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# 2015 Piscataquis Valley Fair Schedule of Events

## Thursday, August 27

9 AM Farm Oxen Weigh-in  
 10:00 AM Open Flower Judging  
 12:00 Noon Fire Dept. Museum Open  
 12:00 Noon Exhibition Halls Open  
 12:00 Noon Animal Land Opens  
 12:00 Noon Farm Oxen Twitch, Scoot & Pull  
 2:00 PM Midway Rides Open  
 2:30 PM String Field Theory  
 3:00 PM Frisbee Toss behind Ice Cream Parlor  
 4:00 PM Pedal Tractor Pulls at Milking Parlor

4:00 PM Bingo  
 5:00 PM String Field Theory  
 5:30 PM Bicycle Drawing at the Fair Office  
 6:00 PM Milking Parlor Demonstration  
 6:00 PM Figure 8 at the Mechanical Track  
 6:00 PM 50/50 Raffle during Figure 8 Race  
 7:30 PM He-Man Contest  
 8:00 PM Tyler Healey on the stage  
 9:00 PM Fireworks

## Friday, August 28

9:00 AM Farm Horse Weigh-in  
 11:00 AM Youth Dairy Show  
 12:00 Noon Farmer's Horse Events  
 12:00 Noon Fire Dept. Museum: Open until 8  
 12:00 Noon Exhibition Halls Open  
 12:00 Noon Animal Land  
 12:00 Noon Bingo  
 12:30 PM Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley  
 2:00 PM Midway Rides Opens  
 3:00 PM Relay Race behind Ice Cream Parlor  
 3:00 PM Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley

4:00 PM Mad Scientist on the hill  
 4:30 PM Pedal Tractor Pull at the Milking Parlor  
 5:30 PM Bicycle Drawing at the Fair Office  
 6:00 PM Milking Demonstration (Milking Parlor)  
 6:00 PM Tuff Truck at the Mechanical Track  
 6:00 PM 50/50 Raffle during Tuff Truck  
 6:00 PM Mad Scientist on the hill  
 8:00 PM Back in Black on stage

6:00 AM Horse Pulling Weigh-In  
 8:30 AM Piscataquis Valley Jumper Show  
 9:00 AM Farm Tractor Pulls  
 9:00 AM 50/50 Raffle  
 10:00 AM Antique Auto Display until 2 PM  
 10:00 AM Exhibition Halls Open  
 10:00 AM Fire Dept. Museum: Open until 8  
 10:00 AM Horse Pulling  
 10:00 AM Animal Land Opens  
 10:00 AM Youth Beef Cattle Show  
 10:00 AM Miss Maple Pageant

## Saturday, August 29

10:00 AM MAAF State Board Meeting  
 10-12 Noon Cookie Decorating  
 11:00 AM Midway Rides Open  
 11:30 AM Skillet Throw  
 12:00 Noon Bingo  
 12:00 Noon Mad Scientist on the hill  
 1:00 PM Pedal Tractor Pull  
 1:00 PM Frog Jumping Contest  
 2:00 PM Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley  
 3:00 PM Animal Costume Parade  
 3:00 PM Mad Scientist on the hill

4:00 PM Bicycle Drawing at the Fair Office  
 4:30 PM Cookie Stacking Contest on the hill  
 5:30 PM Wrist Wrestling Sign ups  
 6:00 PM Milking Demo (Milking Parlor)  
 6:00 PM Truck Pulls at the Mechanical Track  
 6:00 PM 50/50 Raffle during Truck Pulls  
 6:00 PM Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley  
 6:00 PM Wrist Wrestling  
 8:00 PM Ragged Jack on the stage

## Sunday, August 30

10-12 Noon Sign up for Pig Scramble  
 10:00 AM Animal Land Open  
 10:00 AM Pedal Tractor Pull at Milking Parlor  
 10:30 AM Youth Dairy Goat Show  
 10:30 AM Pic Judging  
 11:00 AM Midway Rides Open  
 11:30 AM Bubblegum Blowing Contest  
 11:30 AM Chicken BBQ at the Dining Hall  
 12:00 Noon Bingo

1:00 PM Pig Scramble  
 3:00 PM Pedal Tractor Pull Off  
 3:00 PM Demolition Derby  
 3:00 PM 50/50 Raffle during Demolition Derby  
 3:00 PM Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley  
 4:00 PM Bicycle Drawing  
 6:00 PM Fair Closes

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# Piscataquis Valley Fair combines old favorites with new attractions

By Mike Lange  
DOVER-FOXCROFT – The 128th Piscataquis Valley Fair gets underway August 27-30 for four days of family fun, ranging from the slam-bang action of the demolition derby to the traditional agricultural displays.

This year's on-stage entertainment also reflects the diverse nature of today's fair patron. The country-rock Tyler Hooley Band is on stage Thursday, August 27, the AC-DC tribute band Back in Black rocks the grounds on August 28; and the high-energy rockabilly trio Ragged Jack is in the spotlight on August 29.

In addition, there's live entertainment at the gazebo every day at 2, 4 and 6 p.m. with bluegrass, country rock and acoustical musicians as well as comedian Keagan Page. Check the Piscataquis Valley Fair Facebook page for the schedule and updates.

There is no extra charge for the live entertainment or parking – it's included in the admission price: \$6 for age 11 and older, \$2 for children 5-10 and free for kids under age 5. Senior citizens will be admitted for \$3 on Thursday, August 27.

In recent years, the biggest drawing cards have been motorized events like truck pulls, tractor pulls and the demolition derby, said fair president Rusty Weymouth. "In the demolition derby, we separate the cars into three classes: full size, compacts and powder puff. We also do a figure eight race," he said.

Weymouth said that the Piscataquis Valley Fair has had a demolition derby for at least 25 years. "We've also got the safest derby in the state," Weymouth said. "An inspector from the fire marshal's office told us that if he wanted to create a blueprint for a demolition derby that everybody had to follow, this would be the one."

This year's derby is on Sunday, August 30 at 3 p.m.

On the agricultural side, the fair has one of only two working milking parlors which is a popular venue for young and old, Weymouth said. "Fryeburg has the only other one," he added.

Youngsters' events have always been part of the fair's tradition, and this year is no exception. Some of the most popular items in addition to the carnival rides are Animal Land, Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley, the cookie-stacking contest, frog jumping contest, the pedal tractor pull and pig scramble, Weymouth said.

A new attraction this year will be Mad Science, a group from the Portland area that conducts interactive and hands-on scientific demonstrations for youngsters ages 5-12. The shows will be held at 4 and 6 p.m. on Friday, August 28 and at noon and 3 p.m. on Aug. 29.

One tradition that's as old as the fair itself is the Grange displays in the exhibition hall. The first Maine chapter of the Grange, also known as the Pa-

trons of Husbandry, was founded in 1874 in Lewiston – 13 years before the first Piscataquis Valley Fair.

There will be three displays at this year's fair, according to Maine State Grange communi-

*Continued on Page 19*



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**PORK ON THE RUN** – One of the youngsters' favorite activities is the pig scramble which takes place this year on Sunday, August 30 at 1 p.m. (Contributed photo – Terry Robichaud)

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**ATTRACTIONS** from Page 15

tions director Walter Boomsma: Valley Grange in North Guilford, Garland Grange and Piscataquis Pomona. The Pomona is the countywide organization that provides the leadership for the educational, legislative and business interests of the local Granges.

Boomsma, who is also an officer in Valley Grange, said he noticed "a lot of interest in the 'old and new' display we assembled last year. It was especially rewarding to watch and listen to the conversations between kids and their parents and grandparents. Maybe we helped bridge the generation gap."

Some items included coffee-makers, percolators, crank telephones, smartphones, flat irons and steam irons.

"Technology is not new; it's relative," Boomsma noted. "One of the values of displays like this is they help us remember how amazed we were with things that are now considered outmoded and obsolete. Interestingly, the Grange is sometimes given that label. But when you look at the basic values and principles of the organization they are just as relevant today as a century ago—just in different ways."

As an example, Boomsma said that at a Valley Grange meeting "a long time ago, the members voted to purchase a cow for a poor family in the community. Today, we give kids dictionaries and our 'blistered finger knitters' make hats and mittens to distribute."

The Piscataquis Valley Fair

has dedicated this year's fair to Donnie and Deanne Merrill; recognized Fred and Karen Cookson of Dover-Foxcroft as Farm Family of the Year; and paid special tribute to the late Arthur P. Ogdin and Milton Young, both longtime supporters of the fair.

The Cooksons purchased their farm from Ted and Sue Grant in July 1995 and raised horses, chickens and beef cattle for a number of years. Tragedy struck in 2013 when their house and barn were destroyed by fire. They have since rebuilt and are still active members of the county's agricultural community.

The Merrills will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary soon and have been associated with the fair for more than 20 years. Donnie has helped with many major changes such as moving and building the new pulling and horse show rings and expanding the fairgrounds and camping areas. Deane started cooking or making cookies for fair functions more than 20 years ago and also served as fair secretary before retiring from the role last fall.

Weymouth, who has been involved with the Piscataquis Valley Fair Association for close to 30 years is serving his second term as president and is also on the Maine State Fair Association Board of Directors.

"Our goal is pretty simple. We want to keep our fair affordable and fun for the entire family," he said.

More information and a downloadable copy of the fair booklet is available at [www.piscataquis-valleyfair.com](http://www.piscataquis-valleyfair.com).



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GRANGE EXHIBIT - Valley Grange of North Guilford traditionally has one of the best displays at the Piscataquis Valley Fair and they'll be back this year. (Contributed photo - Walter Boomsma)

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### Map of the Piscataquis Valley Fair Grounds



MAP OF FAIRGROUNDS

- A: Rest Room  
B: Dining Hall  
C: Police & First Aid  
D: Exhibition Hall  
E: Exhibition Hall  
F: Animal Land  
G: 4-H / Flower Show  
H: Sheep Barn  
I: Sheep Barn  
J: Cattle Barn  
K: Cattle Barn  
L: Goat Barn  
N: Rest Room  
O: 4-H Food Booth  
P: Food Booth  
Q: Bingo Hall  
R: Fair Food Booth  
S: Hockey Booth  
T: Hockey Rink  
U: Cattle Barn  
V: Show Rink  
X: Milking Parlor  
Y: Ice Cream Parlor  
Z: Cattle Barn

Map by: Megan Taylor

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