

MY
MARYLAND
STATE FAIR

more than a fair, we're a culture

PRESENTED BY



TOYOTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WITNESS THE MIRACLE OF BIRTH!

The 137th MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR BIRTHING CENTER

DELIVERS AN EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

MORE THAN A FAIR, WE'RE A CULTURE...AgriCULTURE

TIMONIUM, MD – More Than A Fair, We're A Culture...AgriCULTURE! MY Maryland State Fair, presented by Toyota, *Birthing Center* will offer a great opportunity for fairgoers to ask questions and learn more about agriculture, one of the most important industries in Maryland, from Friday, August 24 through Monday, September 3, 2018.

The *Birthing Center*, features eye-level displays of litters of piglets and baby chicks as well as birthing areas where cows and sows (mother pigs) will give birth. Located in the **Cow Palace behind the Dairy Bar**, the Birthing Center will be open daily from 10 AM – 10 PM (or later if labor has already started) to provide opportunities for fairgoers to witness the miracle of birth of calves, litters of piglets and hatching chicks. In addition, live video cameras coupled with big screen televisions are in place to ensure that everyone has a good view. University of Maryland agriculture students and faculty will be with the animals at all times to oversee and assist with the deliveries and narrate the birth events that occur during Fair hours. The Ag students will also use Twitter (#statefairbirths) and an answering machine, 410-561-5695, to communicate with interested fairgoers when labor has begun. Video presentations will also be available when live births are not taking place.

Between births, University of Maryland AG students, dressed in red coveralls, will be holding the chicks and piglets for an up close and personal look. They will also provide factual and fun answers to fairgoers' questions about all aspects of agriculture. If you have ever wondered what the difference is between a heifer and a steer or a goat and a sheep, but were too afraid to ask, fear not.

"While many people might understand the vital role of Maryland's food and fiber industries to its economy, most folks don't get a chance to see first hand what goes on at the farm," said University of Maryland Associate Professor Emeritus Dr. Tom Hartsock. "We hope fairgoers, and especially children, walk away from the *Birthing Center* with a greater appreciation of the farm animals that provide so much of our nutritious food."

"more"

More Than A Fair, We’re A Culture! The 137th MY Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota is a fun and educational destination complete with daily exhibits, presentations and entertainment sure to captivate visitors of all ages. No other event provides so much food, fun, family entertainment, and education for so little. The Maryland State Fair, located in Timonium in Baltimore County, starts with **M&T Bank presents Fox-45FAMFest Preview Night with Ridemania, on Thursday, August 23** from 5 PM – 9 PM in the State Fair Park. **Midway rides, games and food areas open until 11 PM. Exhibit Halls, Barns, Midway Rides, Food, Games, and more open Friday, August 24 through Monday, September 3, 2018.** General Fair hours are Monday through Friday, Noon to 10 PM, Saturdays, Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM to 8 PM.

Hear live national and local entertainment during the M&T Bank Presents LIVE! OnTrack! Concert Series, featuring celebrated new Country artists **Chase Bryant** and **Chris Lane** on August 24; and, Rock band **Smash Mouth** on August 25; Legendary Classic Rockers **Jefferson Starship** on September 1; and, Country music sensation **Chris Janson** on September 2. Concerts begin at 7:30 PM, in the **LIVE! OnTrack!** Infield.

Enjoy **thrills & chills on the Midway** and **tame rides in Kiddie Land** play fun, **Fair games**, and taste a **feast of Fair and farm foods**, Monday-Thursday, 12 Noon-close and Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Labor Day, Monday, 10 AM–close.

Explore **The 4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden Buildings, and The Exhibition Hall** for thousands of the best-of-the-best of Maryland creations and exhibits, Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Labor Day Monday 10 AM – 8 PM. **The Mosner-Miller Museum/DNR Building** closes daily at 8 PM.

See all kinds of **livestock and horses in the Cow Palace, Barns, Show Rings and Birthing Center**. Early risers are welcome to arrive early to attend the livestock and horse shows in the various livestock barns, buildings and show rings. Go to www.marylandstatefair.com for 4-H and Open Class Show schedules.

Experience **Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**, Friday, August 24 – Sunday, August 26 and Friday, August 31 – Monday, September 3. Post Time: 1 PM. Also enjoy Simulcast Horse Racing daily in the Grandstand and OTB.

Participate in **agriculture education activities at U-Learn Farm, U-Learn Food & Fiber, The Birthing Center, the Innovation Station, Horseland, Nature Play Space**, and more at various times throughout the Fair.

Admission to the Fair is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62 and older) and \$5 for children (6-11). Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Limited parking on the Fairgrounds is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5. Taking the **Light Rail** is recommended. **Uber and LYFT drop-off** and pick-up areas in the Deereco Road Park & Ride Lot. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com.

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