FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Updated 6/17/16

WHAT’S NEW AND WHAT’S RETURNING TO THE
135TH unFAIRgettable MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR


(Timonium, MD) – The 135th MY Maryland State Fair will be unFAIRgettable. The fun begins with Preview/Ridemania night on Thursday, August 25. Maryland State Fair buildings, barns, thoroughbred racing, Midway rides, games and food and more will open on Friday, August 26. Look for the countdown clock on www.marylandstatefair.com.

Celebrating its 135th year, the unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair recognizes the enduring appeal of Maryland’s citizens, students and 4-H and FFA members to share their talents and compete for ribbons, prizes and bragging rights. The Fair’s buildings, barns and stages provide space for thousands of fairgoers to appreciate the exhibits, learn from the exhibitors, and consider entering a future fair.

“Thousands of talented individuals and fun-loving fairgoers from our great state’s cities, towns, farms, mountains and shores make up MY Maryland State Fair,” said Maryland State Fair General Manager Andy Cashman. “Our goal is to provide a variety of safe, enjoyable and educational experiences to help make memories for a lifetime.”

The unFAIRgettable 135th MY Maryland State Fair will also feature the thrills and chills, sights, sounds and aromas of numerous Midway and Kidde Land rides, games and food stands provided by Deggeller Attractions. For those with a more local palate, the Maryland Foods Pavilion and Dairy Bar will showcase fresh from the farm and Chesapeake Bay food and drinks.

Fairgoers may also watch and wager in the Grandstand on live Thoroughbred horse races as they round the 5/8 mile Timonium track, Friday, August 26-Sunday, August 28 and Friday, September 2-Labor Day Monday, September 5. Post Time is 1 PM. Admission to the racetrack is included in the fair’s admission price. Or, bet on simulcast races in the OTB Center through the run of the Fair.

Among the many exciting new activities and modernized traditional favorites:

- **M&T Bank PREVIEW NIGHT at MY Maryland State Fair with RIDEMANIA, Thursday, August 25, 5 PM – 11 PM**, will give fairgoers a taste of the fun in store during the 11 Best Days of Summer. **Preview/Ridemania Night Only**, fairgoers may purchase Admission & Ride Wristband for only $20 or a Walk-Around Admission for $1. NOTE: On Preview/Ridemania Night only the Midway rides, games and food stands will be open. Exhibition Halls, Livestock Barns, etc. will open Friday, August 26.
MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR 135th ANNIVERSARY FIREWORKS – Saturday, August 27, 9 PM, Fairgrounds Infield.

MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR 135th ANNIVERSARY PARADE – Sunday, August 28, 6 PM, in front of the Grandstand. The much anticipated Maryland State Fair Parade returns after 35 years to the racetrack featuring 4-H/FFA agriculture-related floats, a variety of horses, marching bands, color guards, antique farm implements, vintage vehicles, fire department vehicles, music and more. The last consecutive parade, a Fair favorite for decades, was in 1981 at the 100th Anniversary.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WORLD FAMOUS WYE ANGUS BEEF HERD AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY – daily, 10 AM-10 PM, Cow Palace.

BEST OF MY MARYLAND BEST EXHIBITS - the best of Maryland’s best home arts, farm & garden, livestock and horse exhibitors whose talent will be highlighted in the buildings, barns and show rings throughout MY Maryland State Fair.

4-H ALUMNI BAKING COMPETITION AND MARYLAND STATE BID CALLING COMPETITION
4-H alumni will return to the Fair to enter their best cakes, fruit pies, jelly rolls, cookies and cupcakes. Grand Champion and other entries will be auctioned off during the Maryland State Bid Calling Championship on Saturday, September 3, 2 PM, on the Carolina Carport Free Stage in the Maryland State Fair Park. Proceeds will benefit the Maryland 4-H Foundation and the winner of the Maryland Bid Calling Championship will proceed to the National Bid Calling Championship.

M&T BANK PRESENTS THE 2016 MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR CONCERT SERIES with live national concerts on the Racetrack Infield Stage:


iHeart Radio’s Bobby Bones & The Raging Idiots and Jana Kramer. The wildly and widely beloved musical comedy group Bobby Bones & The Raging Idiots and one of country music’s brightest new stars Jana Kramer will perform live on Sunday, September 4, 7 PM. On-line tickets available at www.marylandstatefair.com.

MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR LIVE, LOCAL BANDS & ENTERTAINMENT - Live, Local Bands & Entertainment on the Carolina Carports Free Stage in the Maryland State Fair Park. A variety of popular bands and entertainers are scheduled daily, among them, new this year: Reggie Rice’s Magic of Laughter Show. One-of-a-kind entertainer Reggie Rice is a 3-time DC Comedy Magician of the Year. Local Acts: Appalossa; The Beach Bumz; Beatlemania Returns; Crawdaddies; Crushing Day; Detour; Great Train Robbery; Josh Christina & Good Old Stuff; Kanye Twitty; Midnite Run; Never Never; The Rat Pack; Route 66; Strait Shooter; Synful Pleasure; Unity Reggae Band; Wes Spangler and more. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com for complete schedule.

MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR STROLLING ENTERTAINERS – dancers, musicians, magicians and more will greet fairgoers at various times and locations throughout the Fair. Among them: Rock-iT The Robot; Chicago Honey Bears Dancers; and, Melody Farms Vegetable Follies.

MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR BALLOON BARN – an 18-foot high barn sculpture, located in the Home Arts Building, with reproduction of competitive Fair exhibits, will be made up of thousands of colorful balloons.

“more”
WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT’S RETURNING TO THE 135th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair - Page 3

- **MY MARYLAND HORSELAND**, located in the Horseland Tent near the Grandstand entrance, will provide the opportunity to learn about the Maryland horse industry and participate in hands-on braiding, saddling, stick horse building, stick horse races and other activities. Also, multiple equine events will take place on various evenings in the Horse Show Ring. And, the **U.S. Pony Races** non-wagering steeplechase races with young jockeys ages 3-16, at the Racetrack. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com for dates and times.

- **HORSES HEALING MARYLAND’S MILITARY (HHMM) RIDING SHOWCASE**, a Horseland special event, on Friday, September 2, in the Horse Show Ring. The HHMM (a new coalition of licensed Maryland stables offering therapeutic programs to veterans and their families) Military Riding Showcase will feature: a Military Tribute; the **U.S. Army Caisson Platoon** , 3rd Infantry Regiment with an Old Guard history presentation; the Maryland/National Capital Park Police, Freedom Hills Veterans Drill Team, Star Equestrian Center Veterans Drill Team, and more.

- **MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR OYSTER ALLEY** – The Maryland Oyster Industry will host an educational display and offer samplings of a variety of farm-raised Maryland Oysters, in the Maryland State Fair Park. Date/Time: TBA.

- **U-LEARN FARM** – Count on U-Learn Farm to teach fairgoers of all ages, how agriculture impacts their daily lives. In addition to featuring a variety of fun and educational hands-on activities and exhibits, U-Learn Farm will bring back the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association bigger than life-sized interactive milk carton; the **John Deere Combine; Greenhouse and Oyster Farming and the Chesapeake Bay exhibit**, and more daily, in the south end of the Cow Palace.

- **MAIN MIDWAY RIDES, GAMES OF SKILL & FOOD AREA**, presented by Deggeller Attractions and located in the center of the Fairgrounds, will offer thrills & chills for the bravest fairgoers with the spectacular ride The Enterprise as well as Hang Ten, YoYo and Cliff Hanger among 30+rides and 30+ games of skill. **Monday - Fridays** from 2PM to close and **Saturdays, Sundays** and **Labor Day Monday from 10 AM to close**.

- **KIDDIE LAND RIDES AREA** – features 15+ tame, but exciting rides among them the new Magic Maze, Farm Tractors, Baja Buggie, Rockin’ Tug, Happy Swing & more. **Hours**: Mon.–Fri., 12 Noon-close. Sat., Sun., & Labor Day Mon., 10 AM – close.

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:**

- **FAVORITE FAIR FOODS** - a wide selection of favorite fair food will satisfy the spirit as well as the palate. Enjoy the traditional taste of cotton candy, corndogs and deep fried delights on the **Midway** and fresh fruit, crab cakes, ice cream and more from Maryland Farms and the Chesapeake Bay at the **Maryland Foods Pavilion** and **Maryland Dairy Bar**.

- **Arm Wrestling USA/Maryland Amateur Classic** - The colorful and competitive sport of arm wrestling returns to the Maryland State Fair. This premier amateur event will feature people from all walks of life - both men and women competing for local bragging rights. Events feature standardized weight classes, streamlined equipment and **National Rankings for all competitors who win a match. Saturday, September 3, 12 Noon - 4:30 PM, near the MD Foods Pavilion**.

- **BIRTHING CENTER** - Fairgoers will have the opportunity to witness the miracle of birth of calves and piglets under the supervision of veterinarians and students, **daily, 10 AM-10PM**, in the Cow Palace.

- **J BAR W RANCH BATTLE OF THE BEASTS PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDING AND COWGIRL BARREL RACING** - The cowboys will once again face the bulls for one of America’s fastest growing extreme spectator sports when J Bar W Ranch hosts the popular Battle of the Beast Bull Riding and Cowgirl Barrel Racing Competition. 25 professional International Bull Rider Association (IBR) riders will compete on some of the toughest bulls in the world of rodeo, and cowgirls will be timed racing around a barrel course, **Monday, Aug. 29, 7 PM**, in the Horse Show Arena.

“more”
RAGING BULL ENTERTAINMENT MECHANICAL BULL – Channel your inner cowboy or cowgirl by trying your luck riding the mechanical bull, Friday-Sunday and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM. and Monday –Thursday, 12 Noon – 10 PM. in the Maryland State Fair Park.

CRAFTERS CORNER – local artisans will provide daily demonstration, tips and answers to fairgoers’ questions in the Home Arts Building.

GOAT MOUNTAIN – Watch goats in their natural habitat in the Maryland State Fair Park. daily, 10 AM – 10 PM, in MY Maryland State Fair Park.

MARYLAND GUERNSEY ASSOCIATION MILK IT COW MILKING CLINIC - While milking cows has gone high tech for most dairy farm operations, traditional hand-milking is the mother of invention. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to learn the traditional way of milking a cow, when junior members of the MD Guernsey Association host their Milk It fundraiser in the Cow Palace. Milk It will provide educational information about Maryland’s dairy industry and this special breed of dairy cows. And, for a small fee, interested fairgoers may take a lesson and try their hand at milking a cow. Various times during the Fair in the Cow Palace.

HORSE PULL COMPETITIONS – Miniature Horses show their strength by pulling sleds in the Miniature Horse Pull Competition on Saturday, September 3 at 6 PM, followed by the traditional Light Weight Draft Horse Pull Competition at 7:30 PM in the Horse Show Arena. The Heavy Weight Draft Horse Pull Competition is on Sunday, September 4, 7:30 PM, in the Horse Show Arena.

100-TON SAND SCULPTURE & CONTEST – Sandscapes, holders of 12 World Sand Sculpting Championship titles, will sculpt a 100-ton sand sculpture, Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM and Monday –Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM. in the Exhibition Hall.

MASON DIXON SQUARE DANCING FEDERATION DANCE & DEMONSTRATION – There will be a twirl of color in the Cow Palace as Mason Dixon Square Dancing Federation members show off their moves to the direction of Square Dance Caller Virgil Forbes. Fairgoers will be selected from the audience to participate in square dancing demonstrations. Saturday, August 27, 7 PM – 9 PM, Cow Palace South End.

NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL EXHIBIT – The showcase incorporates historical videos, life-size photos of Negro League Players, autographed baseballs, bats and other memorabilia from The Hubert V. Simmons Negro Leagues Museum collection, to create awareness of the cultural, social, and economic impact of the Negro Baseball Leagues. Negro Leagues Baseball Ambassador Ray Banks along with some former players such as “Satchel Paige All Stars” Luther Atkinson, “Indianapolis Clowns” Jim Bland and Geraldine Day, widow of Hall of Famer Leon Day will be on hand to share oral histories, Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM and Monday –Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM. in the Exhibition Hall. www.smnlbinc.org

4-H ROBOTICS COMPETITION featuring LEGO and WeDo– Sunday, August 28, 9 AM., Cow Palace SW Area.

SCALES & TALES OUTDOOR STAGE SHOWS – The Department of Natural Resources, in addition to their indoor exhibits, will host several outdoor informational shows on the Carolina Carport Free Stage in MY Maryland State Fair Park, among them: Water Safety demonstration; Scales & Tales program; and, Natural Resources Police Search Dog show.

SWIFTY SWINE RACING & SWIMMING PIG SHOWS - Fairgoers will go hog wild when Hillary Rodham Clinton, Donald Trumproast, Justin Bieboar, Christina Hogulera, Kevin Bacon, Brad Pig and other celebrity porkers compete in the Swifty Swine Racing and Swimming Pig Show. Billed as “America’s cleanest and fastest pig races,” each show will consist of three heat races starting at 12:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:30 PM and 8 PM, on the Midway near the Farm & Garden Building.
WHAT’S NEW AND WHAT’S RETURNING TO THE 135th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair - Page 5

- **UPROOTED CHAINSAW PERFORMANCE ART SHOW** – Sculptor Marty Long, in as little as 60 minutes, transforms a log into a detailed piece of art using chainsaws...bears, eagles, Terrapins, Ravens or whatever the carver’s creativity desires, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM and 7 PM on weekends and 1 PM, 3 PM and 7 PM on weekdays. Fairgoers may bid for Marty Long’s creations at two auctions to benefit the Maryland State Fair Scholarship Fund, Wed., August 31 and Mon., September 5, at 6 PM.

- **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DAIRY HERD AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY** – daily, 10 AM-10 PM, in Cow Palace.

**TRADITIONAL FAVORITES**

**4-H & FFA Competitions**: MY Maryland State Fair recognizes the talents of Marylanders of all ages, as well as the hard work of thousands of 4-H and FFA members, who compete in shows and demonstrations throughout the 12 days of the Fair among them:

- **Open Class & 4-H/FFA Beef Shows** – first weekend, Friday, August 26 - Sunday, August 28
- **Remaining 4-H/FFA Livestock Shows** – first weekend, Friday, August 26 – Sunday, August 28
- **4-H/FFA Dog Show** – Monday, August 29, 3PM, in the Cow Palace.
- **Open Class & 4-H/FFA Dairy Shows** – second weekend, Friday, September 2-Labor Day Monday, September 5
- **Remaining Open Class Livestock Shows** – second weekend, Friday, September 2-Labor Day Monday, September 5

- **Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest** – Friday, August 26, 7PM, in the Cow Palace.
- **4-H/FFA Costume Animal Contest** – Friday, August 26. Location: TBA.
- **4-H/FFA Livestock Sale** – Saturday, August 27, 7 PM, in the Cow Palace.
- **4-H/FFA Fashion Revue** - Sunday, September 4, 5 PM, preceded by Junior and Intermediate Showcase, 12:30 PM, Cow Palace

**BUILDINGS and EXHIBIT HALLS**

- **Cow Palace, Horse Show Ring, Sheep & Swine Barns, Poultry & Rabbit Area** – see thousands of livestock and horse competitions and exhibits.

- **Exhibition Hall** – View a variety of commercial exhibits and enjoy shopping opportunities.

- **Farm & Garden Building** – See thousands of fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, flowers, plant exhibits, and more.

- **Farmers Market** – Purchase fresh, local produce, Friday, August 26 – Sunday, August 28 and Thursday, September 1 – Monday, September 5, 12 Noon -6PM, in the Farm & Garden Building.

- **4-H/Home Arts Building** – Enjoy thousands of fine arts, handwork, canning, woodwork, baking exhibits and more.

**Miller Mosner Building:**

- **Maryland State Fair Museum** – Maryland State Fair’s rich history is reflected in a variety of museum exhibits that span multiple generations. Fairgoers may visit during Fair hours and donations of Maryland State Fair memorabilia are welcome. Open daily.

- **Maryland Department of Natural Resources Building** – Maryland wildlife, outdoor safety, licensing requirements and other exhibits, various hours throughout the Fair.

**PARKING** on the fairgrounds is $5 and free parking at the Park and Ride on Deereco Road are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Light Rail with an easily accessible Light Rail stop at the fairgrounds’ Cow Palace Gate is encouraged.

**ATM Machines** will be located conveniently throughout the venue.

A variety of other exciting events for the 2016 unFAIRgettable My Maryland State Fair will be announced soon. For general Maryland State Fair information, hours and prices, visit www.marylandstatefair.com.

# # #