



2023 BOONE COUNTY Fair



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421591

Come see us at our booth at the Boone Co. Fair!

**ARE YOU A BOONE COUNTY VETERAN,
DEPENDENT, OR A SURVIVING
SPOUSE OF A DECEASED VETERAN?**

*We will be glad to talk with
you at the fair. Our booth is
located across from the petting
zoo along the fence line on the
western side of the fairgrounds.*

Veterans Assistance

Commission of Boone County

130 S. State St., Suite 212 • Belvidere, IL

815-544-6464

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POPLAR GROVE AIRPORT

C77 - 4 miles N. of Belvidere, IL. on Hwy. 76 - 11619 Rt 76 Poplar Grove, IL 61065

The Public is Invited to Walk-In, Drive-In or

FLY IN

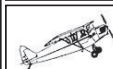
51st Annual

Sunday, August 20th 2023

BITES & FLIGHTS FOOD TRUCKS

FIREBOX/SIPS & SPRINKLES
Vintage Goose Cafe, Rusty Drum BBQ
Coffee, Rolls, Drinks, Sandwiches & Ice Cream
7am - 2pm

**PIZZA FRESCA, "BUCS" POTATOES,
CANTINA TACO, OLIVE BRANCH
LULU'S ROASTED CORN, ZAE'S**
10am - 2pm



1:00 pm

**Belvidere Rotary Club
Flour Bomber Bingo**

Pre-Event Ticket Sales Contact:
GieratClaire@Comcast.net



10am - 2pm

Come See the "JENNY"!

Shuttle To/From Museum
10am - 2pm

**VINTAGE
TRACTOR PULL**

ENGINE SHOP

10 am to 12 pm

OPEN HOUSE

AIRPLANE FLIGHTS

\$40 per person

9 am to 1 pm Weather Permitting

421482

441038

Entertainment Pavilion

TUESDAY, AUG 8

Noon to 1 p.m.
Music by Hallie (Milestone singers)
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Galaxy (Classic Country)
7 to 10 p.m.
Dale Rhode & the CrossRoads (Country)

WEDNESDAY, AUG 9

Noon to 1 p.m.
Max Armstrong
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Chip Messiner (One man country band) 95.3 The Bull
(One man country band – 95.3 The Bull)
4 to 5 p.m.
Jung’s Tae Kwon Do
7 to 10 p.m.
Detour Band
(Old Country 50’s-60’s)

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

Noon to 2 p.m.
Matthew Wundrow Band
(Polka - Old Country Music)
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Audrey Fontana Band (Nashville Country)
5:30 to 10 p.m.
Kevin Burns - Good Vibrations (Beach Music)
6 to 7 p.m.
Mother/Daughter Look Alike Contest
(Sponsored by Parnell Foods)
7 to 8 p.m.
Father/Son Look Alike Contest
(Sponsored by Parnell Foods)

FRIDAY, AUG 11

Noon to 3 p.m.
Grass Attack (Blue Grass/Country)
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Magic by Herb Rosene
5 to 6 p.m.
Mary Lee’s School of Dance
7 to 10 p.m.
Silver Creek Band

SATURDAY, AUG 12

9:30 to 10 a.m.
Amateur Talent Content Signup
10:30 a.m. to Noon
Junior Talent Contest
(Age up to 14 - Sponsored by Parnell Foods)
12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Senior Talent Contest
(Age 15-21 - Sponsored by Parnell Foods)
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Main Street Players of Boone County
5 to 6 p.m.
Celias Dance & Education Center
7 to 10 p.m.
Missing Links

SUNDAY, AUG. 13

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Church Service
(Conducted by Gideon’s International)
12:30 to 1:30p.m.
Lip Sync Contest
1:30 to 3 p.m.
Karaoke Contest
5 to 8 p.m.
Acoustic Millennium Band

2023 Boone County Fair Schedule of Events

Attractions

Carnival

Noon to 11 p.m. Daily
Skinner’s Midway is open from Noon to 11 p.m. daily.
Ride specials on: Wednesday from Noon to 5 p.m.. Thursday from 11 a.m.to 5 p.m.

Grandstand Shows

Daily
Tuesday - Queen & Little Miss Pageant
Wednesday - Multito Event Truck Shoot Out
Thursday - Truck and Tractor Pull
Friday - Next Level Pro Bull Riding
Saturday - Tracy Byrd and the Feudin’ Hillbillys
Sunday - Demolition Derby
Sunday 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Robbos Extreme Derby Promotions
Shows: Open Wire, Beginner, Wire Compacts, Open Wire Patch, Open Weld, Modified Compacts

Queen Pageant

Tuesday
Fair Queen and Little Miss
Boone County Fair

Ranch Sorting Competition

6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday
Located in Pony Arena
Ranch Sorting pits a team of two horseback riders against the clock! The two riders have to move the cattle one at a time in numerical order starting with a random number called.

Next Level Bull Riding

Friday
Bull Riding Friday at 7 p.m.

Horse Shows

Daily
Enjoy the pony and horses!

Truck and Tractor Pulls

Plug your ears!
Entertainment Pavilion
Opens Noon Daily
Free Admission
Located on east side of Exhibit Hall #1

Antique Tractor Display

Tractors on Display all week
Parade on Wednesday at 5 p.m.
Antique Tractors and Gas Engine displayed every day.
Feature tractor this year: Minneapolis Moline
Parade Grandstand
FREE to Wednesday 5 p.m.
Tractors stay on grounds until 4 p.m. Sunday

Swine Costume Contest

Saturday August 12, 2023
Prizes will be awarded for: Most Creative, Most Humorous, Best Craftsmanship & Best Team!

Grange Breakfast

6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Daily
Served at the Grange Food Complex by local Granges!
Menu: Pancakes, French Toast, Biscuits and Gravy, Toast, Sausage, Bacon, Eggs to Order and Drinks.

Grange Dinners

Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. till gone
Served at the Grange Food Complex by local Granges! 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or until Gone
Thursday - BBQ Pulled Pork
Friday - Fish
Saturday - Charcoalto Broiled Chicken
Sunday - Charcoalto Broiled Pork Chops

Grange Hall and Museum

9:30 a.m.to 8:30 p.m. Daily
Located in a replicated 20th century dairy

barn across from the livestock barns on the north side.
Learn the history of the Grange chapters throughout Illinois and their more than 150 years of community service and leadership in rural a.m.ERICA including the local chapters that have owned and operated the Boone County Fair since 1957.

One Room Schoolhouse

Open Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Come and take a look at a one-room school house!

Kid’s Day Games

Wednesday and Thursday starts at 10 a.m.
Located between Gazebo and Wee Farm on North side of Wee Farm
Games and Fun: Sack races, balloon blowing, egg toss etc.
Ribbons, money trophies sponsored by Midland States Bank

Free Entertainment

Rhinestone Roper

Location: North of Big Thunder Road, East of Administration Building
Show Times:
Tuesday - Friday 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Produced by Dan Mink, the World’s Champion Western performer, the Rhinestone Roper is for all ages!

Gene Shepherd Music

Music by Gene Shepherd & Mike Schneider
Location: The Grange Food Stand and around the grounds.
Thursday 11:30 a.m. 2 p.m., Friday and Saturday 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Zoli’s Wood Carving Chain Saw Artist

Location: Corner of Prairie Road and Oak Glen Road
Show Times: Wednesday through Saturday: 11 a.m., 2 and 5p.m.
Auction: Sunday: 12 Noon
Sponsored by Lee Auction Services

4 Wheeler Races

Date: Friday, Aug. 13
Show Times: Sign in starts at 8 a.m.
Races start at 10 a.m.
Horse Shows
Enjoy the pony and horses!

Cincinnati Circus

Aerial Acrobatics, Lyra, Silks, Juggling, Hooping, Balancing, Chair stacking and Fire
Show Times:
Tuesday-Saturday Noon. 2 p.m., 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon and 2 p.m.
Sponsored by UW/SwedishAmerican Hospital, Union Savings Bank, and Tobin, Ramon & Barber

Pork Chop Revue

South of Antique Tractors, South of Big Thunder Road
Showtimes
Tuesday-Thursday 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Friday-Saturday Noon, 2 & 5 p.m.
Sunday 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Wee Farm

Location: North end of Dairy Arena
Hours open 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Antique Tractor Parade

Grandstand FREE.
held Wednesday, Aug. 9th
at 5 p.m. in front of the Grandstand!
Come see all the antique tractors on display - Daily - on the fairgrounds County Line Road!
Feature tractor this year: Minneapolis Moline

Mobile Glass Studios

presented by Ryan Gothrup- Hoosier Glass Artist (1977-active) .
Producing four items per day, auctioned on Sunday along with wood carvings at 12 p.m.
Noon
LOCATION: Prairie Road near Zoli’s Wood Carving
Daily from Noon to 6 p.m.

Entertainment Pavilion

Free Admission
Located on east side of Exhibit Hall #1
Mr. D’s Amazing Magic House on Wheels
Location: West side of Flora Road near Gazebo a 1945

Chevy Stage Show

Show Times:
Tuesday-Friday: 12, 2, 5 & 7 p.m.
Saturday: Noon, 1:30, 3 & 5p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. and Noon
Sponsored by Boone County Shopper and Cosmo.

Alpacas

South of Antique Tractors and South of Big Thunder Road, East of Pork Chop Revue.
Show times
Thursday and Friday-
Demo and Show 1 p.m.
Saturday - Demo and Show 1 and 4 p.m.
Sunday - Costume Parade and Judging from 9 to Noon in Goat Barn Show Arena
(sponsored by Selective Superior Seeds)

Grand Stand events

Seniors 65+ are free all day Thursday, Aug. 10

Children 10 and under are free all day everyday!
Fairgrounds parking is free.
Designated handicapped parking will be available.
Gates open
7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

EVENT TICKETS FOR 2023 Tuesday

7:30 p.m. - Queen Pageant Grandstand, free

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - Multi-EventTruck Pull \$10
Grandstand With Shootout Challenge

Thursday

Seniors 65+ are free all day
10 a.m. Farm Tractor Pulls
2 p.m. Local and Regional Tractor & Truck Pulls- \$5 General
6:30 p.m. Illini State Pullers Truck, Tractor and Semi Pulls
\$12 Grandstand
\$7 Bleacher
\$20 Pit Pass

Friday

7 p.m. Next Level Pro Bull Riding
\$1 Grandstand \$10 Bleachers
150 Special Seating North End of Rodeo Area on Track \$30

Saturday

6:45 p.m. The Feudin’ Hillbillys and 8 p.m. Tracy Byrd
\$30 Restricted Seated Only
\$25 Grandstand
\$25 Track (Sit/Stand)
\$15 Bleachers

Sunday

1 p.m. or 6 p.m. Demolition Derby
(Prices for Each Show)
\$15 Grandstand
\$10 Bleachers
\$25 Pit Pass

The Grange

The Grange (officially known as The Order of Patrons of Husbandry) is a fraternal organization with a rich history and a highly visible community presence in the United States. (For historical information, see Birthplace of an American Treasure)

The organization is a perfect example of a grass-roots, bottom-up group. The backbone of the Grange is the more than 3,000 local "subordinate" Granges which are located in more than 30 states.

These Granges offer a wide range of locally-oriented programs and activities for children, youth and adults. Each holds regular meetings where issues of community concern are often discussed. There are social events, contests and community service projects sponsored by the Granges.

On the county or regional level these local Granges band together into units known as Pomona Granges, primarily for discussion of concerns which affect a larger territory. On the statewide level Granges cooperate by supporting a State Grange organization which oversees the activities of all subordinate Granges

as well as conducts lobbying and other activities on behalf of all members in the state.

The National Grange is situated in its own office building just a couple of blocks from the White House. National programs are headquartered there and lobbying staff is active on Capitol Hill.

The Grange at each level is guided by 16 elected officers. The officer slate at each level is led by a master. This title, which refers to the position functioning as the organization's president or chairperson, is one of several officer names dating back to the feudal English estates.

The vice president is called the overseer and there are people assuming the duties of secretary, treasurer, chaplain and an executive committee. A lecturer is responsible for the short programs at each meeting and, often, the Grange's community service program.

The Grange, like the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks and Moose, is a fraternal organization. One distinctive feature of fraternal orders is their emphasis upon traditional procedures for conducting their meetings.

These procedures, often called rituals, employ members who have specific parts to play in opening and closing ceremonies. The Grange, like other fraternities, has levels or "degrees" of membership and a member advances from one level to the next by participating in or observing the rituals for that level.

Joining a local Grange is a positive step, which can bring many personal rewards. Prospective members are recommended by existing members but, in actuality, anyone interested in joining merely needs to approach a member and ask for an application.

The Grange has the historical distinction as being one of the first major national organizations besides the church, which sought the membership and involvement of everyone in the family.

Grange members have an equal voice and an equal vote at meetings regardless of their age, sex or position within the Grange. Children ages five through 16 are eligible to belong to a junior Grange, whether or not they come from a Grange family.

The Grange provides numerous benefits for its members. Among those

are insurance programs provided exclusively for Grangers' by Grange companies. Grange Advantage, a program of the National Grange, offers credit card, college selection services and other money- saving programs.

But perhaps more than anything else, the Grange's interest in legislative action sets it apart from all other fraternities, service and family organizations. Since its earliest years, the Grange has included legislative involvement -- from a strictly non-partisan position -- as one of its distinctive characteristics.

All policies which the Grange fights for on the local, state and national levels is decided upon by the grass-roots membership. Much Grange policy reflects the predominantly rural and small-town composition of its membership and therefore deals with topics of concern to those people: rural quality of life issues, farm programs, rural economic development, environmental and consumer issues, taxation, transportation and similar topics.

BOONE COUNTY LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Sponsored by the Boone County Auction Association, NFP, Inc.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10 • 5:00 P.M.

Boone County Fairgrounds Livestock Show Arena

SUPPORT 4-H YOUTH • QUALITY MEAT FOR YOUR FREEZER

Selling Order: Goat wethers, dairy products, dairy steers, swine, beef steers, and lambs with champions selling first in each department

Boone County 4-H members will be selling prize winning steers, pigs, lambs, goat wethers, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and rabbits exhibited at the county fair

FUR & FEATHER AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUG. 12 • 3:00 P.M.

Boone County Fairgrounds Livestock Arena

Selling Order: Poultry & Rabbits



For more information, contact the Boone County Auction Association, NFP, Inc. at (815) 543-1814



441101

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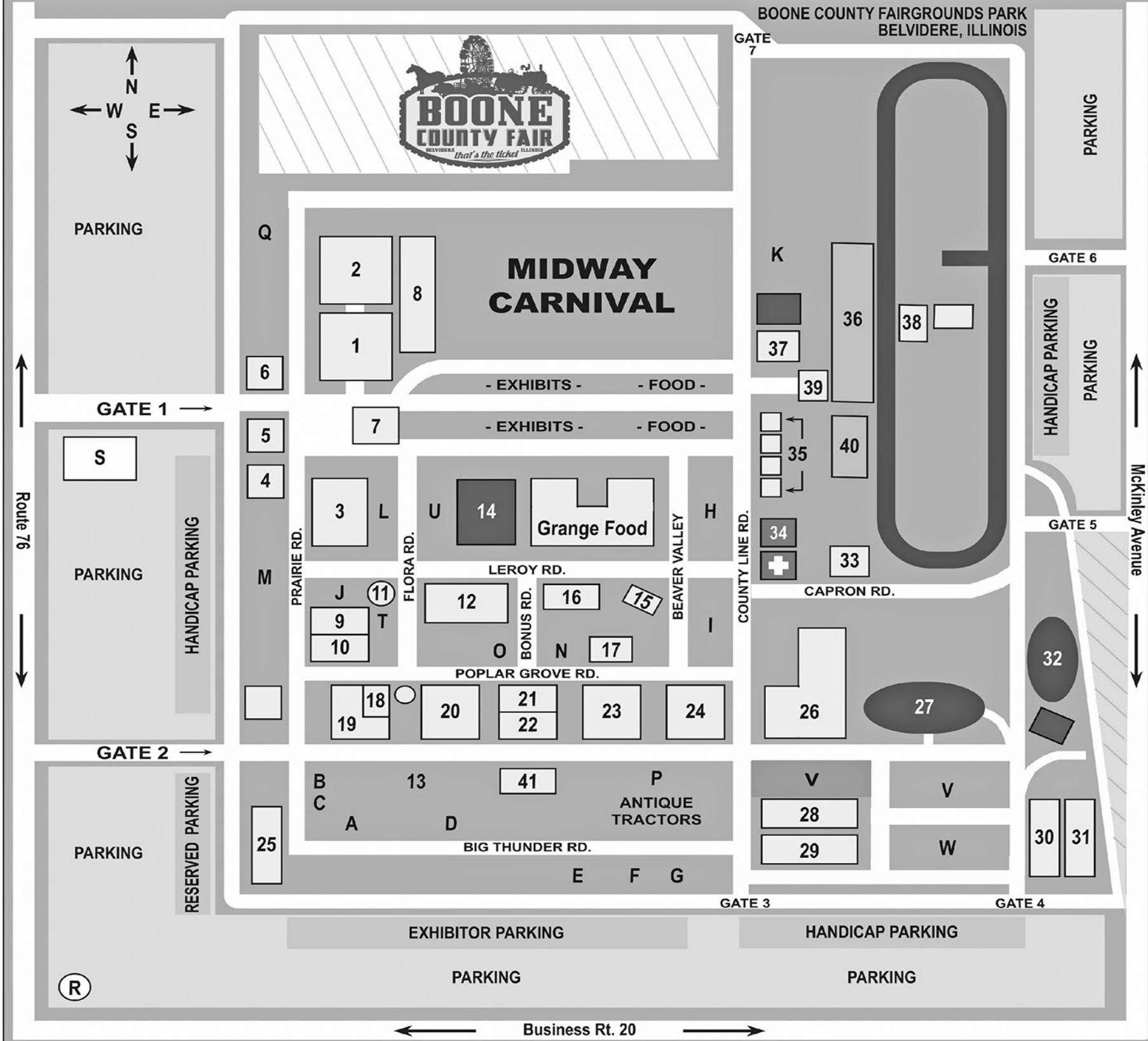


Adventure awaits

FAIR FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY...

stop in at the Farm Bureau building at the Boone County Fair!

421623



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- Camping

Swine costume contest



**Saturday Aug. 12
at the Boone County Fair**
Contact Deb Nelson 815-378-8422
Prizes will be awarded for:
Most Creative, Most Humorous, Best
Craftsmanship & Best Team

Local, regional tractor and truck pulls

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Noon to 2 p.m.
Harness & Colt Racing
Noon to 12:30 p.m.
Flag Raising - VFW Color Guard
7:30 to 10 p.m.
Queen Pageant & Little Miss
Pageant (Sponsored by Byron Bank
& 95.3 "The Bull")

Wednesday, Aug. 9

5 to 6 p.m.
Antique Tractor Parade
(Contact Rick Peters,
Superintendent Phone # 815-670-
3192)
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Multi-Event Truck Pull with Shoot
Out Challenge
(Sponsored by Alta Equipment Co.)

Thursday, Aug. 10

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Farm Tractor Pulls
2 to 3:30 p.m.
Local and Regional Tractor and
Truck Pulls
(Sponsored by Burger King)
6:30 to 9 p.m.
Tractor and Truck Pull

Friday, Aug. 11

7 to 10 p.m.
Next Level Bull Riding and Barrel
Racing

Saturday, Aug. 12

7:30 a.m. to Noon
Rock County Pullers followed by
Amateur Garden Tractor Pull
8 a.m. to Noon
Weak End Antique Tractor Pull
6:30 to 8 p.m.
The Fuedin' Hillbillies
8 to 10 p.m.
Tracy Byrd

Sunday, Aug 13

1 to 2:30 p.m.
Demolition Derby - Robbo's
Extreme Derby Promotions
6 to 8 p.m.
Demolition Derby - Robbo's
Extreme Derby Promotions

Contest rules

Animals must be exhibited in another
class at the Boone County Fair.
Participants may enter as an individual
or team. Nothing harmful to the animal
may be used. The contest will be judged on
costume and presentation.
Only one entry per exhibitor.
Exhibitors must bring a short write up
about his/her costume on a 3x5 card to
the contest. Should include the exhibitor's
name, and a brief description of the
costume.
Open to all showman.
Meet at Swine Barn at 10 a.m. for
check-in.
Under 3 must be showing with an adult.
Deadline for entries is August 1st.
Depending on number of entries; classes
may be split.
No premiums. Prizes will be awarded.

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421883

Enjoy the Fair!

Find *More Fun* at
belviderepark.org



top: The Swine
Costume Contest
will take place on
Saturday, Aug.
13 at the Boone
County Fair
Prizes will be
awarded for Most
Creative, Most
Humorous, Best
Craftsmanship
and Best Team.

COURTESY PHOTO
Boone County Fair

400151



Fair President

Long time Boone County Fair President Lyle Lee has been dedicated to the event for many years. He is often seen getting around the fairgrounds on horseback.

BOONE COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Boone County Fair



Boone County Fair Board of Directors

*Owned and operated by the
Granges of Boone County*

Officers

President - Lyle Lee,
Belvidere, Ill.
Vice President - Jack
Ratcliffe, Belvidere, Ill.
Secretary - Susan Banks,
Cherry Valley, Ill.
Treasurer- Paul Zeien Jr.,
Belvidere, Ill.

The Boone County Fair
relies on its Officers and
Board of Directors to act
as stewards in ensuring
that the mission of the
Boone County Fair is
carried out and will
continue in the future.
Thank You to all!

Directors

* Ruth Blasingame
* Gordon Butt
* Jo Ellen Coleman
* Ed Cosman
* Albert Ebel, III
* Don Ellwanger
* Todd Hegge
* John Henninger
* Nannatte Heshelman
* Iris Humphry
* Ed Kasper
* Teri Keegan
* Chip Messiner
* Jeremy Meyers
* Joe Muzzillo
* John Nall

* Brian O'Dell
* Bryson O'Dell
* Rick O'Dell
* Dean Page
* Butch Peters
* Tom Ratcliffe
* Bob Scherer
* Jason Schmeling
* Rocky Temple
* Dave Tinberg
* Jeff Vance
* Brad Walter
* Hunter Walter
* Shannon Walter
* Debbie White - Admin
Asst to President
* Honorary Director -
Al Henninger
* Grounds Manager -
Keith Clark
Superintendents
Livestock Exhibits
* Butch Peters
* Brad Walter
* Jeff Vance
* Joe Muzzillo
Non-Livestock Exhibits
* Mary Jean Lane
* Pam McClain
Concessions
* John & Pat Henninger
In memory of the past
directors, board members
and friends of the fair.
Please keep their families
and friends in your
prayers.

above: The Boone County Fair Officers are President - Lyle Lee, Belvidere, Ill., Vice President - Jack Ratcliffe, Belvidere, Ill., Secretary - Susan Banks, Cherry Valley, Ill., Treasurer - Paul Zeien Jr., Belvidere, Ill.

BOONE COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Boone County Fair



**Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs
honored the Gallano Family of Boone County
at their Annual Convention in January, 2023 with the coveted
'Friend of Illinois County Fairs'
award**

The Gallano Family of Boone County

John, Steve, Dave and Brian Gallano of Belvidere were recognized for their backbone of support for the Boone County Fair. The family has spearheaded several projects, most recently the installation of new flag poles at the Grandstand.

Other projects include new lighting around the track, new lighting and fencing at the draft horse arena, maintaining and upgrading roads. All the projects were done with the bulk of expenses covered by the Gallano family.

Brothers John and Steve Gallano operate Gallano Farms. Dave and Brian, Steve's sons, operate Gallano Trucking. Steve and Dave (father/son) also are part of the Sheriff's patrol that provide security for the fair. From pumper trucks to street sweepers, The Gallano family is always there to help when needed.

Pictured (L-R) Dave Gallano, Tim Norman, Bureau Chief of IDOA County Fairs & Horse Racing, Steve Gallano, John Gallano, Brian Gallano and Ed Dame of North American Midway Entertainment.

Congratulations and a BIG THANK YOU from everyone at the Boone County Fair!

Tracy Byrd to headline at the 2023 Boone County Fair

The Boone County Fair Association proudly announces their Saturday evening concert entertainment for the 2023 Boone County Fair, 8847 Rt. 76, scheduled to run from Tuesday, Aug. 8 to Sunday, Aug. 13.

Featured on Saturday evening, Aug. 12 will be the popular country music singer and songwriter Tracy Byrd with special guests The Feudin' Hillbillies taking the Grandstand stage at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets for the concert went on sale on Saturday, March 4 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$25 for reserved grandstand or regular track seats, \$30 for 'restricted' (must remain seated up front) track seats. Chairs are supplied for regular track and restricted track. No other chairs allowed. \$15 for bleacher seats.

Admission to the fair is \$10 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, \$8 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Children 10 and under are free every day.

Seniors 65+ are free on Thursday. Active military free everyday with military ID.

Plenty of free parking. Season passes are \$25 in advance. \$28 at the gate.

Breakfast is served daily at the Grange Food Complex starting at 6 a.m. Gates officially open at 8 a.m. Exhibit Halls open at 10 a.m. (Home Arts Hall is closed for judging on Tuesday). Midway opens at Noon to 11 p.m. Discounted rides Wednesday, Thursday Noon to 5. Sorry, there are no ride wristbands. All rides individually priced.

All show tickets went on sale at the Main Gate ticket office starting Saturday, July 8 from 8am to Noon.

Plan now to help us celebrate 60 years

of a Whole Lotta Happy at our Rt. 76 location this August. Like our Facebook page @TheBooneFair. See you there!

Tracy Byrd

Tracy Byrd, a popular country music singer and songwriter has charted more than thirty hit singles in his 30 year career featuring his two number one hits 'Holdin' Heaven' and "Ten Rounds with Jose Cuervo" along with 11 other Top Ten hits.

Byrd also released ten studio albums and two greatest hits albums with four gold certifications and one double-platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America.

Some of Byrd's other hits include "Watermelon Crawl," "The Keeper of the Stars", "Big Love," "Drinkin' Bone" and "I'm from the Country."

The Feudin' Hillbillies

The Feudin' Hillbillies has become one of the top Country and Folk artists in the 2023 music scene. This six-person musical group from Central Illinois focuses on covers but do perform some originals. Their sets feature mainly country, but they do include a little pop, some classic rock and 80's favorites with a touch of funk.

They have entertained thousands across the Midwest the past several years opening for many country artists from Luke Bryan to Montgomery Gentry to Tracy Lawrence and others.



Tracy Byrd



The Feudin' Hillbillies

Horse events

Tuesday, Aug. 8

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
4-H Horse & Pony Show
Noon to 2 p.m.
Harness & Colt Racing

Wednesday, Aug. 9

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
4-H Horse Speed Show
3 to 4 p.m.
Mule & Pony Team Driving
Obstacle course
4 to 5 p.m.
Mule & Horses Team Driving to
Obstacle Course
5 to 6 p.m.
Horses (Draft or Light) Team
Driving to Obstacle Course
6 to 7 p.m.
Team Feed Race followed by 4-H
Driving Drill Team

Thursday, Aug. 10

9 to 10 a.m.
Pony Classes
4 to 6 p.m.
Draft Horses Junior Performance
and Cart Classes (Sponsored by
Byron Bank)

Friday, Aug. 11

9 to 11 a.m.
Draft Horse Halter Show
9 to 11 a.m.
Pony Halter & Performance Classes

Saturday, Aug. 12

9 to 10 a.m.
Pony Performance & Hitch Classes
10 a.m. to Noon
Draft Horse Hitch
Classes(Sponsored by Byron Bank)
1 to 4 p.m.
Pony Hitch Classes

Sunday, Aug. 13

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Six Shooters at Dawn N. Illinois
Outlaws Mounted Shoot



Horses provide competition and entertainment at the Boone County Fair.

BOONE COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Boone County Fair

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Good eats

Fair time means sweet corn harvest time and lots of other great fair food.

COURTESY PHOTO Boone County Fair



Face-painting

Kids always enjoy getting their faces painted.

COURTESY PHOTO Boone County Fair



Take a ride

The Midway carnival, fair food and rides are always a highlight of the Boone County Fair.

BOONE COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Boone County Fair



Judgment Day

4-H judging is moment many kids have waited for all year.

COURTESY PHOTO Boone County Fair

The Boone County Fairground shot from the air at twilight.



BOONE COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Boone County Fair

2023 Boone County Fair Sponsors

Our sponsors are the backbone of our event. Without them, the Fair wouldn't be what it is today.

Our 2023 Sponsors

- Platinum Level Sponsors**
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 - * Gallano Trucking? (Bull Riding)
 - * Kunes Country Automotive (Rhinstone Roper)
 - * UW/Swedish American Hospital (Cincinnati Circus)
 - * Alta Equipment Company (ShootOut Challenge)
- Gold Level Sponsors**
- * Cosmopolitan Club of Belvidere (Bull Riding)
 - * Boone County District #2 (Bull Riding)
 - * Twin Towers (Bull Riding)
 - * Parnell Foods (Mother/Daughter-Father/Son & Ent Bldg)
 - * Concessions Unlimited (Entertainment Building)
 - * ?Midland States Bank (Kid's Day)

- * Solutions Bank (Rhinstone Roper)
 - * Wisconsin Cheese (Rhinstone Roper)
 - * C.E.S. Inc (Mobile Glass Studios)
 - * Envoy Mortgage (Mobile Glass Studios)
 - * J & M Plating (Mobile Glass Studios)
 - * 95.3 "The Bull" (Queen Pageant)
 - * Byron Bank (Queen Pageant)
 - * Hammertime Sports (ATV Races & Pork Chop Review)
 - * Union Savings Bank (Cincinnati Circus)
 - * The Smokin' Coop BBQ (Pork Chop Review)
 - * Area Services Inc. (Zoli's Wood Carving)
 - * Minnihan's Tree Service, LLC (Zoli's Wood Carving)
 - * Watson & Son Excavating (Zoli's Wood Carving?)
- Silver Level Sponsors**
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- * Culvers of Belvidere (Mr D's Amazing Magic House)
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- Amazing Magic House
- * Mike & Darcie Chamberlain (Mr D's Amazing Magic House)
- * Henninger Family (Pedal Pushers Pull)
- * Tobin, Ramon & Barber (Cincinnati Circus)
- * Boone County Family Restaurant (Pork Chop Review)
- * Countryside Fresh Markets (Pork Chop Review)
- * Lee Auction Service (Zoli's Wood Carving)
- * Pleasant Hill Construction, Inc. (Zoli's Wood Carving)
- * Tractor Town (Zoli's Wood Carving)

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Arts competition

Artists will vie for blue ribbons at the Boone County Fair.

COURTESY PHOTO Boone County Fair

The Granges of Boone County have been operating the Fair since 1957

From past to present . .

County Fairs are agricultural expositions first established in this country in 1841 when agricultural groups organized the first fairs in Syracuse, NY and Naper Settlement (Naperville), Ill. Food, both its production and enjoyment, has been the centerpiece of fairs since the beginning.

These local exhibitions promoted modern farming which included livestock judging; judging of produce, fruits, flowers, grains and dairy products; exhibits of new agricultural implements and techniques and various contests such as plowing, which would eventually become tractor pulling competitions. Harness races would become a very popular part of agricultural fairs from about 1875 and on through the mid 1900s. We still feature harness races at the Boone County Fair.

The first county fair in Belvidere was held in 1855 in Big Thunder Park. In 1867 the fair was relocated to what is now Spencer Park, which happened to be the same year the National Grange was founded.

The Grange (or Patrons of Husbandry) is the oldest agricultural organization in the United States being founded in 1867 to help organize the farmers after the Civil War. The Grange today is a family community service organization advocating for agriculture and rural America. There are seven local chapters of the National Grange in Boone County with more than 400 members.

Some members of the seven local chapters meet on a County level bi-monthly at what is known as the Boone County Pomona Grange. The Pomona Grange (or County Grange) has its own set of officers and committees. The Pomona Grange took over the operation of the Boone County Fair at what is now Spencer Park and formed the Boone County Fair Association in 1957.

After six years of operation the Pomona Grange found itself with a fair that needed new buildings and more land if it were to grow and succeed. With no prospects or money for either in November of 1962 the Pomona Grange members voted to make the 1963 fair their last one. But a month or two later and the Taylor sisters came forward with a reasonable offer to sell the Pomona Grange 84 acres on Route 76 about a mile north of Belvidere. A few Grange members came forward and offered their farms as collateral so the purchase of the land could be made.

Flash forward to 2014, and we have 153 acres with many buildings, barns and arenas making up Boone County Fairgrounds Park owned and operated by the Granges of Boone County. The four executive officers of the Boone County Fair Association (a 501(c)(3) organization) are elected by the members of the Pomona Grange and each of the seven local chapters selects four members to be on the fair board.

So you can see the Boone County Fair has been a big part of the county for a long time. I can't speak for all fairs but at Boone County we are still a good place to do business with vendors of

all types of equipment and supplies for agricultural purposes. But even urbanites can do business such as buy a car; buy landscaping services, water softeners, a new hat, or whatever.

Plus the fair is one large community fundraiser. Nearly every civic organization has a booth or provides a service at the fair to raise money. The 4-H clubs, The Lions, Cosmos, Boy Scouts, Church groups, County Fire departments, and yes, even the Granges are all here raising money for their various projects for the community.

But the centerpiece is still the livestock and non-livestock (home arts, fruits, vegetables, flowers, grains). We will have about 3,000 head of livestock, everything from rabbits to draft horses and 6,000 non-livestock entries, everything from quilts to corn to cakes to photos.

Our superintendents do an outstanding job promoting participation in their various departments.

For the 4-H members it's a chance to show their talents, to learn to carry through on a project, to learn to raise and care for an animal and to show that animal and have the animal and themselves judged for their showmanship abilities.

Plus it's a place where people from the city can learn about agriculture. They can see a cow being milked, a chick being hatched, a sheep being sheared, and a team of six draft horses being hitched to a wagon. It's all up close and personal and they can ask the farmer or rancher questions. And the farmer or rancher will be more than happy to answer. It's probably more important than ever that people understand where their food comes from and how it's raised. A place where you can see agriculture in action, firsthand.

The Boone County Fair is also a grand social event, a once a year six day community family reunion. Where you can just go and sit and see old friends and make new ones. And of course we like to have some fun too.

There is plenty of free entertainment all through the park all day long and some thrill rides and games if that's your thing. Plus some great grandstand shows for a night out with your friends.

We've been very fortunate in Boone County to have such a successful county fair.

Plus the fairgrounds is a great asset to the community as a venue for almost any event from weddings, to concerts, to flea markets and swap meets, to auctions and a place to store your boat or camper for the winter.

The fairgrounds has something going on almost every weekend from April 1 to November.

1. This fair exists because of the hard work, the sweat and sacrifice of hundreds upon hundreds of volunteers who strived since 1957 to make the Boone County Fair the best in Illinois.

A fair we can all be proud of. The bottom line is you don't have to be a farmer or rancher to be interested in agriculture or county fairs or to even be a member of The Grange.

As long as we all eat food we are all interested in agriculture. And a good place to eat food is the county fair or a Grange potluck.

Citation: The Boone County Fair from Rock Valley Publishing. Thursday Aug 6, 2015

Celebrating our journey

1855 Boone County Agricultural Society formed to organize the first Boone County Fair. Allen C Fuller was principal organizer. Area of flat land north of the courthouse was purchased. First fair was held Oct. 25-26. Stock was exhibited & admission was free. Domestic articles & manufactured wares were to be exhibited at Union Hall. Thursdays attendance was approx. 3,000 and Friday was approx. 5,000. 50 Horse entries in addition to mares and colts. Local talent performed in the evening at Union Hall.

1863-1865 No fairs were held during the Civil War

1867 Old fairgrounds was sold (by courthouse) for \$675. Land purchased at west end of Lincoln Ave for \$1,200 (now Spencer Park) Racetrack and judges stand were built

1877 Fair had 1,048 entries
1906 Belvidere Amphitheater Company formed to erect the Amphitheater as fair association felt they couldn't pay to have it built. A group of men paid \$1,200.

1911 Fair association now owns grandstand

1913 Season pass cost \$1.25 and covered man and wife--season pass for children 6-12 cost .25

1925 New entrance complete--located about 1,000 feet east of the former gate. 1931 Adams Rodeo added to lineup and replaced harness racing

1945 Fair cancelled in an effort to reduce infantile paralysis epidemic

1957 Granges took over fair operations under the management of Pomona Grange

1963 Last fair to be held at old Fairgrounds (Spencer Park) 84 acres purchased on Rt 76 for a third Fairgrounds

1964 First fair to be held at current location

1965 Cattle barn and grandstand (minus roof) were added

1966 Dairy barn was added

1967 Hog barn was added

1968 Sheep barn was added

1970 Home Economics building was added

1972 Two additional buildings were added

1981 Large horse barn & grandstand roof added

1991 17 additional acres were acquired for a total of 101 acres

1993 52 more acres were acquired for a total of 153 acres

1994 Beaver Valley Grange Hall was moved to the Fairgrounds--it was founded in 1916

1999 Goat barn was added

2005 Swine building was extended and many new cement sidewalks were added

2013 50th Anniversary at Route 76 location.

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