

CACHE COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO

Already it is time for the annual Cache County Fair and Rodeo. This busy event will be held at the Cache County Fairgrounds, August 11-13. This marks 132 years of a wonderful Cache County tradition.

Cache County has the reputation of enjoying one of the most pleasant fairground sites in the entire State. The Fairgrounds cover approximately 48 acres of land covered with “softscape”. Large grassy areas, a variety of deciduous shade trees, cool running streams, and other interesting features make the site very park-like.

Cache County documents report that, “The first recorded appropriation for a Cache County Fair was made on December 2, 1878. David and Mary Andrew deeded the land where the Fairgrounds presently sit to Logan City on January 7, 1910. Logan City in turn deeded the land to Cache County on October 19, 1929. The Fairgrounds were managed by the Cache County Fair Association, founded by George Thatcher, from 1911 to 1933. On January 11, 1933 the Fair Association was dissolved by its stockholders and its lease and assets were transferred to Cache County.”

“The 4-H Building, Community Building, Home Arts Building, Racetrack and Grandstands were constructed between 1911 and 1920....additional grandstand bleachers were added in 1947. New stables were built in 1948 and the current 40 stalls were constructed in 1966.”

“The fairgrounds have been used in a variety of ways over the years. The Cache County Chamber of Commerce sponsored a rodeo in the fall of 1922. In the 1930’s the area was host to exhibition dog races....The northwest area of the Fairgrounds was turned into a prisoner of war camp in 1945 at which time several new buildings were built. The POW camp existed until the fall of 1946. In 1953 a turkey shoot was organized. The Lennon Sisters performed at the Fairgrounds on May 15, 1962 and the Carson and Barns Circus first came to Logan in April of 1965.” (www.cachecounty.org/fairgrounds/history/php)

Additional buildings and structures have been constructed at the Fairgrounds in more recent years. A few examples include the Sheep, Swine and Cattle barns in the 1960s, Poultry and Rabbit Barn in the late 70s, the Cache Arena in the early 80s, and improved vendor sites that now have electrical and Wi-Fi service. The grandstands have also been improved significantly, being safer and more accessible. Food vendors also have greater opportunities than ever before. It is hard to beat a fresh hamburger at one of the Fairground Concession Stands.

Rodeo and Carnival tickets are available at the Cache County Administration Building in Logan, Macey’s Food and Drug store in Providence, IFA Country Store in Hyde Park, and Petersen’s Country Store in Nibley. Thursday, August 11, is Family Night at the Rodeo with family discount tickets available. Pre-Fair discount tickets are also being sold for Brown Amusements. All-day ride tickets are available at \$18 before the Fair. There is no cost for individuals and families to actually visit the Fair. Parking is often limited, but participants always enjoy the experience once they get on the grounds.

We enjoy a variety of pleasant community events throughout the year, but the Cache County Fair and Rodeo is a diversified experience that has something for everyone. It is always rewarding to watch the

excitement of young 4-H and FFA members as they display the results of their efforts. It is equally enjoyable to observe older friends engaged in friendly competition as they compare their best works, be that livestock, crops, home arts, photography or some other category. For many local families, the County Fair and Rodeo is a highlight of the entire year.

This county celebration would not be possible without the voluntary efforts of a multitude of unpaid leaders, willing workers and County Council members. As the 2011 theme suggests; "There's Magic in the Fair". Additional details of the Cache County Fair can be found at the County Website www.cachecounty.org/fair. We look forward to seeing you later in the week at this happy event.