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★ EMMONS, LOGAN AND McINTOSH COUNTIES ★

100th ANNIVERSARY

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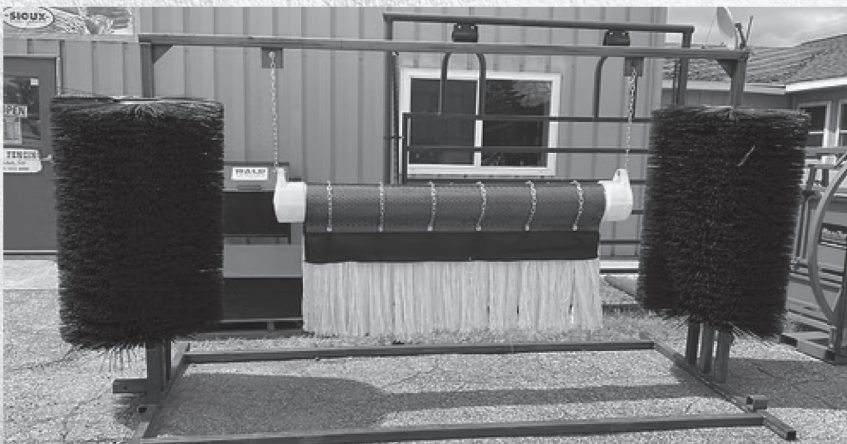


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Celebrating 100 years

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Letter from the Publishers,

We, the publishers of this edition, hope you not only enjoy the photos, schedules and stories found here, but also find them useful as we prepare to celebrate a truly special milestone - 100 years of the Tri-County Fair.

Reaching a century is no small feat. For generations, the Tri-County Fair has brought families, neighbors and communities together to celebrate agriculture, youth, tradition and all the things that make this region such a special place to call home. This year's fair is more than just an

event, it's a celebration of history, heritage and the people who have made it possible for 100 years.

This guide is a continued partnership between our local newspapers, working together to bring you the information you need leading up to the fair. Readers of the McIntosh County Star & Tribune, Emmons County Record, and Napoleon Homestead will find this fair guide inserted in their weekly newspaper, filled with everything you need to make the most of this historic celebration.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to our ad-

vertisers. This publication is a significant undertaking, and their continued support helps offset the costs of producing and distributing this guide each year. Their commitment to both the fair and our communities makes this possible.

Please take a moment to thank them by stopping in, shopping local and supporting the businesses that support our events and our towns.

If you would like to be included in next year's edition of the Tri-County Fair Guide, we encourage you to reach out to your local newspaper office in June, or better yet, contact us and we'll make sure you're on

the list.

Here's to 100 years of the Tri-County Fair and many more to come.

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Welcome back!

Welcome from the board of directors of Tri-County Fair. Serving Emmons, Logan and McIntosh counties in south central North Dakota since 1926, our fair continues to provide quality family entertainment year in and year out. With a wide variety of events and entertainment, there is something for everyone to enjoy, including Wisconsin stock car races throughout the summer. We also offer ample space with electric hook ups for a variety of outdoor camping and RV events. While you are here, you can enjoy a round of golf at our beautiful 9-hole golf course located right on the fairgrounds.

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See you at the fair!



Tri-County Fair set to mark 100th year with new features, expanded entertainment

UPGRADES, HEADLINER CONCERT, ADDED ATTRACTIONS AIM TO ENHANCE FAIRGOER EXPERIENCE

Kelli Ameling
Emmons County Record

The Tri-County Fair will mark its 100th anniversary July 9–12 with a mix of new features, expanded entertainment and infrastructure improvements aimed at enhancing the overall experience for fairgoers.

Fair board chairman Jeremy Rohr said planning for the milestone event has been underway for more than two years as organizers looked to other communities for ideas on how to celebrate a major anniversary.

“We’ve been kicking ideas around for about two and a half years, looking at what other communities have done for big anniversaries and deciding what we wanted to add,” Rohr said.

Headliner concert highlights changes

Among the biggest changes this year is the addition of a na-

tionally recognized headlining act.

Rohr said he is particularly looking forward to seeing how the Friday night FIREHOUSE concert is received by local audiences.

“It’s something new for us,” he said. “We’ve traditionally had racing two nights in a row, so bringing in a headliner concert is a big change. We’re excited to see what kind of turnout and feedback we get.”

Upgrades and improvements

Several upgrades will also be in place ahead of the fair, including improvements to grandstand seating and changes to ticketing.

Rohr said new grandstand seating is expected to be completed prior to the fair, calling it a “huge improvement” for attendees.

The fair is also introducing electronic ticketing for grandstand events, allowing patrons

to purchase tickets in advance.

“If people don’t want to spend time waiting in line, they can buy tickets online and walk right in,” Rohr said.

Expanded entertainment offerings

Entertainment options have also been expanded across the fairgrounds.

Organizers have increased the number of performances and added a larger tent to accommodate rotating acts, including magicians and other variety shows scheduled throughout the weekend.

“We doubled up on some of those acts,” Rohr said. “There will be more opportunities for people to catch those performances.”

In addition to the main concert, free music will also be featured on the midway Friday and Saturday nights, giving fairgoers

more entertainment options beyond the grandstand.

Rohr noted that longtime fairgoers may also recognize a familiar name returning to the stage.

“For those that have been around the fair for 30 or 40 years, bringing back Pam Linton and the band is something people will remember,” he said. “This is the first time she’s been showcased on her own, so it’s a little different and something we’re excited about.”

More vendors, returning attractions

Additional changes include a significant increase in food vendors and the return of carnival rides on the midway.

Rohr said Midway West Amusements will again provide rides, games and attractions, along

See FAIR on Page 20





Tri-County Fair marks 100 years with four days of entertainment

GRANDSTAND SHOWS, LIVE MUSIC, RODEO ACTION, MIDWAY ATTRACTIONS HIGHLIGHT CELEBRATION

**Compiled by Kelli Ameling
Emmons County Record**

The Tri-County Fair is set to celebrate its 100th anniversary with four days of entertainment ranging from live concerts and auto racing to rodeo action, magic shows and midway attractions.

The fair runs July 9–12 in Wishek and will offer a mix of grandstand events, free stage performances and roaming entertainment across the grounds.

Thursday, July 9

The opening day kicks off with high-energy grandstand action as stock car racing returns to the track, continuing a long-standing fair tradition. Classes include hobby stocks, street stocks, modifieds and more, with opportunities for children to ride in race cars prior to the event.

Later in the evening, the grand-

stand lights up with a large-scale pyro-musical fireworks show, featuring a synchronized display set to music.

Throughout the day, visitors can also enjoy carnival rides, games and concessions on the midway.

Friday, July 10

Friday brings a full slate of midway entertainment, including balloon artists, roaming performers and magic shows under the tent throughout the afternoon and evening.

The highlight of the night is the Friday concert lineup, featuring classic rock acts. Opening the show is The Sweet, known for hits like “Ballroom Blitz,” followed by the headlining performance by international rock band FIREHOUSE.

After the concert, the celebration continues with an after-party on the midway and a drone

light show after dark.

Saturday, July 11

Saturday’s entertainment blends all-day activities with evening grandstand action.

Fairgoers can take in magic shows, strolling performers, bingo and the full midway experience throughout the day.

In the evening, the spotlight shifts to the Ranch Rodeo, where local teams compete in traditional ranch skills, offering fast-paced action and showcasing working cowboy expertise.

The night concludes with a drone light show, celebrating the fair’s 100-year milestone.

Sunday, July 12

The final day of the fair features a more relaxed, family-focused lineup.

Entertainment includes a live performance by Pam Linton and

The Cotton Kings, offering classic country and family-friendly music.

Throughout the day, visitors can also enjoy the carnival midway, bingo and special events such as a car and tractor show and community gatherings.

Something for everyone

In addition to the featured entertainment, the fair offers continuous attractions throughout the weekend, including:

Midway carnival rides and games.

Magic and variety shows

Strolling entertainers and performers.

Food vendors and craft exhibits.

Fair organizers say the goal is to provide something for all ages while honoring the fair’s century-long tradition.

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From classic rock to country roots: Fair lineup brings decades of music to Wishek

NATIONAL TOURING ACTS AND REGIONAL FAVORITES HEADLINE TRI-COUNTY FAIR'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

By Kelli Ameling
Emmons County Record

The Tri-County Fair's 100th anniversary celebration will bring together a wide range of musical styles, spanning classic rock, '70s glam and traditional country, as performers take the stage throughout the four-day event July 9–12. Headlined by nationally recognized acts and complemented by longtime touring performers, this year's lineup reflects both the fair's history and its commitment to entertaining all ages.

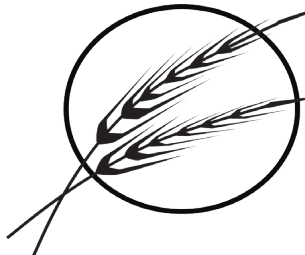
Friday night headliners

The fair's biggest musical night arrives Friday, July 10, when two well-known rock acts take the grandstand stage. Leading the lineup is FIREHOUSE, an American hard rock band that rose to prominence in the early 1990s with chart-topping hits such as "Don't Treat Me Bad," "Love of a Lifetime" and "All She Wrote." Formed in 1984, the group built a strong following with its melodic rock sound and has sold



Photo courtesy of FIREHOUSE Music.

See *CONCERTS* on Page 21



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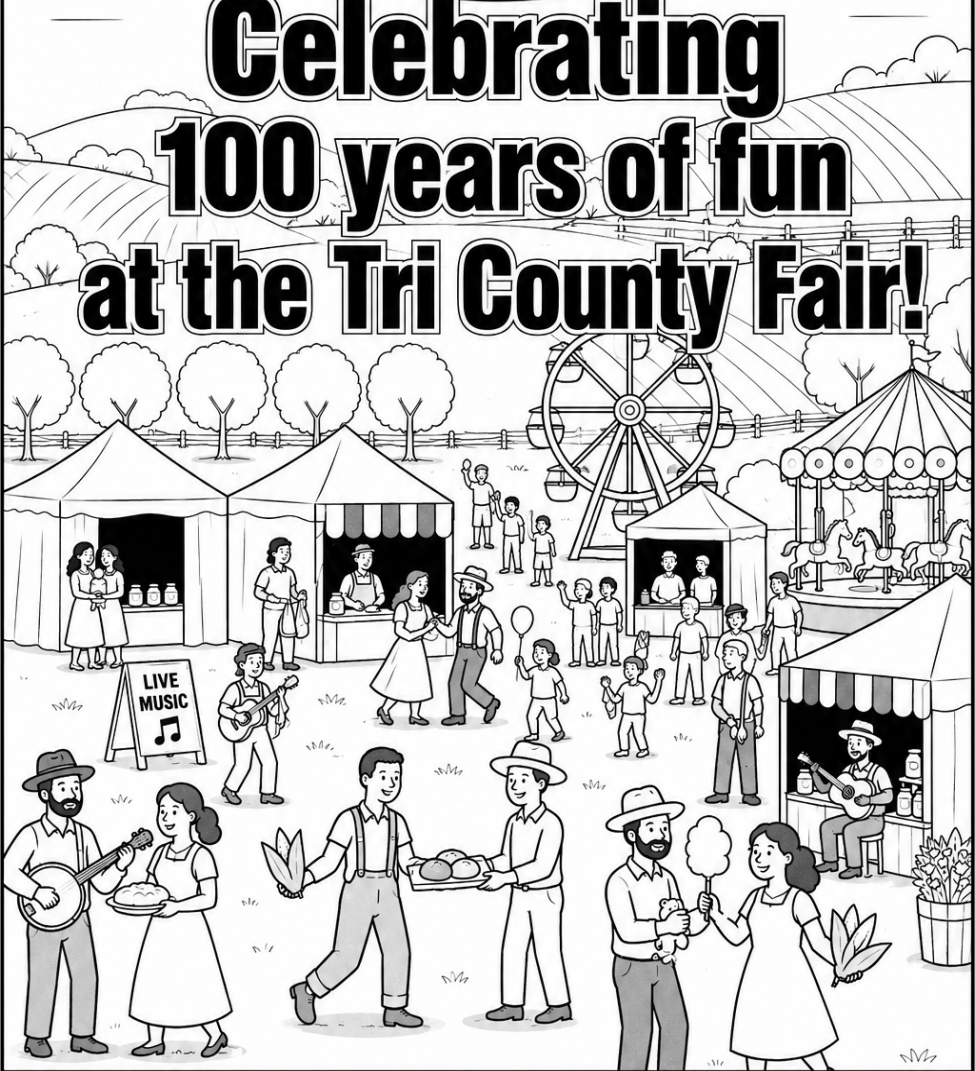
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Fireworks debut, drone shows return at Tri-County Fair

THURSDAY NIGHT DISPLAY AND HIGH-TECH AERIAL SHOWS WILL KICK OFF MILESTONE CELEBRATION

**By Kelli Ameling
Emmons County Record**

For the first time in its 100-year history, the Tri-County Fair will feature a full-scale fireworks display, adding a new element to the opening night of the annual event.

The show, scheduled for Thursday evening following stock car racing, will be produced by Pegasus Illuminations and marks a major addition to this year's anniversary lineup.

"We haven't had a fireworks show before," said fair board chairman Jeremy Rohr. "This is something new for us, and we wanted it to be a big kickoff for the 100th fair."

A musical fireworks experience

The Thursday night display will go beyond traditional fireworks, using a choreographed pyro-musical format where each burst and effect is synchronized to music.

Rohr said the show is pre-programmed, with the music controlling the timing of the pyrotechnics.

"It's all preloaded," he said. "The playlist is



Photo courtesy of Pegasus Illuminations

See FIREWORKS on Page 19

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Food trucks, expanded options highlight Tri-County Fair menu

ORGANIZERS SAY VENDOR LINEUP HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

By Kelli Ameling
Emmons County Record

Fairgoers attending the Tri-County Fair this July can expect more food options than ever before, as organizers have significantly expanded the number and variety of vendors for the event's 100th anniversary.

Fair board chairman Jeremy Rohr said the number of food trucks and vendors has more than doubled compared to previous years.

"In the past we might have had two or three main meal trucks," Rohr said. "This year we're up to about five, with the possibility of even more coming in."

A wider variety of fair favorites

The expanded lineup will offer a broad mix of traditional fair food and specialty items, with organizers working to avoid duplication among vendors.

Rohr said no two vendors will be offering the same menu, giving fairgoers the chance to try a wide range of options throughout the weekend.

"There's a big variety this year," he said. "No one is offering the same thing."

Among the options expected at the fair

are meal-focused trucks and stands, as well as specialty vendors offering coffee, lemonade, mini doughnuts, fry bread and energy drinks.

The vendor lineup includes both classic fair staples and unique offerings, ranging from tacos, burritos and grilled foods to kettle corn, specialty drinks and baked goods.

Planning for convenience

In addition to expanding the number of vendors, organizers have also worked to make it easier for visitors to find their favorite foods.

A full vendor list is available online, giving attendees the opportunity to plan ahead before arriving at the fairgrounds.

Rohr said the website has been updated with links and information designed to help both vendors and fairgoers navigate the food offerings.

"We've got the vendor list on the website, and we've made some updates so people can find what they're looking for," he said.

Fairgoers can view the full list of vendors and menu offerings on the fair's website at Tri-County Fair food vendors.

Growing alongside the fair

The increase in food trucks reflects the broader growth of the fair heading into its centennial year, with organizers adding more attractions, entertainment and amenities across the grounds.

Rohr said the goal is to create an experience where visitors can spend an entire day enjoying everything the fair has to offer.

With expanded dining options available on the midway, he said food will play a larger role in that experience.

"It all just adds to it," Rohr said. "There's really something for everyone."



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Prepare for a family day at the fair

Content provided

County fairs, state fairs and country fairs dot the landscape in late spring, summer and fall, offering fairgoers plenty of attractions and rides to fill warm days and evenings. Families who plan ahead for the festivities may be able to improve their experiences.

- Purchase passes in advance. Some fairs enable visitors to purchase entry tickets, parking passes and even game vouchers online. There are advantages to doing so, such as bundling discounts. Buying tickets in advance also cuts down on time spent waiting in line.
- Devise a basic plan. Look over the list of attractions and activities to gauge what you want to get out of the fair. Some fairs post their calendars online. With kids in tow, you'll likely want to check out any children's rides or animal exhibits and interactions. Create a generalized plan, but be flexible, especially when going with other families.
- Think about safety. Fairs attract thousands of people and what can lead to confusion if children become separated from their parents. Write your mobile



Photo provided

phone number down and put it in your child's pocket or bag, so he or she doesn't have to memorize it. Consider finding the tallest attraction at the fair (perhaps the ferris wheel), and make that the meeting point if anyone becomes lost. Snap a photo of youngsters when you arrive so that you'll have a recent image

and know exactly what they are wearing if you need to engage law enforcement. Some parents tell their children to find another parent and ask them to help them contact security.

- Time your visit. If the fair runs during the week and into the weekend, weekdays are likely to be much less crowded. Also,

while not ideal, a cool day or one with a slight drizzle will cut down on crowds and improve the ability to see more things and get on more rides.

- Factor in food. Fair food is an indulgence to enjoy when fairs come around. Rather than go

See FAMILY on Page 19



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4-H and Youth events have action-packed weekend

THIS YEAR’S FAIR HAS IT ALL!

Editor’s note: North Dakota State University Extension – McIntosh County facilitates 4-H and youth events during the 100th annual Tri-County Fair. The McIntosh County Extension agent provided the following information on these events.

Come join the McIntosh County 4-H at the 100th annual Tri-County Fair! MIDWAY WEST AMUSEMENTS is returning with their carnival rides! The fair-ground events, located 1 mile west of Wishek, will be bigger than ever this year with non-stop fun for all ages, the second weekend in July! From delicious food and live music to adorable animals, craft vendors, magic, canine stunt dogs, and thrill-packed rides, there is something fun for everyone. Don’t forget the entertainment events including racing, ranch rodeo, live music, mini dirt bikes and more. To check out the full lineup visit www.tricofair.com or on Facebook ‘Tri-County Fair, Wishek.’

Thursday – July 9, 2026

The 4-H Horse Show begins at 9 a.m. and is open to 4-H youth from across the state competing to go to the North Dakota State Fair or are just there to have fun! Watch talented youth demonstrate their skills in Western and English events such as showmanship at halter, western horsemanship, barrel racing, goat tying and MORE. Grand champion 4-H horse showmanship participants from McIntosh County earn their way into the round robin along with all of the other 4-H grand champion showmanship winners in each species on Friday at 5 p.m.

Friday – July 10, 2026

The 4-H Livestock and Small Animal Show starts at 9 a.m. by the livestock barn. The day begins with swine, beef, dairy, goats and sheep, followed by poultry, rabbits and pets. Showmanship will be held after each of the large animal species be-

fore the small animal show begins. The round robin highlights the showmanship contestants in each species and allows them to compete against each other to see who can show ALL the species the best! The youth have been working hard to learn how to handle their animals, as well as feed and care for them so grab a spot on the bleachers and come out and see what they have accomplished!

The 4-H Static Exhibits like creative arts, woodworking, food preservation and horticulture will be on display for the public to view starting at 4 p.m. on Friday in the exhibit building through Sunday. The 4-H member static exhibit judging will be starting at 12 p.m. with judges awarding blue, red, white, as well as champion and reserve ribbons. McIntosh County 4-H Achievement Day is an important event, which leads many members to the state fair where their projects are judged against projects

across the state! Congratulate a 4-H member and their family for their hard work! The 4-H exhibits are on display in the same building as FFA and open static exhibits, as well, so check them all out in one stop.

Saturday – July 11, 2026

4-H Archery Tournament begins at 9 a.m. as you come into the fairgrounds by the golf course. There are many 4-H members in our area competing on award winning 4-H teams so come on out and see these talented youth!

Open Small Animal Show begins at 11 a.m. Got a pet, rabbit or poultry project and want to show them off? Then come join us! All animals must be healthy. No fancy equipment is required and there are cages in the barn so consider bringing your small animals to the fair (along with their food, water, and a fan for

See MCINTOSH on Page 18

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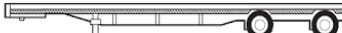
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A century of canning: Honoring tradition while preserving food safely

Acacia Stuckle
NDSU Extension Office
Emmons County

For 100 years, the Tri-County Fair has celebrated the best of rural life. Generations of families have proudly displayed gleaming jars of pickles, jams, jellies, tomatoes, green beans and other garden favorites on exhibit tables. Each one represents months of planning, hard work and a tradition often passed from parent to child.

While the pride of filling pantry shelves hasn't changed much over the last century, the science behind safe home canning certainly has.

A hundred years ago, many home canners relied on family recipes, neighborly advice or church cookbooks. These recipes reflected the best knowledge available at the time, but food safety research has advanced dramatically. Today, we know much more about the microorganisms that can survive

in improperly canned foods and how to safely preserve food for our families.

Perhaps the biggest advancement has been our understanding of *Clostridium botulinum*, the bacteria that causes botulism. Although rare, botulism is a serious and potentially fatal foodborne illness. The bacteria can grow in sealed jars of low-acid foods when they are not processed correctly. Because the spores survive boiling-water temperatures, low-acid foods must be processed in a pressure canner, which reaches temperatures high enough to destroy them.

One of the most important lessons modern food preservation has taught us is that not all foods are canned the same way. High-acid foods, including most fruits, jams, jellies and properly acidified pickles, can safely be processed in a boiling-water bath. Low-acid foods, including vegetables, meats, poultry, soups and seafood, must

always be processed in a pressure canner using research-tested directions.

Today's recommendations also emphasize using research-tested recipes exactly as written. It may be tempting to add extra peppers to salsa, reduce vinegar in pickles or create a family recipe from scratch, but even small ingredient changes can alter a food's acidity and make it unsafe for canning. If you'd like to experiment, freezing your recipe is the safer choice.

Another recommendation that surprises many experienced canners is adding bottled lemon juice or citric acid when canning tomatoes. Years ago, tomatoes were considered acidic enough for boiling-water canning on their own. Research has shown that modern tomato varieties and growing conditions can produce tomatoes with lower acidity, so acidification is now recommended before processing.

Some preservation methods once considered common

are no longer recommended. Oven canning, open-kettle canning, sealing jams with paraffin wax and using outdated recipes from old cookbooks are examples of practices that have been replaced with safer, research-based methods. Likewise, screw bands should be tightened only "fingertip tight" before processing rather than as tightly as possible.

Although equipment has become more reliable over the years, today's pressure canners and boiling-water canners still rely on the same goal they did generations ago. They safely preserve the harvest so families can enjoy local foods year-round.

For many families, canning is about more than food. It's about memories of picking chokecherries with grandparents, shelling beans on the porch, gathering cucumbers from the garden or filling jars together in a warm

See EMMONS on Page 18

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5 ways local businesses can make the most of the county fair

Content provided

County fairs are family-friendly events that provide wholesome fun and foods that are hard to find elsewhere. County fairs also provide great opportunities for local businesses to attract new customers.

Fairs draw large crowds, which should appeal to small business owners who want to market their businesses in a way that won't bust their budget. The following are five ways local businesses can take advantage of the unique promotional opportunities presented by county fairs.

1. Put it in print

Many county fairs hand out printed pamphlets or guidebooks that showcase fair history and highlight all of the attractions on display. These booklets are filled with useful information for fair-goers, but they're also loaded with advertisements for local businesses. Local business owners can place an ad in fair pamphlets/guidebooks highlighting their services and location. Include a QR code



Photo provided

See POINTERS on Page 17



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A century of tradition: Tri-County Fair continues to bring communities together

**Content compiled by
Kelli Ameling
Emmons County Record**

For generations of residents in Emmons, Logan and McIntosh counties, the Tri-County Fair has been more than just an annual event — it has been a tradition passed down through families and communities for 100 years.

As the fair prepares to celebrate its centennial July 9–12, that tradition remains at the heart of what brings people back to Wishek year after year.

From livestock exhibits and 4-H competitions to grandstand events and community gatherings, the fair continues to serve as a meeting place for neighbors, friends and families.

More than just an event

Fair board chairman Jeremy Rohr said one of the most important aspects of the fair is the role it plays in bringing people together.

"It's something people have been coming to for decades," Rohr said. "For a lot of families,

it's just part of what they do every summer."

Over the years, the fair has evolved, adding new attractions and entertainment, but its core purpose has remained the same — providing a place for the community to gather and celebrate.

Generations of involvement

For many families, involvement in the Tri-County Fair spans multiple generations.

Exhibitors who once showed animals as children now return with their own kids and grandchildren, continuing a tradition that has lasted for decades.

The same can be said for volunteers and organizers, many of whom have longstanding ties to the fair and help make the event possible each year.

4-H and youth programs at the center

Youth involvement continues to play a major role in the fair's success.

4-H and FFA participants showcase their projects and livestock, gaining experience and recog-

nition while contributing to the fair's agricultural roots.

"These programs are a big part of what the fair has always been about," Rohr said. "It's about the kids, the families and the community."

A place to reconnect

In addition to scheduled events, the fair provides an opportunity for people to reconnect.

Former residents often return during fair weekend, using the event as a time to visit with friends and relatives and catch up on community life.

"It's a chance to see people you might not see the rest of the year," Rohr said.

Looking ahead while honoring the past

While the 100th anniversary brings new features — including expanded entertainment, additional vendors and special events — Rohr said honoring the fair's history remains a priority.

The goal for organizers is to build on that legacy while continuing to grow the event for fu-

ture generations.

"This year is about celebrating where we've been and also looking ahead," he said.

Continuing the tradition

As the fair enters its second century, organizers hope it will continue to serve as a cornerstone event for the region.

For those who have attended for years — and those visiting for the first time — the Tri-County Fair offers both a look back at tradition and a chance to create new memories.

"It's something that's been here for 100 years," Rohr said. "We want to make sure it's here for another 100."



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Continued from Page 12

POINTERS: Must dos

that fair visitors can instantly scan on their phone to take them directly to your website.

2. Sponsor an attraction

Fair organizers often raise funds by selling sponsorships to featured attractions. If possible, sponsor an attraction that aligns with your offerings. For example, local restaurants may want to sponsor an eating competition, even providing the foods competitors will eat during the event. If so, offer free bite-sized samples of the foods to spectators during the event itself.

3. Set up shop on fairgrounds

A booth on the fairgrounds can be a great way to interact directly with customers. Select a small sample of your products and offer them directly for sale at the fair. Hand out business cards with each purchase and let customers know there's more to be had on your website and in your store. Booths tend to book quickly, so contact fair organizers as early as possible.

4. Be prepared to engage customers

County fairs harken visitors back to times when carnival barkers would

attract passersby with boastful assertions or promises that were simply irresistible. Local business owners who want to set up shop at a county fair must recognize that all sorts of attractions and businesses will be competing for attention, so they should go there with a plan and a willingness to engage people who pass by their booth. Embrace your inner carnival barker and offer free samples and even prizes to draw potential customers to your booth.

5. Put out a mailing list sign-up sheet

Even the largest fairground booth will likely offer only a fraction of what's available in-store or online. So encourage visitors to your booth to sign up for a mailing list, enticing them to do so by touting exclusive discounts and other perks available only to mailing list members. This is a great way to attract new customers even if they don't make any purchases on the campgrounds.

County fairs are all about fun, but they also present great opportunities for small business owners to connect with new customers.

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Continued from Page 11

EMMONS: A time to shine

summer kitchen. Those traditions deserve to be preserved just as much as the food itself. The best way to honor those traditions is by combining family heritage with today's research-based recommendations. Safe canning ensures that the recipes and skills we pass along will continue nourishing future generations for another hundred years. As you visit the beautifully preserved

food exhibits at this year's Tri-County Fair, remember that every sealed jar represents both history and science. It is a tradition that continues to evolve while connecting us to those who came before us. By combining cherished family traditions with today's research-based recommendations, we can ensure safe home canning remains part of our communities for generations to come.

Please contact me with any questions at (701) 254-4811 or email acacia.stuckle@ndsu.edu.

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McIntosh: Events for everyone

the day)! Signing up for this show is simple – simply put your name and your exhibit on the sheet in the livestock barn any time before the show begins.

edge of their animal, and interview skills. The livestock show often lasts until 3 p.m. or after. Spectators Welcome!

The Kiddie Animal Show is held after the beef show in the morning. This event is for our very small, future exhibitors to bring out a livestock animal of their choosing from lambs and goats to bottle calves. The Kiddie Animal Show animals may be brought the morning of the show and leave following the event although they are encouraged to exhibit them in the barn if they would like. Youth will lead their animal into the ring (parent or older youth helper, if needed, is perfectly fine), line them up and

then they are interviewed briefly by the judge. Everyone is awarded a grand prize ribbon and a halter for being brave enough to walk into the ring!

Sponsors

There are many local sponsors who contribute to the success of our fair! Sponsors are invited to the livestock exhibitor's picnic on Sunday as a thank you for their contributions. Posters will be hung up in the livestock building and static exhibit buildings so please thank these sponsors. For more information on any of these events, call Crystal Schaunaman 701-288-5180 or email crystal.schaunaman@ndsu.edu or for entry forms.

Tri-County Fair Association board. Without this board, the 4-H Achievement Day and other events would not be as fun and exciting. Please consider volunteering or joining the board. If you happen to see a fair board member, make sure to thank them for always listening to fairgoers on ways to improve. If you get a burger, make sure to thank the kitchen staff. We are all looking forward to a great weekend! This volunteer board truly has a passion for community and seeing this event happen!

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Continued from Page 7

FIREWORKS: First event in 100 years

set, and the music actually sets off the charges for the fireworks.”

Organizers selected Pegasus Illuminations based on past performances, including a New Year’s Eve show in Mandan that featured a similar music-synchronized format.

Rohr said the display is expected to run approximately 20 minutes and is designed to provide a high-energy start to the weekend.

In addition to marking the fair’s centennial, the show will also serve as a local celebration tied to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

Drone show returns as fan favorite

While fireworks are new, drone light shows have become an increasingly popular part of the fair in recent years.

The shows are produced by Robota LLC and feature coordinated drones creating patterns and images in the sky, often flying above the midway and stage areas.

“It’s been a huge hit,” Rohr said. “People really enjoy it, and other groups have even asked how to bring something like that to their events.”

Rohr said the fair first partnered with the drone program about three years ago, and it has become a regular attraction ever since.

Performances at past events, including the Linton 125th celebration, drew strong attendance and positive feedback from fairgoers.

Enhancing the fair atmosphere

In addition to standalone performances, drone shows are incorporated into the overall entertainment experience, at times flying over concerts and crowd areas to enhance the atmosphere.

“During the free concerts, the drones will fly over the stage,” Rohr said. “It really adds to the overall feel of the event.”

Combined with the new fireworks display, organizers say the aerial entertainment is one more way the fair is expanding its offerings for the centennial year.

A landmark year for the fair

With both traditional elements and new attractions, Rohr said the goal is to create a memorable experience for fairgoers while continuing to evolve the event.

“This is just another way we’re trying to bring something different and exciting for the 100th,” he said.



Continued from Page 9

FAMILY: 100 years

overboard, pick one meal or item that the family will enjoy. Bring a backpack, if permitted, and fill it with bottled water and other light snacks so that you can tame hunger pangs and not bust the budget at the food court.

- Understand game odds. Fair games are largely designed to earn the event money and not to cash out prizes to all participants. The chances of winning the grand prize, which may be a giant stuffed giraffe, usually are low, so it’s best if children do not become overly concerned with winning a prize. Play the games for fun and memories and not to walk away with the biggest prizes.

In addition to these suggestions, parents can make sure they bring insect repellent and sunscreen to the fair. Dress for comfort and not fashion.

These strategies can help families make the most of the county fair this year.





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Continued from Page 4

FAIR: Fun for all

with a wide variety of food options. "There's really all kinds of everything this year," he said.

Planning and preparation
Rohr said the fair board has been building toward the anniversary event by setting aside funds and working through industry connections to secure attractions and entertainment.

The fair is part of the Heartland Association of Fairs, Festivals and Events, which helps organizers network with performers and plan future events. "All of the shows and acts come through that," Rohr said. "It's a way to see what's out there and make plans ahead of time."

Safety day, logistics and crowd expectations
In addition to entertainment, Friday will feature a McIntosh County Safety Day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., including demonstrations and educational opportunities such as a roll-over simulator, K-9 unit and other safety exhibits. Rohr said organizers are expecting a large

crowd for the centennial event and have made accommodations for additional parking north of the fairgrounds along N.D. Highway 13, with shuttle service available. He encouraged fairgoers to plan ahead. "If there's something people really want to see, I would suggest getting there early and getting tickets ahead of time," Rohr said.

Looking ahead to a busy weekend
With a full slate of entertainment, expanded offerings and anniversary celebrations, Rohr said the goal is to create a memorable experience for the community. "It's just going to be a busy, fun weekend," he said.

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Continued from Page 6

CONCERTS: New, returning favorites



Photo courtesy of the Tri-County Fair.

millions of albums worldwide while continuing to tour internationally.

Joining FIREHOUSE is The Sweet, a British glam rock band known for energetic, theatrical performances and a string of hit songs in the 1970s, including "Ballroom Blitz," "Fox on the Run" and "Little Willy."

The band became one of the defining acts of the glam rock era, combining catchy melodies with a bold stage presence that still resonates with audiences today.

Together, the two groups will bring a mix of '70s and '90s rock to Wishek, offering a concert experience that spans generations of music fans.

A full night of music and more

In addition to the main concert performances, Friday's entertainment continues after the show with music on the midway and extended festivities, giving fairgoers a chance to keep the celebration going late into the evening.

Organizers say the concert is designed as a centerpiece event for the fair's 100th year, combining

recognizable hits with a high-energy atmosphere.

Sunday brings a different sound

While Friday night delivers the loudest music of the weekend, Sunday offers a more traditional and family-friendly performance.

Pam Linton and The Cotton Kings will take the stage, bringing a style rooted in classic country, folk and Americana traditions.

Linton has spent decades performing across the country, building a reputation for blending traditional country sounds with storytelling and audience engagement.

A Minnesota native, Linton began performing at a young age and later toured extensively as part of the Sherwin Linton Show before developing her own projects and recordings.

Today, her performances often highlight the roots of American music, including tributes to influential artists such as the Carter Family, whose songs helped shape country and folk traditions.



Photo courtesy of Pam Linton Music.

Her appearance at the fair is expected to provide a relaxed, nostalgic close to the weekend.

Music for all tastes

Fair organizers note that this year's entertainment lineup was built to reflect the diversity of the community the event serves.

From classic rock anthems and glam-era hits to traditional coun-

try and Americana, the musical offerings span multiple decades and styles.

Combined with midway entertainment, variety shows and other attractions across the fairgrounds, the music lineup is intended to be one of the highlights of the Tri-County Fair's centennial celebration.

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DID YOU Know?

From the pages of the Wishek Centennial book,
Ashley Tribune and Wishek Star

★ **1926** First annual Sauerkraut Day and the first year of the County Fair

★ **1927** Logan-McIntosh County Fair held for the first time

★ **1928** Emmons County was included in the festivities, and the association soon became the Tri-County Exhibitors Association

★ **1927-1941** Tri-County Fair became an annual tradition

★ **1933** There were 80 acres of land purchased one mile west of Wishek to be used as the fairgrounds.

★ **1946** Fair festivities were put on hold for the second time due to the polio epidemic. *(The first time was during WW II.)*

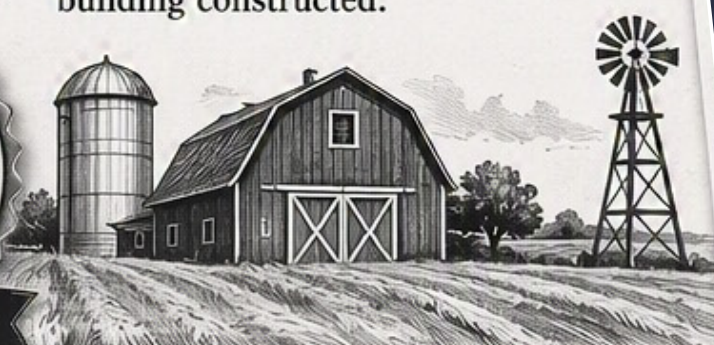
★ **1949** A car was raffled off as the grand prize with a value of \$1,570.88

★ **1965** Construction of the racetrack was authorized.

★ **1970s** The Wishek Saddle Club aided with a new horse arena, fence and racetrack.

★ **1982** A steel building was built, which replaced the original three buildings.

★ **1995** More construction happens at the fairgrounds with an additional building constructed.





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