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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MONMOUTH COUNTY FAIR OFFERS FAMILY FUN**



*See animals in the 4-H tent during the Monmouth County Fair.*

FREEHOLD --- From blue ribbons to racing pigs, the *Monmouth County Fair* offers all the excitement of an old-fashioned county fair with a modern flair. This annual event, held Wednesday-Sunday, July 24-28 at East Freehold Showgrounds, Kozloski Road, Freehold, will be celebrating its 39th year of providing wholesome fun families can enjoy.

Organized and presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H, the Fair maintains the agricultural nature of a traditional county fair with its Home and Garden Competition and 4-H animal shows and exhibits. Those looking for excitement should be sure to catch *Paragon Jousting*, *E3 Skateboarding Stunt Show*, *Hell on*

*Wheels BMX Stunt Show*, and *Fere Thrill Show*. Once again, the Fair will feature racing pigs, dog demonstrations, and *Bwana Jim's Wildlife Show*.

At the heart of the Fair is the Home & Garden tent. See the county's finest baked goods, vegetables, flowers and arts and craft pieces as residents compete for the honor of calling theirs the best. Inside the Home & Garden tent, fairgoers will also enjoy ongoing beekeeping, gardening and craft demonstrations. Those who don't mind getting a little messy can compete in a pie-eating contest or our on-site children's cake/cupcake decorating contest.

This year, the Future Farmers of American (FFA) chapters in Monmouth County will run a farm stand in the Agriculture Tent. Fairgoers can purchase Monmouth County grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut flowers. Proceeds will be used for FFA student activities. In addition to the farm stand, the tent will feature mini-golf "Guess the Vegetable." After playing a hole, children are asked to correctly identify three vegetables. Winners get a strawberry plant to bring home. Adding to the atmosphere, several antique tractors will be on display.

Those looking to learn more about the county's agricultural heritage should stop by the Living History Tent. Staff from the Park System's Historic Walnford in Upper Freehold and Historic Longstreet Farm in Holmdel will be demonstrating gadgets of the past. See gizmos from yesteryear, how they were used, and their purpose. Each day brings hands-on demonstrations, activities, and fun.

Entertainment is a big part of the Fair and this year's performers promise to be memorable. Wednesday night brings *The Benjamins* to the main stage while local favorites *Brian Kirk and the Jirks* perform on Thursday. The *Amish Outlaws* will return on Friday. Audiences will be dancing to the sounds of *Daddy Pop* on Saturday night. The last act to take the main stage is the *1910 Fruit Gum Company* on Sunday.

This year, the midway features all-new rides. (Please note that rides are weather permitting.) Three blocks of time will be available where fairgoers may purchase ride wristbands for \$20 per person: Wednesday, July 24 from 5-10pm; Thursday, July 25 from 5-10pm; and Sunday, July 28 from 11am-5pm.

Fair hours are 5-11pm Wednesday-Saturday, July 24-27 and 11am-6pm on Sunday, July 28. Admission is \$7 per person; children 12 and under are free. For more information about the Fair, visit [www.monmouthcountyfair.com](http://www.monmouthcountyfair.com), or call 732-842-4000.

The Monmouth County Fair is organized and presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H Association. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.