their teams of horses is something to see with their horses hitched to a cart or another suitable vehicle. With twenty-four different classes, spectators can see such things as six-horse hitch, four-horse hitch, tandem hitch, obstacle cart and team hitch and the draft riding class to name a few.

Drivers are dressed in appropriate English or Western show attire as they demonstrate their team skills with their horses with the following gates: walk, collected trot, working trot and backup. The horses must be able to stop and stand quietly as well with the driver exhibiting performance with sportsmanlike conduct.

Registration begins at noon on the fairgrounds with the show beginning at 2 PM. All information is available at **Harfordfair.com**, clicking on the premium book cover first in the listing down the left hand side of the home page. Copies of the premium book are also available at the secretary's office on the fairgrounds Monday through Friday or at several businesses throughout the area. Any questions can be directed to **Debbie Oakes**, co-superintendent of the horse department, at **607-237-2731**.

Other events continue Sunday with the preliminary queen competition at 3:00, Livestock Skill-a-thon in the cattle arena at 5:30 and the official fair opening beginning at 7:30. The 26th Harford Fair Queen will be crowned, tributes will be given for Gerald Albeck, John Bolles, and Leon Button, all of

whom served the fair as members of the Harford Agricultural Society's Board of Directors and passed away during the past year. Musical entertainment by the Southern Tiersman Barbershop Chorus will follow the coronation ceremony. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:15 PM to conclude the evening and kickoff the fair.

That is just the beginning of a week filled with Family Fun for Everyone with continued free parking and free admission for eleven and under. Ages twelve and older pay only \$6.00. Active Military and Veteran's Appreciation Day is Monday with free admission for those with proper ID. Wednesday is Senior Citizen's Day for \$5.00 gate admission for age 60 and over. The main arena will offer free seating for the truck and semi truck pulls, the farm tractor and hot tractor pull, the antique tractor pull, the diesel truck pull, the woodsman's contest and the horse pulling contest. Thursday will be family day all day at the fair with The Johnny Rockett's Cycle Circus Live action thrill show presented free in the main arena. On Friday, the traditional Dave Martin's Championship Rodeo is at 7:30 PM with some free seating and reserved seating for only \$5.00. The Jackpot Demolition Derby wraps up the fair's main arena shows on Saturday night at 7:30 PM with all \$10.00 seats.

In addition to the main arena events, the Harford Fair offers so much more. The free Hogway Speedway with racing pigs, goats, and ducks perform three shows each day in the South Arena and the Rhinestone Roper performs with his trained horse and other cowboy skills free three times each day in the North Arena. The Horse Arena at the north end of the fairgrounds is busy all week long with free shows including the Fun Show, the saddle horse show, the pony show, the driving show, barrel racing and both open and closed horse shows. Schedules are available on line at **Harfordfair.com** or in the book and brochures which are available now at the secretary's office on the fairgrounds or at many businesses throughout the area.

Walking the paved pathways of the beautifully decorated fairgrounds, one can enjoy traditional as well as non-traditional fair foods, full dinners offered each day in the dining hall, a wide variety of amusements, demonstrations, commercial vendors, and school exhibits. Prize-winning crafts, home grown products, the 4-H exhibits, and the Founders Museum

offers so much to see at one of the largest truly agricultural fairs which still exists. Walking through the barns, the fairgoer can see a variety of breeds of cows, horses, rabbits, poultry, and goats. Swine and sheep will be on display in the newly renovated area, one of several capital improvements completed for this year's fair. You won't want to miss the 160th Harford Fair, August 21-26th located off route 81 at the Harford Exit # 217. See you at the fair!

PHOTO CAPTION: Participants in the Draft Horse Show from a past Harford Fair line up in the arena awaiting announcement of winner. The Draft Horse Show is free to the public at this year's Harford Fair on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at 2:00 PM. The fair runs through Saturday, August 26th.