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## Summer tradition: Boone fair ready again

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Boone County's annual summer gathering of livestock contests, rides and treats is about to start.

The Boone County 4-H & Utopia Fair begins Saturday, July 31, and runs Aug. 2-7 at the Boone County Fairgrounds on Idlewild Road in Burlington. This is the 78th year for the fair which began in 1932.

Admission is \$8 for ages 3 and older. The price gets a person into the fair and all rides. Ages 2 and under are free with rides \$2 each.

"We're still able to keep the Boone County fair economically family friendly," fair board member Sandra Cupps said.

Admission for the past two years has been steady.

David Wallace, the fair board's vice president, said last year attendance was around 35,000 for the week. The previous year attendance was closer to 36,000.

"We're very weather dependent," he said.

Wallace said in the current economic times, the fair is a great value for family entertainment.

"You always want more but, yes, I've been generally pleased with the attendance at the fair," he said.

Those familiar with the fairgrounds might notice a change this year.

The Lents Podium, a stage where live music was performed, is gone. Cupps said it was removed for better traffic flow and for booth space. She said all of the bands will be at the Pavilion.

A new event is at 7 p.m. on Friday of the fair. The miniature hot rod garden tractor pull takes place in the Motor Sports Arena.

The fair begins with the Fishing Frenzy that is 2:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 31, at the fairgrounds lake. The lake will be stocked with catfish. Youth ages 15 and younger catch fish and release them. Last year was the first year for the event.

Cupps said organizers encourage people to bring their own fishing pole but a limited number of poles will be provided by the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishermen. Bait is available courtesy of the organization and Smith's Discount Tobacco & Bait in Walton. Cupps said 100 children participated in the fishing last year.

"It seemed to be a great kickoff for the fair," she said.



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Lynlee Higgins, 18 months old, and her mother Jennifer of Union watch a horse show last year at the Boone County 4-H & Utopia Fair in Burlington. They competed in the lead line class with Lynlee riding her horse, Sugar.

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Rides are available 6 p.m. until close Aug. 2-6 and 1 p.m. until closing on Aug. 7.

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