

Another Fair has come and gone; and with the combination of perfect weather, and even better volunteers, it was tremendously successful. We've been working hard to keep the fair exciting with fresh events like the Children's Lawnmower Pull that spark everyone's interest and participation. We'll continue to do so, and appreciate everyone's suggestions and enthusiasm on such matters.

The 91st Annual Deerfield Valley Farmers' Day Fair was held August 21st - 24th 2008.

It is with great enthusiasm to inform you that planning for the 2009 fair has already begun! Visit our website from time to time for breaking news on the upcoming fair at www.dvair.com. It's a great source of information about the fair, the events, and a way to get many of the fair's forms.

Exhibits

149 Deerfield Valley Farmers' Day Fair Association Members participated in bringing in 1,172 exhibits to the fair. Last year the fair paid \$1,314 youth exhibitors and \$944 to Adult Exhibitors. That's a total of \$2,004.75! It's great fun for the kids!

Town Specifics

Dover

22 Dover residents participated in bringing in 327 exhibits. 15% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Dover, however, their exhibits made up 20% of the total. This shows that Dover Exhibitor's take a great amount of pride in its work, and are eager to show it off. It's great fun for the kids! Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$302.25 went to Dover youth exhibitors. Dover Adults earned \$114.50 of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$416.75 paid to Dover Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Dover pride at this year's fair!

Halifax

10 Halifax residents participated in bringing in 35 exhibits. 7% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Halifax, however, their exhibits made up just 3% of the total. This shows that Halifax Exhibitor's are making a strong effort to get some of their items to the fair. Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$33.75 went to Halifax youth exhibitors. Halifax Adults earned \$114.50 of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$56.75 paid to Halifax Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Halifax pride at this year's fair!

Readsboro

3 Readsboro residents participated in bringing in 8 exhibits. 2% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Readsboro, however, their exhibits made up 1% of the total. This shows that Readsboro Exhibitor's are making a strong effort to get some of their items to the fair. It's great fun for the kids! Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$8.00 went to Readsboro youth exhibitors. Readsboro Adults earned \$8.00 of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$16.00 paid to Readsboro Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Readsboro pride at this year's fair!

Stratton

2 Stratton residents participated in bringing in 10 exhibits. 1% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Stratton, and, their exhibits made up 1% of the total. This shows that Stratton Exhibitor's are making a strong effort to get some of their items to the fair. It's great fun for the kids! Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$19.50 went to Stratton youth exhibitors. As there were no Stratton Adults exhibitors, they did not receive any of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$19.50 paid to Stratton Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Stratton pride at this year's fair!

Wardsboro

6 Wardsboro residents participated in bringing in 31 exhibits. 4% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Wardsboro, however, their exhibits made up 3% of the total. This shows that Wardsboro Exhibitor's are making a strong effort to get some of their items to the fair. It's great

fun for the kids! Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$55.50 went to Wardsboro youth exhibitors. Wardsboro Adults earned in \$10.50 of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$66.00 paid to Wardsboro Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Wardsboro pride at this year's fair!

Whitingham

16 Readsboro residents participated in bringing in 70 exhibits. 11% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Whitingham, however, their exhibits made up 6% of the total. This shows that Whitingham Exhibitor's are making a strong effort to get some of their items to the fair. It's great fun for the kids! Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$44.25 went to Whitingham youth exhibitors. Whitingham Adults earned in \$71.00 of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$115.25 paid to Whitingham Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Whitingham pride at this year's fair!

Wilmington

89 Wilmington residents participated in bringing in 780 exhibits. 60% of the exhibitors at last year's fair were from Wilmington, however, their exhibits made up 67% of the total. This makes the Town of Wilmington the strongest exhibitor at the fair and also shows a great amount of pride in its work. It's great fun for the kids! Last year the fair paid over \$1,060.75 to kids, of which \$597.50 went to Wilmington youth exhibitors. Wilmington Adults earned \$717.00 of the total \$944.00 in Adult premiums. That's a total of \$1314.50 paid to Wilmington Exhibitors! Let's see some more of that Wilmington pride at this year's fair!

It was however, a fair without fried dough. Many noticed that the midway was lacking the about 10 booths of games and food. In the past, these booths had been operated by subcontractors of our Amusements provider. Conduct issues had recently deteriorated their relationship, and by the time the fair organizers were advised of the situation, little could be done to resolve it. I am sorry for those let down, and thankful for those who expressed their enthusiasm and continued to patron the fair and it's vendors.

The Fair's opening day was welcomed by comfortable temperatures under clear skies, with the a return of fantastic Truck Pull with a new Modified Class by invitation only. The truck pull attracted 82 participants and many more spectators. The Fair's Family Night continued to be a great success that allowed fairgoers a chance to ride all the rides between 6 and 10 pm with the purchase of a bracelet. The Talent Show/Contest offered competitive entertainment during the twilight hours. Fair attendance was better on Thursday than it has been in over 10 years. To appease the parking issues that always arise on Thursday evening, we attempted to add a Park & Ride location with a dollar off admission to entice people to take advantage of it. Parking ran short as it always has, and few took advantage of the Park & Ride location, with only seven cars in the lot at any given time. Thank you to the Gore family, the MOOver, and the Brattleboro Dept. of Public Works whose cooperation made the Park & Ride Possible.

The Fair continued on Friday with clear skies and slightly warmer weather. Friday was a lesser attended evening, however, with the addition of the Children's Lawnmower Pull, increased fair attendance to record levels over the past three years. The smaller crowd allowed Fairgoers to enjoy shorter ride lines on the midway, a checkers/cribbage tournament, an ox pull, and the Country Jam session.

On Saturday, we were blessed with continued clear skies comfortable temperatures in the mid 80's. Tours to the Searsburg Windmill Facility were sponsored by GMP and IBERDROLA RENEWABLES. The Fair's traditional events and contests were also held which included the Sawing Competition, Farmer for A Day, Children's Barnyard, a clown, a Pie Eating Contest, Tae Kwon Do Demonstration, Circus Games Workshop, a Family Dance, and a PeeWee Midway. Participants of all ages competed in the horse show, cattle show, horse pulling, games, demonstrations and exhibition premiums.

Sunday was again enjoyed by clear skies and comfortable temperatures in the mid 80s. Participation and attendance in the derby were notably down. Some were able to enjoy the dwindling midway while taking a break the roar of the engines at the demolition derby.

The Fair Association is grateful to all participants and volunteers whose hard work and participation contribute to the continued success of the fair. It takes thousands of hours and numerous people to put on the Fair each year. Many businesses and individuals donate prizes, materials and equipment. Last year, Guilford was unable to have their fair. This year Franklin County could not hold a fair. Few fairs remain within the State of Vermont, and this community as whole deserves a pat on the back for keeping this traditional fair a part of our local history. We also thank the Wilmington Town Office, School District, Police, Fire, and Highway Departments who help out, as well as both Whitingham and Deerfield Valley Rescue, and the Windham County Sheriff's Dept. Thank you to the Deerfield Valley Rotary Club for providing transportation via golf carts assisting the fair in being handicapped accessible. Thank you to the Town of Wilmington, which has contributed financially in providing police coverage, and to those individuals who'd worked the shifts on the Wilmington Police Department.

Barbara Cole, who has served as a Trustee for seven years, and filled the roles of several Superintendents, has bid us farewell this year. Thank you for all of your help, you'll be missed.

We welcome your ideas and comments for events and improvements to the Fair or your volunteer time at the fair to setup, operate, and clean up after the fun is over. If you are interested, please contact any of the fair association trustees. Our regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, at the Wilmington Fire Station.

Steven E. Adams, President

Trustees: Sarah Shippee, Phil Bartlett, Stanley Cross, Cathy Flower, John Wheeler, Steven Adams, Diana Brown, Deborah Boyd, Donna Roemmelt, Barbara Cole, Melissa Powers.

See You At The 92nd Deerfield Valley Farmers' Day Fair, August 27 – 30, 2009!