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## **County Fair opens four-day run with salute to agriculture, fun for all ages**

By Amy Maginnis-Honey  
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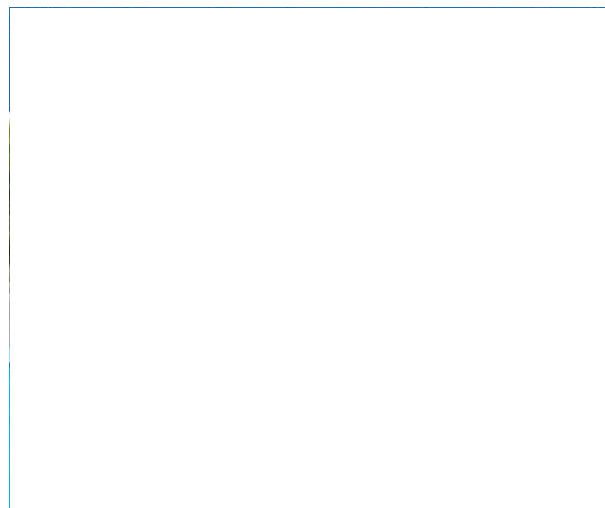


VALLEJO — The 2023 Solano County Fair kicked off Thursday with free admission and an emphasis on agriculture, combining Ag Day with the annual event.

A bevy of organizations – such as California Ag in the Classroom, Elmira 4-H, the local food bank, Pleasants Valley 4-H and the Community Animal Response Team – joined the Solano County Ag Department, the Solano County Farm Bureau. Vacaville FFA and Sustainable Solano were on hand.

The firsts guests were greeted by rabbits, goats and other farm animals along the entrance. Fairgoers were free to pet the critters.

Exposition Hall was filled with a variety of activities including the chance to touch a real cow hide, a place to gather toy eggs in a plastic basket and play chess with a large plastic set.



Jackie Cordero, 19 months, was at his first fair and played a giant light-bright game. “He’s a big fan of the animals,” said his mother Mandy Cordero. The petting zoo would most likely follow, then a visit with the goats.

The family was visiting from southern California.

Tammie LeBar, of Vallejo, walked through McCormack Hall, home of the winning jams, quilts, photographs, paintings and more.

She estimated she has been going the fair 15-20 years, before Covid-19 closed it down in 2020. “I am glad they have it back,” she said.

“We are here to look at the sights and get great food,” she said, hoping to get her hands on at least a hamburger or hot dog. A turkey leg was also on her list.

A short distance away, the Hassan family was admiring the art created by Nadim and his sister Sumaya.

Both are homeschooled.

Nadim, a second-grader, did a pencil sketch of a hummingbird. It was originally intended as a birthday gift for his mother. He entered it in the fair, earning a first place.

When the fair is over, his mother gets her belated birthday gift.

Sumaya, a sixth-grader, did a picture of a butterfly. It was inspired by a visit the California Academy of Sciences, where some butterflies were emerging.

In the livestock area, Mary Schiada, of Benica, snapped a picture of Madeline Wilson’s goat, Royal Ruby, being milked.



Amanda Jones, 4, of Vallejo makes a giant bubble at the Solano County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Thursday, June 15, 2023. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

“It was the first I’ve seen a goat being milked,” she said. Goats are her favorite farm animal, she said.

They are special to Madeline, too. Royal Ruby is now 2. Madeline has raised the animal since she was 8-weeks-old, bottle feeding it twice a day until it reached 4 months.

At one point, the Wilson family had 57 animal babies on their Dixon property. That number is now about 32, all younger than a year.

“She’s got a good personality,” Madeline said of Royal Ruby.

A member of the Vaca Valley Grange, Madeline also raises sheep, chickens and rabbits, to name a few.

A short distance away, all ages enjoyed the Barnyard Races featuring goats, sheep and pigs. Audience participation was key as each section of seating had a cheerleader to encourage the animal wearing the same color scarf as the cheerleader’s pom pom.

This year’s theme is “Celebrate Solano.” The fair runs through Sunday.

Pride will be celebrated Saturday as the fair has partnered with Out at the Fair, a group that celebrates diversity and inclusiveness in a fun and festive atmosphere.

Attendees are welcome to don their Pride wear. A group photo is planned at 5 p.m. in front of McCormack Hall.

A Juneteenth flag and Pride flag are being flown.

Hours are noon to 10 p.m. through Sunday.

Find more information at <https://www.scfair.com/2023-solano-county-fair>.



Fairgoers ride the Star Tower at the Solano County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Thursday, June 15, 2023. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

Aaron Rosenblatt



Amanda Jones, 4, of Vallejo makes a giant bubble at the Solano County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Thursday, June 15, 2023. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

Aaron Rosenblatt



Madison Wilson, 11, of Vaca Valley Grange milks her goat, Royal Ruby, at the Solano County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Thursday, June 15, 2023. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

Aaron Rosenblatt



Mango entertains fairgoers while walking on stilts at the Solano County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Thursday, June 15, 2023. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

Aaron Rosenblatt



Goats compete in the All Creatures Barnyard Races at the Solano County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Thursday, June 15, 2023. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

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