



MARYLAND STATE FAIR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SALE AT THE MARYLAND STATE FAIR
PROVIDES A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS TO HELP YOUTH
CONTINUE THEIR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

For over fifty years, community business owners and individuals have shown their support to 4-H/FFA youth through participation as buyers at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, among the supporters are Ad Layout & Design, Cornerstone Antiques, Graul's Market, Hatfield, Papa John's Market, Pepsi-Cola, Padonia Station, Spring Meadow Farms, and The STOP Corporation. The 2007 auction will take place Sunday, September 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Maryland State Fair's Cow Palace Show Ring.

4-H/FFA youth will auction off their prize steer, lamb, goats and market hogs. Each youth will receive the proceeds raised from the sale of their livestock to invest in their education or a new livestock project.

The Livestock Sale is the culmination of a year's worth of hard work and competition by 4-H/FFA youth. "This is an excellent opportunity for the youth. They have invested a lot of time and money in their livestock in order to prepare them for competition and auction," said State Fair 4-H Sale Co-Chair Kathy Gordon. "It teaches them responsibility for their animals, the ability to make wise management decisions, and provides the financial support and encouragement necessary to meet future goals."

In order to qualify for the auction, the livestock must compete in various shows during the Fair. The livestock judges will name the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions and a selection committee of knowledgeable individuals will choose the allotted number of livestock to be sold based on quality.

The Livestock Sale will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the sale of market goats, market steers followed by market hogs, and market lambs. Livestock is bid on by the pound. Last year: Konnar Miller of Frederick County sold her Grand Champion Market Goat to Mary Ann Ridgely of Long & Foster for \$5.50 per pound (\$484.00). Corey Krietz of Frederick County sold his 1302 pound **Grand Champion Market Steer** to Dale Lambert of Carquest of Frederick for \$6.00 per pound (\$7812.00); Jamie Openshaw of Carroll County sold her 248 pound **Grand Champion Market Hog** to Deggeller Attractions for \$5.25 per pound (\$1302.00); and, Morgan Meisenheimer of Howard County sold her 131 pound **Grand Champion Market Lamb** to Jean Zettman for \$12.00 per pound (\$1572.00).

VISA, MasterCard, and American Express Cards will be accepted. Arrangements will be made for free delivery of the livestock to a selected local meat packer who will package the meat to the buyer's specification at the buyer's expense, or many buyers choose to donate their animals back to the Maryland 4-H Foundation or other specified charities following which the animal will be resold at market price.

The 2007 Maryland State Fair is a sure bet for summer food, fun and festivities. In celebration of its **126th 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.

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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.**

The MD 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 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 Fri., August 24 with live and/or simulcast races daily beginning at 1 p.m. 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 126th 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 info., call 410-252-0200x 227 or visit the MD State Fair web site at marylandstatefair.com.