

08/30/12 - State Fair Held Again this Labor Day Weekend



Imagine being surrounded by the smells of Italian sausage loaded with peppers and onions, French fries fresh from the oil, fried dough caked in powdered sugar and cinnamon, and manure. Children are screaming from all different directions, cows are mooing, engines are roaring from across the field, and you can't help but smile. You make your way through the crowds and pillars of smoke from the overcooked food, to the center of it all. Why? Well, because it's a state fair and it only comes once a year. A New Hampshire tradition now in its 97th year, the Hopkinton State Fair officially started today, August 30, 2012. The fair boasts five days filled with animals, wild shows, rides, demonstrations, food, and so much more. Fairgrounds open early, and close late, letting the thousands that come exhaust themselves, stuff themselves, and leave feeling completely content.

Events this year include Kids Celebration, an interactive show for the family that provides an amazing and fantastic experience for all. Also, the Free Cycle Bikes and Skateboards will perform. Professionals will perform daredevil stunts choreographed to high energy music. Ron Diamond will also headline with two different shows. The Magic of Ron Diamond and Ron Diamond's Hypnosis will amaze all with his feats of magic and illusion.

For farmers and animal lovers, several shows have been scheduled for the weekend. The Stock Farm Tractor Pull, a few Horse Pulling demonstrations, and an Open Sheep Show will be today's agricultural highlights. Also featured during the weekend will be 4-H Swine Shows, Cattle Pulling, Pony Pulling, and Draft Horse Farm Shows.



During the rest of the weekend, a special Sand Sculpting demonstration will be held near Piggy Palace. The team of master sand sculptors will turn mounds of sand into works of art right before spectators eyes. A maple sugar house will show visitors how maple syrup is made, and will offer samples of one of New Hampshire's oldest agricultural traditions.

Charmingfare Farm will bring the classic barnyard animals for a special petting farm to entertain adults and children alike. The Midway will feature rides to thrill anyone. Opening at noon on Thursday and Friday, and 10 AM on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Fiesta Shows' Midway has partnered with the fair to bring the best of the best in rides. Along with regularly priced tickets, the fair offers "Pay One Price." This allows guests to ride unlimited rides for one price.



A short trip north on 93, through the tolls, and onto highway 89, the fairgrounds are just off Exit 7. Follow the signs, they'll take you straight to the fun! Once there, parking in the fair's lot costs only three dollars. If parking is full, several other private parking lots are in the area and cost anywhere from two to four dollars. Admission into the gates varies depending on days and ages. The prices are as follows:

Adults Age 12 and Up

Thursday and Friday: \$8

Saturday and Sunday: \$10

Monday: \$5

Senior Citizens Age 60 and Up

Thursday and Friday: \$7

Saturday and Sunday: \$10

Monday: \$5

Child Age 6 to 12

Thursday, Friday and Monday: \$5

Saturday and Sunday: \$6

Child Age 5 and Under

Any Day: Free

Grandstand shows require an additional admission fee. Prices may vary depending on shows and ages of children. Visit the [Hopkinton State Fair website](#) for more information.

