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**WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S RETURNING TO THE  
136th unFAIRgettable MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR  
WORLD'S LARGEST COW TALES®, BUTTERFLY ENCOUNTER, AG PLANETARIUM AND MORE  
AT THE 2017 MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR: AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 4, 2017**

(Timonium, MD) – The 136th *MY Maryland State Fair* will be unFAIRgettable. The fun begins with Preview/Ridemia night on Thursday, August 24. The Midway and some livestock shows will be open on Thursday, August 24. Maryland State Fair buildings, barns, thoroughbred racing, Midway rides, games and food, and more will open on Friday, August 25. Look for the countdown clock on [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com). #MYMDSTATEFAIR.

Celebrating its 136th 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 136th 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, 25 through Sunday, August 27 and Friday, September 1 through Labor Day Monday, September 4. 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.

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Among the many exciting new activities and modernized traditional favorites:

**NEW THIS YEAR:**

- ❖ **THE INNOVATION STATION...STEM Growing with You** – The Farm & Garden Building North Room will be transformed by the Maryland State Fair, in partnership with the Maryland Grain Utilization Board and the Maryland Soy Bean Board, into a wonderland of exciting hands-on educational activities, among them: **The Butterfly Encounter, The Agriculture Planetarium, Ethanol Remote Car Race Track**, and more. Daily in the Farm & Garden Building.
- ❖ **ARE YOU SMARTER THAN AN AG TEACHER? Competition** - Come watch this friendly, fun, and educational competition between FFA members vs. agriculture teachers and advisors, Friday, August 25, 6 PM, in the Cow Palace.
- ❖ **WORLD'S LARGEST Cow Tales®** - Goetze's Candy Company, Inc., creators of the popular sweet treat Caramel Creams®, **plans to set a new world's record by creating a Cow Tales® that measures approximately 10 feet in length at the 136<sup>th</sup> unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair.** Typically, the soft, chewy caramel wrapped around a decadent cream center Cow Tales® are 7 inches in length. "We intend to produce the largest Cow Tales® anyone has ever seen," stated Mitchell Goetze, CEO of Goetze's Candy Co., Inc. The last few days of the Fair, pieces of the record-setting Cow Tales® will be sold to benefit the Maryland State Fair Scholarship Fund. **Mon. – Fri. 12 Noon – 10 PM. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM-10PM, Labor Day Monday, 10 AM- 8 PM in front of the Bulk Candy Store in the Exhibition Hall.**
- ❖ **BANANA SPLIT COMPETITION** – The Maryland Farm Bureau Maryland Young Farmers, in honor of National Banana Split Day, will host a Banana Split Competition using local creamery's ice cream and a variety of delectable toppings in the Cow Palace. First come, first served, while they last. Friday, August 25. Time: 2 PM.
- ❖ **M&T Bank PREVIEW NIGHT at MY Maryland State Fair with RIDEMANIA, Thursday, August 24, 5 PM – 11 PM,** will give fairgoers a taste of the fun in store during the 12 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 25.
- ❖ **M&T BANK PRESENTS THE 2017 MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR CONCERT SERIES** with live national concerts on the **Racetrack Infield Stage:**
- ❖ **HALESTORM, Grammy Award winning rock band, with opening act Baltimore's own *Fatally Yours*,** Friday, August 25, 7 PM. Halestorm's album *Into the Wild Life*, highlighted by its historic #1 hit *Apocalyptic*, ascended to the top at Active Rock radio outlets nationwide. On-line tickets available at [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com).
- ❖ **SABRINA CARPENTER with opening artist Alex Aiono,** Saturday, August 26, 7 PM. 17-year-old singer, songwriter and actress **Sabrina Carpenter's** singles *Can't Blame a Girl for Trying* and *Eyes Wide Open* won Radio Disney Music Award "Best Crush Song" and "Best Anthem" respectively. On-line tickets available at [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com).

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- ❖ **MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR STATE FAIR PARK FREE STAGE LIVE, LOCAL BANDS & ENTERTAINMENT** - Live, Local Bands & Entertainment on the *Maryland State Fair Free Stage* in the Maryland State Fair Park. A variety of popular bands and entertainers are scheduled daily, among them: **Appaloosa; The Beach Bumz; Cold Gin (KISS Tribute); Days of Vinyl; Great Train Robbery; Josh Christina; Kittyback Band; Luna Jane; Mark Bray & Steel Soul Cowboys; Midnite Run; Never Ending Fall; Never Never; Rat Pack; Radio Monkey: Red Dirt Revolution; Rob Fahey and the Pieces; That's What She Said; The 1974; The Jury;** and more. Visit [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com) for complete schedule.
- ❖ **MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR KIDDIE LAND STAGE LIVE, LOCAL BANDS & ENTERTAINMENT** - Live, Local Bands & Entertainment on the *Kiddie Land Stage*. A variety of popular entertainers will perform live, among them: The Chicago Honey Bear Dancers; Allison's School of Dance Performance; GTR Dave; Wes Spangler, Bronson Wagner; Best Kept Secret; Sweet Adelines; Uncle Moldy Duo, Cameron 'Mr. Charisma' Robertson;, and more.
- ❖ **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, Danny Grant's Cowboy Circus, Stilt Man, and Balloon Twister.** Also, *Melody Farm Follies* animated entertainment featuring fruit and vegetables, a hen and a cow singing healthy eating stories will perform **daily near the Cow Palace.**
- ❖ **MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR GRAND PARADE** – Sunday, August 27, 6 PM, in front of the Grandstand. The Maryland State Fair Parade returns 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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and returned last year after 35 years.
- ❖ **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WORLD FAMOUS WYE ANGUS BEEF HERD AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY** – daily, 10 AM-10 PM, Cow Palace.
- ❖ **4-H ALUMNI CAKE AUCTION 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 at the **Maryland State Bid Calling Championship on Saturday, September 2, 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 move on to the National Bid Calling Championship.
- ❖ **MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR 136th ANNIVERSARY FIREWORKS** – Saturday, September 2, 9 PM, Fairgrounds Infield.

- ❖ **MY MARYLAND HORSELAND**, located daily during Fair hours in the Horseland Tent near the Grandstand entrance, will provide the opportunity to learn about the Maryland horse industry and participate in hands-on horse experience including handling, grooming, saddling, learning about therapeutic riding and horse rescue organizations, building stick horses, racing stick horses over mini jumps, and other activities. Also, multiple equine events will take place on various evenings in the Horse Show Ring. And, the **US Pony Races** non-wagering races **with young jockeys ages 3-16**, Friday, August 25, approximately 5 PM, Saturday, August 26, 10 AM, at the Racetrack.
  
- ❖ **HORSES HEALING MARYLAND'S MILITARY (HHMM) RIDING SHOWCASE**, a Horseland special event, on Friday, **September 1, 1:30 PM – 8 PM**, 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**, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
  
- ❖ **NATURE PLAY SPACE**, next to the MY Maryland Horseland Tent. This year's Nature Play Space built BY Urban Gardens, Inc. utilizing the winning design of University of Maryland Landscape Architecture students will provide an opportunity for children to freely and safely play and explore sand, maze, nature art, gardening, balancing, building, listening, observing and other stations. Facilitators and volunteers from the University of Maryland Landscape Architecture program, as well as childcare professionals, will explain the benefits of each station to parents as their children play.
  
- ❖ **MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR OYSTER ALLEY** – Maryland oyster aquaculture has increased 48% leading to a healthier Bay. Stroll down Oyster Alley on opening weekend to learn from Oyster Recovery Partnership and Coastal Conservation Association Maryland representatives, while sampling local oysters in front of the Cow Palace on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27, 5 PM – close.
  
- ❖ **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 like the **U-LEARN READ** Reading Nook in partnership with the Baltimore County Public Library System, **FARMER'S IN Q & A** session w/local farmers, and the **Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation's Showcase Trailer**. Numerous other U-Learn Farm activities and exhibits include: the **John Deere combine, Maryland-Grown Native Plant and Garden Hoop Greenhouse, an interactive milk carton and simulated milking cow, Oyster Recovery, Farming and Filtering in the Chesapeake Bay** exhibit, Ages and Stages of Grain Crops; **Field Corn Play Box; Touch and Feel Grain, Hay and Forage Boxes; Kids Growing with Grains**; and, while supplies last, participants will receive Farm Visitor ID Badges made from real animal ID ear tags. U-Learn Farm located daily in the south end of the **Cow Palace** is open Fridays - Sundays, 10 AM – 9 PM, and Monday-Thursday including Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM.

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- ❖ **U-LEARN FOOD & FIBER** – in partnership with University of Maryland Extension, University of Maryland College Park and the Maryland State Fair, the U-LEARN Food & Fiber center will feature Farm to Table themed educational exhibits. **AG-Jeopardy** educational games will take place daily at 1 PM, 4 PM and 8 PM, across from the Cow Palace. “If we can better educate the general public about where our food and fiber comes from and its value to the community, that will build greater support and sustainability of Maryland’s agriculture industry,” added Fogle.
- ❖ **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 ***Super Nova*** as well as ***Hang Ten, YoYo*** and ***Cliff Hanger*** among 30+rides and 30+ games of skill. **Monday - Fridays from 12 Noon to close and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday from 10 AM to close.**
- ❖ **KIDDIE LAND RIDES AREA**– 15+ tame but exciting children’s rides among them: the new ***Circus Train Ride, Pirates Island, Crazy Chopper, Baja Buggie, Rockin’ Tug, Happy Swing*** and more. **Hours: Monday-Friday, 12 Noon - 10 PM and Saturdays, Sundays & Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM.**

**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 2, 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. 28, 7 PM**, in the **Horse Show Arena**.
- ❖ **RAGING BULL ENTERTAINMENT MECHANICAL BULL** – Try your luck riding the mechanical bull, **Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM. and Monday - Friday, Noon – 10 PM. in the Maryland State Fair Park.**

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- ❖ **CRAFTERS CORNER** – local artisans will provide daily demonstration, tips and answers to fairgoers' questions in the **Home Arts Building**.
- ❖ **FOOD LION HUNGER RELIEF DAY** – Bring five (5) non-perishable Food Lion Brand products to the Maryland State Fair and receive one free admission on Thursday, August 31 only.
- ❖ **GOAT MOUNTAIN** – Watch goats in their natural habitat in the Maryland State Fair Park, **daily, 10 AM – 10 PM**, in **Maryland State Fair Park**.
- ❖ **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU MARYLAND YOUNG FARMERS 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 Maryland Farm Bureau Maryland Young Farmers 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 2 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 3, 7:30 PM**, in the **Horse Show Arena**.
- ❖ **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. **Sunday, 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](http://www.smnlbinc.org)
- ❖ **4-H SCIENCE DAYS** – **Sunday, August 27 - Tuesday, August 29, Cow Palace SW Area**. 4-H Science Days will feature robotics, electrical energy, and tractor competitions, LEGO and WeDo Demonstrations, educational activities and more.
- ❖ **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)** - The DNR will provide a variety of interactive Exhibits in the Mosner-Miller Building. Building hours are Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM.
- ❖ **DNR SCALES AND TALES** shows will be held at various times on Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, on the Maryland State Fair Park Stage.

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- ❖ **SWIFTY SWINE RACING & SWIMMING PIG SHOWS** - Fairgoers will go hog wild when Hillary Rodham Clinton, Donald Trump, Justin Bieber, Christina Aguilera, Kevin Bacon, Brad Pitt and other celebrity porkers compete in the ***Swiftly 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**.
- ❖ **TEAM PUREBRED BARNYARD OLYMPICS** – Team Purebred presents a variety of fun Olympic-style events for the hog show exhibitors, Friday, September 1, 4:30 PM in the Swine Barn.
- ❖ **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 4, 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 25 - Sunday, August 27

**Remaining 4-H/FFA Livestock Shows** – first weekend, Friday, August 25 – Monday, August 28

**4-H/FFA Dog Show** –Tuesday, August 29, 12 Noon, Cow Palace.

**Open Class & 4-H/FFA Dairy Shows** – second weekend, Thursday, August 31 --Labor Day Monday, September 4

**Remaining Open Class Livestock Shows** – Saturday, August 26 - Labor Day Monday, September 4

**Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest** – Thursday, August 24, 7:30 PM, Cow Palace.

**4-H/FFA Costume Animal Contest** – Friday, August 25, 7:30 PM, Horse Show Ring:

**4-H/FFA Livestock Sale** – Monday, August 28, 7 PM, Cow Palace.

**4-H/FFA Fashion Revue** – Friday, September 1, 6 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.

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**Farmers Market** – Purchase fresh, local produce, Friday, August 25 – Sunday, August 27 and Thursday, August 31 – Monday, September 4, 12 Noon -6PM, in the Farm & Garden Building.

**4-H/Home Arts Building** – Enjoy thousands of fine arts, handwork, canning, woodworking, 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** – The DNR will provide a variety of interactive Exhibits in the Mosner-Miller Building, Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM. DNR will also present Scales & Tales programs at various times on the State Fair Park Free Stage.

**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.

**MOBILITY** - Motorized power chairs, motorized scooters, push strollers, wagons and walkers will be available for rent on a first-come, first-served basis at the Light Rail gate.

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

A variety of other exciting events for the 2017 unFAIRgettable *My Maryland State Fair* will be announced soon. For general Maryland State Fair information, hours and prices, visit [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com).

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