

Great county – great fair and rodeo

It's time again for the Cache County Fair and Rodeo. This annual celebration, August 12 to 14, is diverse enough to offer something for everyone. Young 4-H members, from every community in the county, compete in friendly competition. Older citizens enjoy strolling through varied displays and renewing friendships with other attendees. Cache County residents are blessed with a fairgrounds facility that has many shade trees, lots of green grass, cool running water, and sundry exhibits. This year's theme is a reminder that we live in a Great County and always enjoy a Great Fair and Rodeo.

Some are of the opinion that the Extension office is in charge of the County Fair, but that is not the case. We are involved in many of the happenings, and do our best to be supportive and helpful, but a host of volunteers provide the real energy for this event. Jill Zollinger, Cache County Clerk, is the Fair Manager and LaMont Poulsen takes leadership of the Rodeo. The Cache County Council provides a budget for committees to work with, but we depend upon community support to make the Fair and Rodeo a paying enterprise.

There is no admission for entry to the County Fair, and we believe Cache County residents appreciate this. Rodeo and Carnival tickets are already available at the Cache County Administration Building, Maceys Food and Drug in Providence, Petersen's Country Store in Nibley, and IFA Country Store in Hyde Park. All day ride tickets with Brown Amusements cost \$18 each and will be available thru August 11, or until sold out. Reserved and general admission Rodeo tickets are always a great value. Families will enjoy the option of discounted tickets for Family night at the Rodeo on Thursday, August 12. The One Arm Bandit specialty act, in addition to traditional rodeo events, will make our rodeo exciting. Bar-T Rodeo is the stock contractor again this year.

Livestock, dairy, equine, and poultry exhibits are traditional events at County Fairs, but departments have expanded to include all citizens. 4-H club exhibits are as diverse as are the members. Gardeners and florists will want to exhibit their produce in horticultural contests. Individuals skilled in baking, canning, needle work and other hobbies will have an interest in the Home Arts department.

Artists and photographers will want to consider participation in the Fine Art Show. Community booths always bring out the best in neighborhoods. The Bowery is a nice place to be as talented musicians share various talents. Again, the entire grounds will be covered with commercial booths, allowing vendors and potential customers opportunity to interact.

The Junior Livestock Auction will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 14 in the Cache Arena. This lively event provides community members an opportunity to invest in 4-H and FFA youth who have spent months working with their exhibits, while learning valuable life lessons. The objective of livestock projects is to provide lessons that will allow young people to move on in life with strong character and ethical values, ultimately building strong communities. Individuals and businesses in our valley have always been supportive and pay premium prices for quality animals. That generosity has assisted lots of young people in funding college educations, church missions, and a variety of service opportunities. Buyers can purchase animals for home use, or simply “boost” them with a donation above market price. Buyers should anticipate registering shortly before the sale where they will be given an official bidding number.

This column will not permit a description of all departments, but the entire fair book is available at www.cachecounty.org. Individuals who prefer a hard copy are invited to visit the Extension office. Please accept our invitation to participate in another Great Fair and Rodeo.