



CONTACT: Karen Livingstone or  
Public Information  
(732) 842-4000 ext. 4256  
[klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com)

Jim Foligno  
Visitor Services  
(732) 842-4000 ext 4242  
[jfoligno@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:jfoligno@monmouthcountyparks.com)

### **MONMOUTH COUNTY FAIR DATES ARE JULY 27-31**

FREEHOLD --- From blue ribbons to racing pigs, the Monmouth County Fair offers all the excitement of an old-fashioned county fair with a modern flair. This annual event, held Wednesday-Sunday, July 27-31 at East Freehold Showgrounds, Kozloski Road, Freehold, will be celebrating its 37th year of providing wholesome fun the whole family can enjoy.

Organized and presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H, the Fair maintains the agricultural nature of a traditional county fair with its Home and Garden Competition, petting farm, and 4-H animal shows and exhibits.

At the heart of the Fair is the Home & Garden tent. See the county's finest baked goods, vegetables, flowers and arts and craft pieces as residents compete for the honor of calling theirs the best. The Senior Center and Adult Day Program category in the Home & Garden Competition continues to grow. Don't miss what this active group of participants creates for this year.

Inside the Home & Garden tent, fairgoers will also find beekeeping, knitting, soap making and decoy carving demonstrations. Visitors can learn about gardening, jewelry making and wheel thrown pottery. A Children's Onsite Cake Decorating Contest will be held on Saturday, July 30 at 1:30pm. Participants are required to supply necessary icings and decorations. (Please register by Wednesday, July 27.)

For many children, the Fair is their best opportunity to see farm animals up close. And there are plenty to see! The 4-H Association brings well-cared for rabbits, sheep, heifers and other animals for visitors to admire.

The County's agricultural heritage comes alive in the Historic Longstreet Farm and Historic Walnford tent. Each day, staff and volunteers of the Park System's 1890s living history farm at Holmdel Park and the 18th century mill village at Crosswicks Creek Park hold demonstrations showing daily activities of turn-of-the-century farm life in Monmouth County.

Entertainment is a big part of the daily schedule at the Fair and reflects the diversity of today's tastes. Each night brings a different style of music – hip hop, folk, country western, Latin and ballroom – to the main stage. Cirque performers will take the stage on Thursday and Friday while horse stunt rider Tommie Turvey will amaze audiences Thursday through Sunday. Be sure to catch the lumberjack shows and the firefighters' competition as well.

The midway's rides and games are always a favorite at the Fair. *(Please note that rides are weather permitting.)* This year's Fair offers three blocks of time where fairgoers may purchase ride wristbands for \$18 per person: Wednesday, July 27 from 5-10pm; Thursday, July 28 from 5-10pm; and Sunday, July 31 from 11am to 5pm.

The Fair gate is open from 5 -11pm on Wednesday, July 27, Thursday, July 28, and Friday, July 29; 11am to 11pm on Saturday, July 30; and 11am to 6pm on Sunday, July 31. Admission is \$7 per person; children 12 and under are free. For more information about the Fair, visit [www.monmouthcountyfair.com](http://www.monmouthcountyfair.com), or call (732) 842-4000.

The Monmouth County Fair is organized and presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H Association. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.



PICTURED – See farm animals in the 4-H tent during the Monmouth County Fair.

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