

Supplement to The Malone Telegram

175<sup>th</sup> Year

August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2025



# Franklin COUNTY FAIR



Yummy!

# Franklin County Fair off and running

The Franklin County Fair Board is ready to kick off the one hundred-seventy-fifth Franklin County Fair in Malone.

This year we are packing nine incredible days with entertainment for everyone!

Fair week began on July 28 with Sire Stakes Horse Racing. The week heats up with our heart-pounding Demolition Derby on August 2, followed by the night lighting up with our spectacular Fireworks Show.

Hold on tight for Sunday's Monster Truck Stunt Show! The action continues with the Northern New York Tractor Pull on Monday, while Tuesday brings hometown pride with Miss Franklin County Fair, our 175th Directors An-

niversary Dedication, Small Town Famous Talent Show and Cornhole.

Get ready for Blippi and the Join the Band Tour on Wednesday!

Country music fans, don't miss Sawyer Brown with Drew Baldrige on Thursday, followed by Cooper Alan and Josh Ross on Friday.

Rock legends Blue Oyster Cult and Foghat promise to rock the track on Saturday!

We wrap up Sunday with the Northern New York Truck and Tractor Pull Association.

All your favorite food stands are back and rides for all ages. Your biggest summer celebration is right in your backyard at the Franklin County Fair in Malone.



The 38 Special concert in 2024 drew a large crowd to the Franklin County Fair. Blue Oyster Cult and Foghat will highlight this year's concerts. RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM



Where's the dart? There are many popular games to choose from at the Franklin County Fair, and one of the most popular is trying to burst balloons with a dart toss. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram

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# Blue Oyster Cult, Foghat to perform at Franklin County Fair

By **ALEXANDER VIOLLO**

AVIOLLO@MALONETELEGRAM.COM

Music fans will have a chance to enjoy both country and rock concerts at this year's Franklin County Fair.

The third concert of this year's Franklin County Fair will be Blue Oyster Cult, with very special guest Foghat, according to Dave Gokey of the Franklin County Fair Board, who said the concert will take place on Saturday, Aug. 9, in front of the fairgrounds' grandstand in Malone.

Tickets for the Blue Oyster Cult and Foghat show are on sale.

"We announced two good rock bands and we will have three full nights of music" Gokey said.

According to Gokey, gates for the rock concert will open at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 9, and the show will start at 7 p.m.

Gokey said tickets to the fair's rock and country concerts can be purchased online at [frcfair.com](http://frcfair.com) and at the fair office off of East Main Street, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The first two concerts of next year's Franklin County Fair were announced in December 2024.

Sawyer Brown, a country music band, will perform on Thursday, Aug. 7, during fair week, when they are joined by country singer Drew Baldridge.

On Friday, Aug. 8, country singer Cooper Alan, with special guest Josh Ross, will take the stage in Malone, according to Gokey.

"We have had good attendance at the country shows and there's always a call for rock shows too. We did three last year and other than the weather it went well and we thought we would give it a try again. There's a lot of demand for it," he said, "We try to listen to people and what bands they want to hear, some of them



**Blue Oyster Cult.** Image from Blue Oyster Cult Facebook page

are just out of our budget and some of them just aren't available."

In addition to the three concerts during fair week, Gokey said a show geared towards kids, Blippi, part of the Join the Band tour, will take place at the grandstand on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

Gokey said the timing of the this year's fair worked with the schedule for Blue Oyster Cult and Foghat.

"We took these two because a lot of things worked out, scheduling and routing lined up great for our fair," he said.

In 2024, the county fair also hosted three concerts during fair week.

"Last year was the first year that we had three concerts nights, we decided to go with three concerts, trying to cover all the genres, new country, older country and some 70s and 80s rock and roll," Gokey said, "One of the other reasons is once our stage is set up we have to keep the stage set up until the second show is done. In the past, we used to have one on the Saturday night of opening weekend and then one on Friday night. So we had

to have the stage set up for the whole week and it was costly to leave it for a week so now

we can do it in three nights, save money and put on better shows."



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# Farmer Boy Goes to the Franklin County Fair

Farmer Boy, the second book in Laura Ingalls Wilder's treasured 'Little House' series, chronicles a year in the life of her husband, Almanzo Wilder, while growing up on his family's farm in Burke; where he lived from the time of his birth in 1857, until 1875, when his family moved to Minnesota. The Almanzo Wilder Homestead is the actual site of the Wilder family farm and the only Little House site (and there are many) to receive recognition as a Literary Landmark. The Homestead is also on the New York State Register of Historic Places and, in December 2014, was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Agriculture has been a part of northern New York's culture for centuries, as the book "Farmer Boy" illustrates. Franklin County was established in 1808 and the Franklin County Agricultural Fair has been a tradition deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of our local communities since 1852.

Chapter 21 of the book recounts Almanzo's experiences at the Fair, more than 150 years ago. According to the author, it was 'early in the frosty morning' when Almanzo and his family 'set out for the Fair. All of them were dressed up in their Sunday clothes except Mother. She wore her second-best and took an apron, for she was going to

help with the church dinner.'

Almanzo was thrilled to be showing his pumpkin, which 'was too big to go in the buggy' and had been loaded into a wagon and transported to the Fairgrounds the day before. Almanzo's sister Alice was showing her 'woolwork embroidery' and she and her sister Eliza Jane were showing the jellies, preserves, and pickles that they'd made.

Upon their arrival at the Fair, Father asks Almanzo, "What shall we do first?" and he replies, "I want to see the horses." They look at the Morgan horses first. Then the thoroughbreds. Almanzo sees Belgian horses for the first time in his life. And in admiration, Father says, "Look at that muscle! They'd pull a barn, if hitched to it." But Almanzo wonders aloud, "What's the good of a horse that can pull a barn? We don't want to pull a barn. A Morgan has muscle enough to pull a wagon, and he's fast enough to pull a buggy, too." Then the author describes what happens when Almanzo sees 'two black creatures. They were something like horses, but they were not horses. Their tails were bare, with only a bunch of hair at the tip. Their short, bristly manes stood up straight and stiff. Their ears were like rabbits' ears.' It was the first time Almanzo had ever laid eyes on a mule. And their braying

terrified him. "It's only a half-breed horse, son," Father said. "The first mule you ever saw. You're not the only one that was scared." 'Almanzo felt better when he saw the colts,' writes Ingalls Wilder.

Almanzo views Guernsey, Jersey, Devon, and Durham cattle; Chester White and Berkshire hogs; and Merino sheep. They watch a horse race. And they quickly look over the vegetables and grain in the stock sheds. They watch foot-races and jumping and throwing contests. And before the day is through, Almanzo's pumpkin wins a blue ribbon; first prize. Alice receives two blue ribbons; one for her woolwork and another for her jellies. And Eliza Jane receives a red ribbon for her jellies. 'Father said the Wilder family had done itself proud, that day.'

As chapter 21 of Farmer Boy demonstrates, the Fair has long been a place where farm kids have come together to compete for ribbons and cash prizes by showcasing their cherished animals, their showmanship, their

skills, and their craftsmanship. For those kids, the Fair is a summer experience unlike any other. The rest of us get to acknowledge the love, hard work, and dedication that they've poured into their dearly loved animals and the effort and enthusiasm that they've put into their projects, while enjoying a glass of freshly-squeezed, ice cold lemonade and / or a burger, sausage sandwich, French fries, fried dough, maple doughnuts, or cotton candy.

At the Wilder Homestead, there's a visitor's center with a museum, as well as barns and buildings with guided tours. Artifacts and storytelling bring the book to life; offering visitors a fascinating look into local history and cultural heritage and allowing them to connect deeply with rural farm homesteading in the latter half of the 19th century. More information about the Almanzo Wilder Homestead is at [almanzowilderfarm.com](http://almanzowilderfarm.com).



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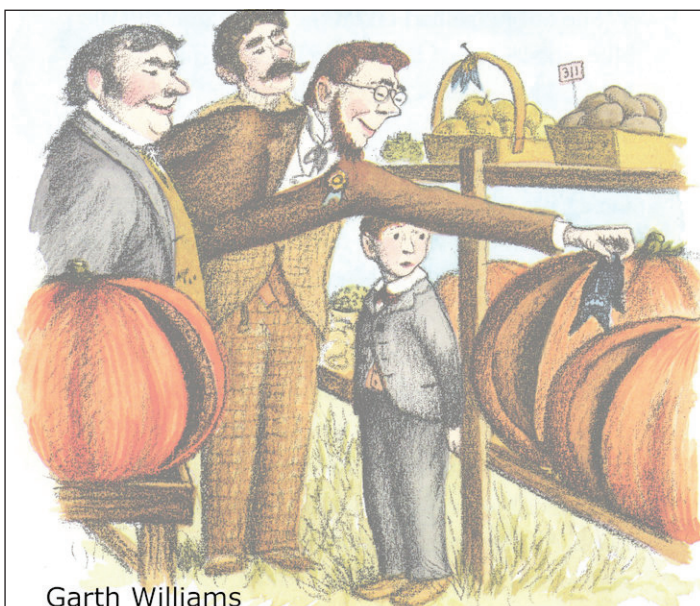


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Garth Williams

Artist Garth Williams illustrated the latest edition of *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. This illustration depicts Almanzo's blue ribbon win for the best pumpkin at the Franklin County Fair.



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# 2025 Franklin County Fair Schedule

**AUGUST 2025**

Free Gate Admission For Children 12 and Under

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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST**

Free Gate Admission Limited Animals in the Barns

Food Vendors Open and Rides Running

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND**

\$8 Gate Admission

12 pm: Franklin County Ag Society Demolition Derby

At Dark: Fireworks Display

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD**

\$8 Gate Admission

9 am: Poultry Judging (Poultry Hall)

10 am: Open Goat Show (Goat Arena)

One Hour After End of Open Goat Show: 4-H Youth Goat Show and Goat Showmanship (Goat Arena)

12 pm: All Beef Cattle In Place

4 pm: Versus Monster Trucks & Stunt Show

**MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH**

\$8 Gate Admission

Children's Day - Prices Reduced on Rides

8 am: 4-H Horse Show - Showmanship, English & Western Riding, Trails, and Games (Riding Arena)

6 pm: Northern New York Truck & Tractor Pull

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH**

Free Admission for All Ages

Senior Citizens Day

Disabled Community Day

Veterans Day

Sensory Perception Day

8 am: 4-H Horse Show - Beginning Riders, Miniature Horses, and Games (Riding Arena)

12 pm: All Dairy Cattle in Place

3 pm: Franklin County Ag Society Miss Franklin County Fair/Northern NY Beauty Pageant

5 pm: Franklin County

Fair 175th Anniversary Celebration/Directors Recognition

6 pm: Cornhole Tournament

6:30 pm: Small Town Famous / Franklin County Has Talent

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH**

\$8 Gate Admission

Children's Day - Prices Reduced on Rides

8 am: Horse Show

(Riding Arena)

9 am: Top of the State Holstein Club Show

10 am: Youth Goat Costume and Goat Obstacle Classes (End of Dairy Barn)

6:30 pm: Blippi Join The Band Tour

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH**

\$8 Gate Admission

8 am: All Day Western Horse Show (Arena)

10 am: Open Beef Show

1 pm: 4-H Pet Show (4-H Building)

7 pm: Sawyer Brown with special guest Drew Baldrige

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH**

\$8 Gate Admission

Children's Day - Prices Reduced on Rides

8 am: All Day Pony

See SCHEDULE T10



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# Fair show to benefit playground

By **ALEXANDER VILO**  
aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — This year a raffle, held in conjunction with the Small Town Famous show at the Franklin County Fair, will go toward efforts to bring a new playground to the rec park.

Each year the Performing Arts League of Malone raises funds to support a local cause, according to a press release from the organization, and this year funds from the raffle will be committed to an effort that is underway to replace the existing playground at the Malone Rec Park with a new playground.

Plans for the new playground include making the space accessible to all children and installing equipment that meets the latest Consumer Products Safety Commission Stan-

dards, according to PALM, and members of the public interested in making a donation beyond the purchase of the raffle tickets can do so by sending a check to the Malone Recreation Park Foundation with “Playground Project” on the memo line.

Checks should be mailed to the Malone Recreation Park Foundation, 81 Constable St., Malone, NY 12953.

Steve Shafer, of the rec park commission, is working to submit a grant application to the state’s Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for funding to construct the new playground, according to Stephanie Bannon of PALM.

Successful grant recipients must provide a 25%

See **BENEFIT 7**



A conceptual rendering of what a new playground could look like at the rec park.

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**A group of local, county and state officials stand with Hal Queyor, seventh from left, during intermission of the Small Town Famous show at the Franklin County Fair. Queyor, a member of Malone AMVETS Post 8 was inducted into the New York State Senate Hall of Fame during the 2024 fair.** GREG BLEAKLEY PHOTO

## Benefit

From T6

match, according to the release, and all money raised by PALM through the raffle tickets or additional donations will be put toward the construction of a new playground. In the event that the current grant application is not successful, other grant opportunities and additional fundraising will be pursued to bring this project to fruition, the release said.

Raffle tickets cost \$5 each, three for \$10 and seven for \$20 and can be purchased at the fair office on East Main Street, or by contacting a PALM Group or rec park commission member.

Bannon said raffle tickets will be sold at different venues throughout the community over the next few months.

Prizes for the raffle include 100 gallons of fuel oil, donated by Adirondack Energy, Arnold Oil, Collins Oil, Energy Brothers, Harris Fuels, MJ Leroux, MX Fuels and Suburban Pro-

pane.

Additionally, a queen size mattress from Home Zone, a handmade man cave/garage bench, a septic pump out from Bannon's Sanitation LLC and artwork from Furniture Weekend will also be raffled off.

"This year because some people didn't want to win just fuel we added other items," Bannon said, "I just want to say on behalf of the PALM group of how appreciative we are to all of the people for their generous donations. Without them we wouldn't be able to do this."

The drawing for prizes will take place Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds during the Small Town Famous show.

Raffle tickets will be drawn at the end of the show, according to PALM, and winners do not need to be present to win a prize.

Bannon said this year's show will include past performers with new performers taking the stage as well. The yearly show at the fair features local acts from singers to comedy acts.

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# Scenes from past fairs



Fairgoers enjoy last year's Franklin County Fair in Malone. RICHARD ROSENTRER/MALONE TELEGRAM



The cake contest at last year's Franklin County Fair. Provided photo



Hadley Bigtree, 7, of Akwesasne and sister Haisley Bigtree, 5, enlisted the services of caricature artist Joe Ferris of Willsboro at the Franklin County Fair in 2024. TREVOR BUCHANAN/MALONE TELEGRAM



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# Scenes from past fairs



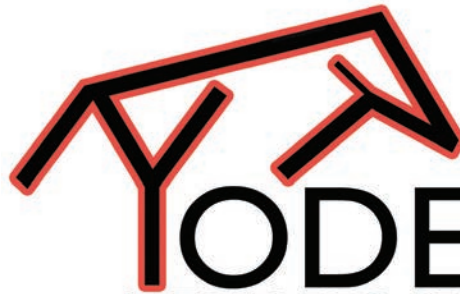
There were plenty of smiles with free gate admission to the Franklin County Fair in Malone. Pictured, Scout Cook, 8, of Chateaugay, gives a smile to her parents, who were watching, as she rides the Merry-Go-Round in 2024. RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM



The Versus Monster Truck Show at the Clinton County Fair. Image from Versus Monster Truck Facebook page



Jenna Premo holds the Blue Ribbon she just won moments after taking first place with her junior two-year-old brown Swiss at the 2024 Franklin County Fair as father Chris Premo helps hold the prize-winning cow. RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM



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The midway was busy both night and day all through the Franklin County Fair and attendance was up in 2024. RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM

## Schedule

From T5

and Horse Show (Arena)  
10 am: 4-H Youth Beef Show

1 pm: 4-H Youth Dairy Breeds Show

7 pm: Cooper Alan with special guest Josh Ross

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH

\$8 Gate Admission

9 am: Cattle Judging - Dairy Breeds

9 am: Open Sheep Show (Sheep Barn)

One Hour After End of Open Sheep Show: 4-H Sheep Showmanship & Conformation (Sheep Barn)

7 pm: Blue Oyster Cult with very special guest Foghat

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH

\$8 Gate Admission

Limited Animals in Barns

10 am: Franklin County Ag Society Truck & Tractor Pull

4 pm: NYTPA Tractor Pull

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# Scenes from past fairs



Bumper cars returned to the 2023 Franklin County Fair and were a popular attraction Sunday on opening day, and the ride generated smiles from both adults and children. RICHARD ROSENTRERER/MALONE TELEGRAM



Johnny Wisner rides a motorcycle through a wall of flames Wednesday as part of the Black Cat Hell Drivers car stunt show at the 2023 Franklin County Fair. RICHARD ROSENTRERER/MALONE TELEGRAM



Alice Langdon prepares for another busy fair week at Alice's in 2023, a food stand near the livestock barns. Langdon said her preparations are nearly complete for Franklin County's premier event. TREVOR BUCHANAN/MALONE TELEGRAM

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# Scenes from past fairs

Eric McCaughan, of Chateaugay, holds his 17-month son Riley on the carousel ride Sunday on opening day of the 2023 Franklin County Fair, which runs through August 13. RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM



Merrill McKee, left, and Matthew Maneely served as co-hosts of Small Town Famous, a showcase of local talent held during the 2023 Franklin County Fair. TREVOR BUCHANAN/MALONE TELEGRAM



Renee Lord, of Malone, is all smiles after the Black Cat Hell Drivers show clown (Bobby Cox) gave her the bicycle he was using as part of his performance Wednesday at the 2023 Franklin County Fair. RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM

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# Scenes from past fairs



**Melissa Etheridge** rocked the house Saturday at the 2023 Franklin County Fair, and pictured she sings the show's finale "Like the Way I Do." RICHARD ROSENRETER/MALONE TELEGRAM



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\*For a limited time - promotions available for select systems and subscription plans, please call for specific details. Offers are valid for new customers and for the first year of service and cannot be combined with any other offers. \$19.95 is the monthly subscription price for a MobileHelp Classic (at home only) system. There is a one-time \$49.95 processing fee to subscribe to this plan. Equipment shown is the MobileHelp DUO (at home and on the go) system available at a higher monthly cost. Most equipment is included at no cost while actively subscribing and must be returned upon cancellation. Free one month of service offer valid with purchase of Annual plan and includes month 13 at no additional charge. Refer to terms and conditions for specific details. Depending on the promotion chosen, you may receive an additional savings of \$5.50 off the \$11 retail price of Fall Detection service. After first year, Fall Detect pricing reverts to discounted price of \$8.25/month when combined with MobileHelp Connect Premium. Fall Detection does not detect 100% of falls. If able, users should push their help button when they need assistance. Fall detection is not intended to replace a caregiver. MobileHelp is a registered trademark, patented technology. Current GPS location may not always be available in every situation on the cellular network at all times. Expedited shipping offer is for Annual plans made prior to 3 PM EST Mon-Fri. Expedited shipping is standard 2-day - - no deliveries on Saturdays/Sundays or to Hawaii or Alaska. Shipping delays may occur due to situations beyond our control.



# After Fair's conclusion Concert to honor veterans, benefit Americans Supporting Armed Services

Americans Supporting Armed Services, in collaboration with the Malone Franklin County Fairgrounds, is pleased to announce a historic event. For the first time, American Idol alumni and The Voice contestants will share the stage for a one-night-only performance at the Franklin County Fairgrounds Lumberjack Festival on September 13, 2025.

Representatives from Americans Supporting Armed Services expressed their delight in bringing exceptional talent to the area, supporting veteran com-

munities. Bo Bice, the runner-up on American Idol in 2005, will showcase his raw talent that captivated millions. Throughout his 25-year career, he has earned numerous musical accolades, including multiple gold albums and induction into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Known for his dedication to performing for US service members, Bo was honored by President George W. Bush at the White House in 2009.

ASAS representatives stated that he is an ideal pairing

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# Concert

From T14

to perform with The Voice contestants, Tom Nitti and Ashley Bryant. Nitti's passion for music secured his spot on Team Reba in Season 24 of The Voice. A veteran himself, Nitti was deployed to Afghanistan, sustained injuries, and earned the Purple Heart. He serves as a New York State Trooper and trains cadets at the New York State Police Academy.

Ashley Bryant, a 26-year-old singer from Louisville, Kentucky, competed on Season 25 of The Voice as part of Team Reba. She impressed Reba McEntire with her performance of Carrie Underwood's song "Last Name." Bryant advanced to the battle rounds and knockouts, where she met Tom Nitti. The two have since married and are expecting their first child.

To honor the veteran community, all veterans will receive free admission with a

Veteran ID. Presale tickets (\$25) are available at [asasus.org](http://asasus.org), the Americans Supporting Armed Services Facebook event page, or via the link on the Franklin County Fairgrounds website for American Supporting Armed Services.

Tickets will be available the day of the event. Working in conjunction with the Franklin County Fairgrounds, and these wonderful entertainers will enable Americans Supporting Armed Services to continue their mission to aid the veteran communities of Northern, NY. As an all-volunteer organization, 100% of all proceeds go to aiding our veterans.

This event is supported by area sponsors Adirondack Frontier, Community Connections, Malone Ford, Roberts Sport of Saranac, Tru Northern FCU,

St. Lawrence FCU, Jrecks Subs Malone, North Country Savings Bank, BGR Power Inc., Curran Renewable Energy, Michaels Fine Jewelry, and Price Chopper/Market 32.



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# Franklin County Fair Schedule Malone, NY

**Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Free Gate Admission

**Saturday August 2nd**  
12PM - Franklin County Demolition Derby  
Dusk - Fireworks Display



**Sunday August 3rd**  
9AM - Poultry Judging  
10AM - Open Goat Show  
12PM - Beef Cattle in Place  
4PM Versus Monster Truck

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**Monday August 4th**

8AM - 4H Horse Shows & Western Riding Trails  
6PM - Northern New York Truck and Tractor Pull



**Tuesday August 5th**

8AM - 4H Horse Show & Miniture Horse Show  
12PM - All Dairy Cattle in Place  
3PM - Fr Co Ag Society NNY Beauty Pageant  
5PM - 175th Anniversary Director Recognition Ceremony  
6PM - Franklin County Ag Society Cornhole Tournament  
6:30PM - Small Town Famous Talent Show & Ag Society Cornhole Tournament



**Wednesday August 6th**

8AM - Horse Show  
9AM - Top of The State Holstein Club Show  
10AM - Youth Goat Costume Class and Goat Obstacle Course  
6:30PM - Blippi Join The Band Tour Show



**Thursday Aug 7th**

8AM - Western Horse Show  
10AM - Open Beef Show  
1PM - 4H Pet Show  
7PM - Sawyer Brown / Drew Baldrige Concert



**Friday Aug 8th**

8AM - Pony and Horse Show  
10AM - 4H Youth Beef Show  
1PM - 4H Youth All Dairy Breeds Show  
7PM - Cooper Alan / Josh Ross Concert



**Saturday Aug 9th**

8AM - Cattle Judging All Breeds (All Breeds)  
9AM - Open Sheep Show followed by 4H Sheep Showmanship  
7PM - Blue Oyster Cult / Foghat Concert



**Sunday Aug 10th**

10AM - Northern New York Truck and Tractor Pullers Association Tractor Pull  
4PM - New York Tractor Pullers Association Tractor Pull

**Everyday**

3PM-5PM Agricultural Demos



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