

2026 HOWARD COUNTY FAIR - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRE-FAIR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, July 29th - Home Arts Entry – Non-perishable

5:00 - 8:00 pm Open Home Arts Entering: Arts & Crafts - Children/Teens/Adults; Clothing;
Fine Arts – Children/Teens/ Adults; Hand Spinning; Hand Weaving;
Needle Arts & Quilts; Photography; & Woodworking Home Arts Building

Thursday, July 30th - Home Arts Entry - Non-perishable

5:00 - 8:00 pm Open Home Arts Entering - See July 29 Home Arts Building

Friday, July 31st - Home Arts Entry - Non-perishable

3:00 - 8:00 pm Open Home Arts Entering - See July 29 Home Arts Building

Saturday, August 1st - Entry and Judging

9:00 am - Open Home Arts Judging - (all sections above) Home Arts Building

1:30 - 4:00 pm 4-H & FFA Indoor Non-perishable entry/judging Annex

Sunday, August 2nd - 4-H & FFA LIVESTOCK ORIENTATION

5:00/6:00 pm Dining Hall

Monday, August 3rd – 4-H BICYCLE CONTEST

5:00 pm Show Ring

Thursday, August 6th – EXHIBIT ENTERING

3:00 Open Dairy Goat Showmanship Sheep & Goat Barn

5:00 pm Open Goat Show (Junior Doe Show) Sheep & Goat Barn

5:00 - 8:00 pm Open Home Arts Entering (Perishable Entries): Baked Goods & Candies,
Food Preservation, 1st Flower Show, & Jr. Flower Show ... Home Arts Building

Friday, August 7th - EXHIBIT ENTERING

8:30 am Open Goat Show (Senior Doe Show) Sheep & Goat Barn

3:00 - 8:00 pm Open Home Arts Entering (Perishable Entries) – See Aug. 6 ... Home Arts Building

6:00-8:00 pm Open Farm & Garden Depts. Entering: Farm Crops, Fruits & Vegetables,
Honey & Beeswax, and Wool Fleece Annex

6:00-8:00 pm Open Christmas Trees Entering: (Judging 8/8 @ 1 pm) Annex

80th ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Saturday, August 8th – OPENING DAY – ARMED FORCES DAY

8:00 am **GATE OPENS**

8:00 am 4-H Canine Show Show Pavilion

8:30 am Open Home Arts Judging – Baked Goods & Candies, Food Preservation,
First Flower Show, & Jr. Flower Show Home Arts Building

8:30-10:00 am 4-H & FFA Indoor Entering & Judging: Baked Goods, Flowers,
Vegetables, Herbs, Honey, Candies, & Food Pres. Annex

9:00-12 Noon Open Farm & Garden Depts.: Entering: Farm Crops, Fruits & Vegetables,
Honey & Beeswax and Wool Fleece Annex

9:00 am Open MWWHA Horse Show Horse Rings

10:00 am **Commercial Indoor Exhibits Open** Main Exhibition Hall

12:00 Noon **MIDWAY OPENS**

12:00 Noon Junior Showmanship Show (Howard Co. Farm Bureau) Show Pavilion

*** **Home Arts Building Will Open to the Public on Saturday, August 8th - 1:00 pm** ***

1:00 pm Farm & Garden Departments Exhibit Judging Annex

1:00-2:00 pm Best Apple Pie/Dessert Contests Entering (Judging @ 2:30pm) Home Arts Building

2:00 – 7:00 pm **Equine Exhibit** Horse Education Tent

3:00 pm **15th Annual Mule Jump** Contest Arena

4:00 pm 4-H & FFA & Open Jersey Cattle Show Show Pavilion

4:00 pm **Square Dance Demonstration** Entertainment Stage

6:00 pm **48th Annual Horse Pull** Contest Arena

7:00 pm **Square Dance** (Sponsored by Tom Thumb Dance Club) 4-H Activities Hall

7:00/8:30 pm **Dean Crawford & The Dunn's River Band** Entertainment Stage

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 9th

8:30 am	Draft Horse and Mule Show	Horse Rings
9:00 am	All Breeds ARBA Open Rabbit Show	Poultry Barn
10:00 am	4-H & FFA Rabbit Bred By Exhibitor Contest	Rabbit Pavilion
11:00 am	Antique Tractor Pull (Registration opens @ 7:30 am)	Contest Arena
11:00 am	Pretty Animal Contest	Show Pavilion
12:00 Noon	MIDWAY OPENS	
12:00 - 5:00 pm	MD Farriers Association Demo "Building Horse Shoes"	Horse Education Tent
12:30 pm	Pie Eating Contest	Show Pavilion
1:00 & 3:00 pm	Tour a Live Honey Bee Colony w/ a Beekeeper	4-H Activities Hall Backyard
1:30 pm	Howard County Farm Bureau Ag. Ambassador Contest	Show Pavilion
	Jr. Ag. Ambassador/Future Farmer/Little Miss Contests	Show Pavilion
2:00 - 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
4:00 pm	4-H Champion Baked Goods Auction	Show Pavilion
5:30 pm	4-H & FFA Breeding Meat Goat Show	Show Pavilion
6:00 pm	4-H & FFA Market Goat & Showmanship Show	Show Pavilion
6:00 pm	4-H Horsemanship Contest	4-H Activities Hall
7:00/8:30 pm	Michael Christopher	Entertainment Stage

Monday, August 10th

8:30 am	4-H/FFA & Open Beef Cattle Show	Show Pavilion
9:00 am	Cleveland Bay Hunter Horse Show	Horse Rings
9:00 am	4-H & FFA & Open Poultry Show	Poultry Barn
9:00 am	4-H & FFA Dairy Goat Show then 4-H & FFA Pygmy Goat Show ..	Sheep & Goat Barn
10:00 am	Demonstrations Throughout the Day	Home Arts Building
10:00am-4:00pm	4-H Day! Activities (Closed Noon to 1:00 pm) ..	Annex & 4-H Activities Hall
2:00 pm	MIDWAY OPENS	
2:00 - 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
4, 6, & 8:00 pm	"Outlaws & Peacemakers" (Wild West Re-enactment)	Contest Arena
5:00 & 7:00 pm	Sheep Dog Herding Performance	Horse Ring
5:00 pm	4-H & FFA Beef Showmanship & Steer Show	Show Pavilion
7:00/8:30pm	Daisy Road	Entertainment Stage

Tuesday, August 11th - SENIOR DAY (Seniors 62 & Older Admitted FREE – ALL DAY)

8:30 am	Blue Ridge Arabian Open Breed Show	Horse Rings
9:00 am	4-H & FFA Rabbit Show	Rabbit Pavilion
9:00 am	4-H & FFA Swine Showmanship	Show Pavilion
10:00 am	Demonstrations Throughout the Day	Home Arts Building
10 am – 3 pm	Senior Day Activities	4-H Activities Hall
	*Maryland Accordion Club Performance ... 10:00 – 11:30 am	
	*Bingo ... 11:30am – 12:30 pm & 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	
	* Will Williams ... 12:30 – 1:15 pm & 2:15 – 3:00 pm	
2:00 pm	MIDWAY OPENS	
2:00 – 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
3:00 pm	4-H & FFA Breeding Swine Show	Show Pavilion
4:00 pm	4-H & FFA Market Swine Show	Show Pavilion
6:00 pm	21st Annual Mule Pulling Contest	Contest Arena
6:00 pm	"Farm to Fork Face Off"	4-H Activities Hall/Patio
7:00 pm	4-H Dog Bowl, Food & Nutrition Bowl, & Poultry Bowl	Annex
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Open Mid-Week Flower Entry (Classes R07 – R11)	Home Arts Building
7:00/8:30 pm	Jay Henley & the Stonebroke Band	Entertainment Stage

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – CONTINUED

Wednesday, August 12th

8:00 - 10:00 am	Open Mid-Week Flower Entry (Classes R07 – R11)	Home Arts Building
8:30 am	4-H/FFA & Open Hand Spinners Sheep Show	Show Pavilion
9:00 am	4-H & FFA Rabbit Agility Contest	Rabbit Pavilion
10:00 am	English/Western Play Day Horse Show	Horse Rings
10:00 am	4-H & FFA Rabbit Showmanship	Rabbit Pavilion
10:00 am	Open Class Mid-Week Flower Show Judging	Home Arts Building
10:00 am	Demonstrations Throughout the Day	Home Arts Building
11:30 am	Ag Leaders Luncheon - <u>BY INVITATION ONLY</u>	4-H Activities Hall
2:00 pm	MIDWAY OPENS	
2:00 – 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
3:00 pm	4-H/FFA Sheep Showmanship Contest & Market Lamb Show	Show Pavilion
4:00 pm	4-H & FFA Rabbit Bowl Contest	Rabbit Pavilion
5:30-6:45 pm	King Arthur Flour Baking Contest Entering - Judging @ 7:00 pm	Home Arts Building
6:30 pm	Lawn Mower Contest	Contest Arena
7:00 pm	4-H Small Pet & Wildlife Judging – Entering by 6:30 pm	Annex
7:00/8:30 pm	Streamline Rocks	Entertainment Stage

Thursday, August 13th

8:00 am	4-H Horse and Pony Show	Horse Rings
8:30 am	4-H/FFA & Open Meat Breeding Sheep Show	Show Pavilion
9:00 am	4-H/FFA Rabbit Judging Contest	Rabbit Pavilion
9:00 am	4-H/ FFA Broiler Show	Poultry Barn
10:00 am - 4 pm	FFA Day!	Main Exhibition Hall
10:00 am	Demonstrations Throughout the Day	Home Arts Building
11:00 am	Honey Extraction Demonstration	Home Arts Building
12:00 Noon	Cornhole Tournament (presented by FFA Alumni)	Main Exhibition Hall Stage Area
2:00 pm	MIDWAY OPENS	
2:00 - 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
2:00 pm	4-H & FFA Dairy Showmanship	Show Pavilion
2:30 pm	4-H Dog Agility Trial	Horse Ring – Grass Area
3:00 pm	4-H Dog Rally Obedience	Horse Ring – Grass Area
4:00 pm	4-H/ FFA & Open Dairy Cattle Show (Guernsey, Brown Swiss, and Milking Shorthorns)	Show Pavilion
4:00 – 5:00 pm	4-H Turkey Calling Contest	Entertainment Stage
5:00 & 7:00 pm	Sheep Dog Herding Performance	Horse Ring
6:00 pm	4-H/FFA & Open Dairy Cattle Show (Ayrshire & Holstein)	Show Pavilion
6:00 pm	Skid Loader Contest	Contest Arena
7:00 pm	Talent & Variety Show	Entertainment Stage
7:00 pm	The Browningsville Band	4-H Activities Hall Patio

Friday, August 14th

8:30 am	4-H/FFA & Open Meat Breeding Sheep Show immediately followed by 4-H/FFA & Open Commercial Breeding Sheep Show	Show Pavilion
10:00 am	4-H/FFA & Open Class Youth Model Horse Show	Annex
10:00 am	My Lady's Manor Driving Club Demonstration (Driving Horses)	Horse Rings
10:00 am	Demonstrations Throughout the Day	Home Arts Building
10:30 am	4-H & FFA Market Turkey Show	Poultry Barn
12:00 noon	4-H & FFA Market Turkey Showmanship Contest	Show Pavilion
2:00 pm	MIDWAY OPENS	
2:00 - 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
5:45 pm	4-H & FFA Livestock Sale	Show Pavilion
7:00/8:30 pm	Stone Ridge Boys	Entertainment Stage

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – CONTINUED

Saturday, August 15th

9:00 am	4-H Livestock Judging Contest.....	Show Pavilion
9:00 am	4-H Rocketry Contest	Upper Parking Lot – Main Entrance Area
9:30 am	HCF Jumper Schooling Show.....	Horse Rings
10:00 am	Demonstrations Throughout the Day	Home Arts Building
10:00 am	4-H Clover Livestock Skillathon.....	4-H Activities Hall
10:30 am	Baby Contest and Miniature Parade (Entries by 10:00 am)	Entertainment Stage
11:00 am	Garden Tractor Tractor Pull (Registration opens @ 7:30 am)	Contest Arena
11:00 am	4-H Junior Livestock Skillathon	4-H Activities Hall
12:00 Noon	4-H Intermediate Livestock Skillathon	4-H Activities Hall
12:00 Noon	MIDWAY OPENS	
12:30 pm	New Zoo Revue.....	Show Pavilion
1:00 pm	Senior 4-H Livestock Skillathon	4- H Activities Hall
1:30 pm	4-H Worm Race	Show Pavilion
2:00 - 7:00 pm	Equine Exhibit	Horse Education Tent
2:30 pm	4-H Sheep Lead Contest	Show Pavilion
3:30 pm	Ag for All Dairy Showmanship	Show Pavilion
4:00 pm	Red, White & Blue Parade of Horse Breeds	Horse Show Rings
5:00 pm	Parade of Floats	Midway Boulevard
5:45 pm	Auction of Chainsaw Carvings	Show Pavilion
6:15 pm	4-H Achievement Awards Ceremony.....	Show Pavilion
6:45 pm	All Star Livestock Showmanship Contest.....	Show Pavilion
7:00/8:30 pm	Cody Clayton Eagle	Entertainment Stage

PREMIUM PAYOUT

Saturday, August 15th: 8 pm – 9 pm Show Ring

Sunday, August 16th: 10 am to 2:00 pm Fair Office

SPECIAL NOTICE

Exhibit Halls Will Be Closed During Entry and Judging on Saturday, August 8th.

Home Arts Building will open at 1:00 pm on Saturday, August 8th.

Annex opening TBD

* ADMISSION TO THE FAIR IS OPEN from 8 am til 10 pm *

**** ARMED FORCES DAY – Saturday (8/8) ****

Valid Military ID get you in FREE all day (Includes spouse & children under 18)

AMUSEMENT RIDES – Daily Specials!

Both Saturdays and Sunday - 12 Noon til 11 pm

Monday thru Friday - 2 pm til 11 pm

PETER WOOD: COLLECTOR OF THE IMPOSSIBLE! (Magic Shows)

Sat.(8/8), Mon., Wed., Fri.: 11am, 12:30pm & 2pm

Sat.(8/15): 1, 2, & 3pm

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Check our website at howardcountyfairmd.com for
Up-To-Date Info on Fair Events and Nightly Entertainment

Updated 8/1/2026

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - CONTINUED

KIDS & CRITTERS BARN (Barn 6)

Daily 9:30 am - 2 pm and 5 pm – 8:30 pm

LITTLE FARMER'S BUILDING

Daily 9 am – 6 pm

POULTRY & RABBIT EXHIBIT BUILDINGS

Daily 8 am – 9 pm

Saturday (8/8) Rabbit Building closed until Noon

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION DISPLAYS (in Annex)

Saturday (8/8) TBD – Opens after Judging

Sun. thru Sat. (8/15) - Open 10 am – 9 pm

ANTIQUE FARM MACHINERY DISPLAY – Daily

PONY RIDES - Daily ... Times TBD

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINERS

"Silly Willy" & "Hugs" - Daily

PAUL WACLO - CHAINSAW CARVER

Daily ... Times TBD

Tales & Hooves Mobile Petting Zoo - Daily ... Times TBD

Excavation Ball Pit - Daily... Times TBD

MAEF Maryland Ag. Showcase Trailer ... Times TBD

Ho. Co. Vol. Fire Department Displays ... Times TBD

Lion's Club Mobile Vision/Hearing Screening Unit ... Times TBD

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2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - CONTINUED

HOME ARTS BUILDING

Sat. (8/8) Open 1 pm – 9 pm

Sun. thru Sat. (8/15) Open 10 am – 9 pm

ANNEX (4-H, FFA, Farm & Garden, & Ag. Ed. Exhibits)

Sat. (8/8) Opens after Exhibit Judging is completed.

Sun. thru Sat. (8/15) Open 10 am – 9 pm

MAIN EXHIBITION HALL

Both Saturdays, Sun., Thurs., & Fri. Open 10 am – 10 pm

Monday thru Wednesday Open Noon to 10 pm

BEER, WINE, & SPIRITS GARDEN (in Main Exhibition Hall)

Both Saturdays & Sunday Open Noon – 10 pm

Monday thru Friday Open 4 pm – 10 pm

LOWER FAIR ACTIVITIES

- * “Tales and Hooves” Mobile Petting Zoo * Pony Rides *
- * Lion’s Club Mobile Vision/Hearing Screening Unit *
- * Howard County Vol. Fire Departments’ Displays *
- * MAEF Maryland Ag. Showcase Trailer * Equipment Display *
- * Chainsaw Carver * Excavation Ball Pit *

SPECIAL FEATURES

- * Fresh Farm Produce * Dining Hall * Food Stands *
- * Home Arts, 4-H, Honey, and Equine Demonstrations *
- * Agricultural, Informational, and Commercial Exhibits *
- * Butterfly Garden *

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