



# MARYLAND STATE FAIR

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GENERAL FAIR INFORMATION:

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Or, check it out on the web: [marylandstatefair.com](http://marylandstatefair.com)

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### 4-H MEMBERS TO PREPARE "HERO PACKS" FOR CHILDREN AND SEND E-MAIL GREETINGS TO SOLDIERS DURING 4-H MILITARY DAY AT THE MARYLAND STATE FAIR

4-H members from across the state have invited more than 300 guests from eight Maryland military bases and reserve guard units to participate in *4-H Military Day*, Friday, August 24, 2007, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., in the Maryland State Fair 4-H/FFA Home Arts Building. "The event is designed to honor the men and women serving our country, share the many ways 4-H youth support our troops, and educate the general public on how they may get involved," said 4-H Military Program Coordinator Kim West.

*4-H Military Day* will include opportunities for 4-H members, military guests and the general public to stuff "Hero Packs" full of gifts provided by community partners that will be delivered to children of National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers; design greeting cards and write letters to deployed soldiers directly from the State Fair via the Operation Military Kids (OMK) laptop computers; and participate in a variety of fun events including "Operation Bug Out," a teen mock deployment activity, arts and crafts and face painting.

In addition, 4-H Military staff through speeches and a slide show will share the positive impact of the program and recognize the military guests in attendance and program partners.

The 2007 Maryland State Fair is a sure bet for summer food, fun and festivities. In celebration of its 126<sup>th</sup> year, the 11-day festival will feature thousands of home arts and agricultural exhibits, daily livestock and horse shows, a wide variety of midway rides and games, thoroughbred horse racing and national entertainment. The Maryland State Fair opens **Friday, August 24 and runs through Monday, September 3, 2007**, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. at the Timonium Fairgrounds in Baltimore County. Early risers are welcome to attend livestock and horse shows at 9 a.m., gates and exhibit halls open from 10 a.m.- 10 p.m., and the Midway opens at 10 a.m. on weekends, 12 noon on weekdays, and stays open late on selected nights. No other event provides so much food, fun and family entertainment for so little. **Admission is only \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 6-11 years old. Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides and concerts are individually priced.**

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The Maryland State Fair annually recognizes the talents of Marylanders of all ages as well as the hard work of thousands of 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members who compete in shows and demonstrations throughout the 11 days of the Fair. Over the years, MD State Fair facilities and competitions have been expanded and modernized allowing for more and better exhibits. **The order of livestock shows has changed this year** with Open Class Livestock Shows from Fri., Aug. 24 to Wed., Aug. 29 and 4-H/FFA Livestock Shows from Fri., Aug. 31 to Labor Day Mon., Sept. 3. 4-H will host the **4-H Fashion Revue**, Tues., Aug. 28, 7:00 p.m. in the Cow Palace and the popular **Costume Animal Contest** on Fri., Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m. in the Horse Show Arena. The **4-H/FFA Livestock Sale** will take place Sun., Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cow Palace.

The MD State Fair is a fun and educational resource complete with daily exhibits and presentations that are sure to captivate visitors of all ages. Keep an eye on [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com) for announcements of national bands performing in the *MD State Fair Concert Series*. Prices vary. Lawn Seating in the Racetrack Infield is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Back by popular demand:** *The J Bar W Ranch Battle of the Beasts professional bull riding* in the Horse Show Arena on Mon., Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.; the *Swiftly Swine Pig Racing and Swimming Show* featuring a Piggie University (PU) class on the Midway; the **Univ. of MD Agriculture Fair Tours** starting at the Cow Palace; the **Birthing Center**, where fairgoers may witness the miracle of birth of calves and piglets under the supervision of veterinarians and students and the **Cow Milking Clinic** in the Cow Palace; the **Antique Vehicle Display**, Sun., Sept. 2, at the Racetrack Grandstand, and more.

**Thoroughbred horseracing** begins daily, Fri., August 24 at 1 p.m. with live and/or simulcast races except Tuesday, August 28 when the track will be completely dark. Admission to the racetrack is included in the admission price of the Fair.

Fairgoers are invited to **explore** the Farm & Garden, 4-H/Home Arts Buildings, the Cow Palace, Horse Show Ring, and other agricultural buildings and displays as well as the Exhibition Hall. For nature lovers, join the **Department of Natural Resources** near the State Fair Park to learn about conservation, recreation, stewardship and protection of Maryland's natural resources.

**The Midway** will provide thrills and chills for the entire family with over 40 rides. "Kiddie Land" will offer tame but exciting rides, while the Midway promises to thrill even the bravest fairgoers. In addition, a wide selection of food will satisfy the spirit as well as the palate. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to enjoy the delightful taste of corn dogs and cotton candy on the Midway, or the traditional flavor of crab cakes, mouth-watering sandwiches, corn-on-the-cob, fruit, ice cream and many other products fresh from Maryland farms at the **MD State Fair Foods Pavilion**. **Parking** on the Fairgrounds for a minimal fee and free parking at the Park and Ride location on Deereco Road are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Fairgrounds encourages use of the **Light Rail** with an easily accessible Light Rail stop at the Fairgrounds' Cow Palace Gate. For fairgoers' convenience, **ATM Machines** will be located in front of the 4-H Building and Exhibition Hall and in the Cow Palace and the Grandstand.

The 126<sup>th</sup> MD State Fair has something for everyone, the young and the young at heart. **Proud sponsors** of The MD State Fair include: Winner Distributing Company/Budweiser; BG&E; Food Lion; Frito-Lay; Vacation Village; Kitchen Craft; Maryland State Lottery; Maryland Transit Administration; Party Perfect; Pepsi; Schmidt's Baking Company; Baltimore Sun Papers; Toyota; WMAR-TV2; among others. For general information, call 410-252-0200, ext. 227 or visit the Maryland State Fair web site at [marylandstatefair.com](http://marylandstatefair.com).