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20  24

★ SCHNECKSVILLE ★
COMMUNITY FAIR

June 18 to 22

RTE. 309, SCHNECKSVILLE, PA NEAR LCCC

**Admission: \$7, \$4 for seniors 65+, Children 9 and under Free
Includes: Entertainment ★ Exhibits ★ Parking**

Schnecksville Community Fair

2024 Tentative Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

1:00 - 6:00 pm All non-animal entries received at Exhibit Hall

MONDAY, JUNE 17

8:30 am Judging of non-animal competitive exhibits

1:00 -7:00 pm Animal entries received

7:00 pm Animals must be in pens / weigh-in begins

OPENING DAY: TUESDAY, JUNE 18

5:00 pm Fair, exhibit areas & rides open

6:30 pm Keystone State Quarter Midget Race Club (KSQMRC)

6:30 pm Dairy Show - Open, 4-H & FFA

6:30 pm Entertainment in the Pavilion - Rehrig Brothers

7:00 pm Opening Ceremonies

COMMUNITY DAY: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

5:00 pm Fair, exhibit areas & rides open

5:45 pm PA Preferred™ Junior Baking Contest -
Cookies, Brownies & Bars

6:00 pm Sheep Show - Open, 4-H & FFA- Market Show,
followed by Breeding Show

6:00 pm Rabbit Show

6:30 pm Angel Food Cake Contest

6:30 pm Entertainment in the Pavilion - DJ Hot Wheelz

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

5:00 pm Fair, exhibit areas & rides open

5:45 pm Youth Cupcake Contest

(Sponsored by Houser Auctioneers)

6:00 pm

Beef/Dairy Beef Show - 4-H & FFA

6:00 pm

International Chainsaw Carving Competition

6:30 pm

Keystone State Quarter Midget Race Club (KSQMRC)

6:30 pm

New Tripoli Bank's Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest

6:30 pm

Entertainment in the Pavilion - The Castaway Band

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

5:00 pm Fair, exhibit areas & rides open

5:00 pm

Market Goat Show, followed by Breeding Meat and
Dairy Goat Shows - Open, 4-H & FFAA

5:45 pm

Refreshing Rhubarb Dessert Contest

6:00 pm

International Chainsaw Carving Competition

7:00 pm

Entertainment in the Pavilion - Scott Marshall Band

8:00 pm

Animal Mardi Gras Contest

KID'S DAY: SATURDAY, JUNE 22

3:00 pm Fair, exhibit areas & rides open

4:00 pm

The Neffs National Bank's
"Homemade Chocolate Cake Contest"

4:00 pm

Overall Showmanship Contest

4:30 pm

Keystone State Quarter Midget Race Club (KSQMRC)

6:00 pm

International Chainsaw Carving Championship

6:30 pm

Giant Ice Cream Sundae in the Show Ring area

7:00 pm

Children's Pedal Tractor Pull

(Partially Sponsored by Eckroth Equipment)

7:00 pm

Entertainment in the Pavilion - Sons of Izzy

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

11:00 - 3:00 pm Entry Pick-up

VISIT WWW.SCHNECKSVILLEFAIR.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



JUNE 18-22, 2024

ADMISSION: \$7 · \$4 for seniors 65+ · Children 9 and under are free

Admission includes entertainment, exhibits and parking.

COMMUNITY DAY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH

\$4 ADMISSION with the donation of a non-perishable food item

(canned Mac & Cheese, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, or Beefaroni)

& a "Community Connections" area with informational displays by local groups

Carnival rides provided by AEB Amusements

Unlimited Ride Wristband Specials: 2 for \$16 on Tue. & 2 for \$20 on Wed.

-FREE SHOWS-

Masters of the Chainsaw Demos & Comps

4-H Barnyard Zoo

Animal Exhibits

Agricadabra/Brad Matchett Comedy Hypnotist

Lehigh Valley Dreamweavers Dog Agility Club

Antique Tractors

Wanna Be a Farmer & Firefighter

Local Bands

Quarter Midget Racing (Tue, Thurs, Sat)

Congratulations to the Schnecksville Fair on 39 years of Family Fun!

TIMES NEWS

— MEDIA GROUP —

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Local Community Supports Fair

Forty-three years ago, the Schnecksville Community Fair got its start as a Fire Company carnival, consisting of hay rides on a 1932 fire truck and a hot dog stand. Today as a full-fledged fair, entertainment, animals, midway glitter and lots of food stands fill the fairgrounds with bumper-to-bumper crowds, blending community traditions with our agricultural roots.

The Schnecksville Community Fair thrives as local people get together to reward one another for their accomplishments, to celebrate their regional differences, and to engage in friendly competition.

The Fair Board cordially invites the community to assist in the production of the fair. A total of nearly seventy-five folks give their time to make the fair happen. This includes the twenty-one officers and board mem-

bers who work for the love of the fair, not monetary reward. Additional volunteers are always needed in many areas. If you would be willing to assist for just a few hours during the fair, call the volunteer chairman, Gail Heintzelman at 610-799-4666.

The community supports the fair in many ways. Our sponsors help us with funding and promotion. To date, we are privileged to have forty-seven corporate and individual/family sponsors who have donated funds, gifts, and/or services to the 2024 Fair.

Our special baking contests are held with the help of several organizations. **Houser Auctioneers, Schnecksville**, is the sponsor of the Youth Cupcake Contest, which takes place on Thursday, June 20 at 5:45 p.m. Supporting the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest is the **New Tripoli Bank**,

New Tripoli. This event will be held on Thursday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m. Our Homemade Chocolate Cake Contest on Saturday, June 22, at 4:00 p.m. is made possible by **The Neffs National Bank, Neffs**.

Yocco's, Allentown, is sponsoring the Special Quilt Competition. The winner of each category, Hand Stitched and Machine Quilted, not only receives a Best of Show ribbon, but also a monetary award of \$100.00.

Prizes for other competitions have been donated by **Grim's Orchard & Family Farms**, Breinigsville (Good Housekeeping); **Excelsior Flowers**, Schnecksville (Animal Mardi Gras Supreme Champion); and **Thunder Creek Showstock**, Schnecksville (4-H/Ag Ed Overall Showman Winner).

Our chainsaw carving demonstrations and competitions are sup-

ported by **Snowscapes, Easton and Koren Plumbing & Pump Service**, Neffs.

In the children's area, **Wanna Be a Farmer**, the fun-filled hands-on ag adventure for kids, is being sponsored by **Nestlé Purina PetCare**, Allentown and **Ironton Telephone**, Coplay. The children's Pedal Tractor Pull Contest, held on Saturday, June 22, at 7:00 p.m., is being partially sponsored by **Eckroth Equipment**, New Ringgold.

The Brad Matchett Comedy Hypnotist show, always an audience favorite, is presented by **The Pennsylvania Lottery; Astound Broadband**, Bethlehem; and **S&G Asphalt Service**, Slatington.

The antique tractors/farm equipment area is made possible by **Timothy M. Foster, Wells Fargo Advisors**, Allen-

town.

Our giant ice cream sundae, with samples given out to fairgoers on Saturday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m., is sponsored by **Excelsior Farm**, Schnecksville; **KC Stoves & Fireplaces**, Alburdis; **Timac Agro**, Reading; and the **Lehigh County Holstein Club**, Schnecksville.

The following companies support the fair as a whole: **Bachman's Roofing, Building & Remodeling**, Schnecksville; **UNFI**, Schnecksville; **Weis Markets**, Schnecksville; **Ironton Auto Body**, Coplay; **J.P. Mascaro & Sons**, Allentown Division; **Allbright's Mill**, Kempton; **Art's Servicer**, Allentown; **Cyan Sky Copiers**, Schnecksville; **Shankweiler's Drive-In**, Schnecksville; **Stew's Tire Center**, Schnecksville; **Stone Ridge Landscaping Services**, Slating-

ton; **Becky's Drive-In**, Walnutport; **Lisa D. Andruscavage, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Heritage Real Estate**, Allentown; **Dave's Vacuum Cleaner Service**, Allentown; **Everett Plumbing & Heating**, Orefield; **Imperial Auto Sales & Service**, Schnecksville; **Kermit K. Kistler Inc.**, New Tripoli; **Geo. A Kohler & Bro.**, Whitehall; **Sunflower Veterinary Center**, Fogelsville; and **Travis and Stephanie Fink**.

Local businesses and individuals also provide or often donate important goods and services for the fair. We'd like to recognize them for their invaluable support: **Quakertown Veterinary Clinic**, Quakertown; **Belfor Property Restoration**, Allentown; **Berger Sanitation**, Lehigh Valley; **Attorney Robert Johnson**; **Le-**
See **LOCAL** on Page 6

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Schnecksville Community Fair History



Eighteen hundred acres of orchard -- it was part of a vast agricultural empire built by General Harry Trexler in the early years of the twentieth century. It nearly surrounded the village of Schnecksville. It was perfect orchard land, with sharply rolling hills and a breeze that never quit. The breeze prohibited early season frost from forming on the buds and assured a good crop of peaches, apples, and pears. It was beautiful. The immaculately groomed orchards also provided a way of life for many of the local inhabitants, but now the pressures of suburban sprawl and commercial development were becoming too great for the orchards to survive. It was decided to cease orchard operations and market the land for

development.

The first party to express an interest in some of the newly available land was the Schnecksville Fire Company. Located at the center of the village; it was growing out of its quarters and had no room for expansion. In 1980, the fire company bought a tract of land a few feet off Main Street and in September of that year, decided to build a large open-air pavilion and hold a carnival to support the building fund. That fall, many of the trees were cleared and a road was graded back to the site of the pavilion, which went up the next spring.

The start of it all – 1980s

A carnival was held in August of 1981. In the strictest sense of the word, it was nothing like a carnival. The bed of a 1932 Ford Fire Truck was outfitted with hay bales and provided the only ride, a journey around the perimeter of the fire company's new land. It was enjoyed by young and old alike. The Ladies Auxiliary provided lots of home-cooked food and the bands performed on the back of a flatbed trailer supplied by George Husack Trucking. "Pappy," Joe Horwith, was the man in charge and in the end, he reported an income of \$4,986.44 to be put against the \$23,727.00 price of the pavilion.

The Second Carnival was held in August of 1982. This time, it was a real carnival with rides, popcorn, cotton candy and games of chance. That fall, Pappy renamed the carnival "The Schnecksville Community Fair." The first "real" Schnecksville Community Fair was held in May of 1983 and was five days long. It had a sideshow with live lions and tigers and featured a "fireworks spectacular" on Friday night. Admission was free, but there was a \$2.00 donation for parking.

Otto's Amusements provided the midway in 1982 and 1983. In 1984, Nonweiler Amusements and their "Big Ely" Ferris wheel would start a relationship with Schnecksville Fair that would last more than a decade. 1984 was the transition year in which the fair became a "Fair." The committee became a board. Officers were elected. A premium catalog was issued and application was made for membership in the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs. The fair was now in the hands of people who knew absolutely nothing about running a fair. All they could do was learn. And learn, they did, albeit the hard way.

In 1985, the Lehigh County 4-H Stock Club was invited to participate in the fair by bringing their Petting Zoo. They were housed in a large

tent that they decorated beautifully inside and out with flowers and split rail fence. A second tent housed the competitive exhibits and a third tent housed a new craft show. Schnecksville Community Fair was beginning to look like a fair.

More good things happened in the middle of the decade. Dale and Naomi Grim came with the 4-H Petting Zoo and offered to organize and run animal exhibits and judging for the fair. They led the fair into the world of animal showmanship in 1986. In the years that followed, the fair would have to build four animal buildings and a covered show ring to provide space for all the animal exhibits. Helping to build most of the buildings was Emory Minnich, who came on board shortly after the Grims. He also did most of the work on the main stage and single handedly built the livestock office and the ticket booths used at the three entry gates. Also, Donald Kuntz and Skip Joseph stumbled over some pretty shoddy wiring on the midway, must have felt sorry for the fair, and volunteered their knowledge and services as the fair's electricians. The fair's officers still didn't know what they were doing, but people who did know a thing or two were stepping up and showing the way.

See **HISTORY** on Page 6



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JUNE 18-23



JUNE 18TH

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JUNE 19TH

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JUNE 20TH

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JUNE 21ST

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JUNE 23RD

**PRINCESS & PIRATES DAY
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HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Growth and expansion – 1990s & 2000s

As the nineties progressed, so did the fair. In 1991, the fair incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)3. In 1993 new board member Beverly Gruber, who had recently moved to eastern PA, brought with her a wealth of county fair experience, and expanded the competitive exhibits area. The carnival rides and amusement operations underwent a few changes in providers, and the fair became a pay-one-price entity, where the price of admission included all rides and entertainment. A permanent cattle building was erected in 1998. 4-Hers and open classes were eager to show their animals and compete.

Paul Schwarz served as President of the fair from its humble beginnings until 2004, when he stepped

down. At that time, Emory Minnich took the reins, and he still continues on as President.

The growth continued into the 2000s. In 2006, Larry Grim was instrumental in establishing the Keystone State Quarter Midget Race Club for youngsters and a track was built at the rear of the property. Also, a modular building that was a former district judge's office was brought on site and revamped to become the new fair office. (Furniture had been very carefully placed in the old office so no one would step in certain areas and go through the floor!) In 2007, an addition was added to the show ring to accommodate the number of exhibitors in growing classes. 2008 came and 250 feet of midway was paved to make walking and pushing strollers more convenient.

Enter the age of technology and the ever more quickly changing times. The website, which was

started by the younger Donald Kuntz, has been administered by Steven Reppert for the last several years. In 2009, when ticket sales at the small games of chance booth were slow, Michelle and Kevin Minnich established a Facebook page for the Fair, posting photos of events as they happened and listing the winners of the competitive contests. The premium book was also posted online for the first time and entries were accepted through email.

Challenges and continuing forward -- 2010s to today

The grounds and facilities have undergone several changes in more recent history. In 2011, the Fire Company entered into an agreement in which they acquired an additional 52 acres of land, some of which the fair is able to use for parking. This was a great improvement as some folks fought crossing heavily traveled Route 309

in previous years. In 2012 and 2014, permanent fencing was installed around the grounds. Eliminating the temporary fencing, which had to be put up and removed each year and was prone to come down during heavy winds, made it much easier for those who maintain the grounds. About a week after the fair ended in 2017, straight line winds caused the roof of the fire company's main hall to collapse. Thankfully, no one was hurt and no fire equipment was lost. It took more than a year to rebuild, so for 2018, the challenge was to find a home for all the competitive exhibits that were usually on display in air-conditioned comfort. The exhibits "camped out" in a large tent in the parking lot that year. Also during this time, the midway by the pavilion up to the ball field was repaved with the help of grant monies.

In 2018, the fair made a major change in patron

LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

high Carbon Community College, Schnecksville; M&J Outdoor Services, LLC, Lehigh Valley; and, of course, Community Fire Company #1 of North Whitehall Township.

Another way the local community supports the fair is through advertising in the 150+-page Premium Book. Ads range from \$40 to \$295. Forty local businesses supported the book. Be sure to pick one up in the exhibit hall or look at

it online (www.schnecksvillefair.com) and check out all the ads.

A very big, very sincere **THANK YOU** goes out to all of the volunteers, sponsors, donors, and advertisers who help make the fair a success each year.

The Schnecksville Fair is a non-profit corporation that has as its focus education and the showcasing of Lehigh Valley agriculture. Schnecksville is located in Lehigh County just seven miles north of Allentown on Route 309, near Lehigh Carbon Community College. "Come Home" to our 39th annual fair!

admission, moving away from the pay-one-price model utilized for nearly 25 years. Fair admission was reduced, and unlimited carnival rides were no longer included. With this change, the fair began a relationship with a new carnival ride and game provider, AEB Amusements from Easton, PA.

The start of the 2020 decade was another challenging time -- due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the fair was canceled for both 2020 and 2021. The Fair Board had to make some tough decisions balancing the health and safety of all involved and the viability of the fair. In the years since, the board has been focusing on strengthening community ties while adapting and improving the fair in a changing society.

This "era" has been marked by changes in volunteers as well. Debbie Smith joined the board and became Competitive Exhibits Chair in 2014,

when Beverly Gruber left to take a role at the Great Allentown Fair. Naomi Grim "handed the reins" of animal showmanship over to the capable hands of Andrea Semmel-Lazarus in 2022. Also, several long-time volunteers passed away, leaving the board grateful for their talents and efforts, but also with a need for help to carry on.

From its humble beginnings through to the present, the Schnecksville Community Fair has never wavered in its purpose: to provide several days of family fun and excitement for northwestern Lehigh County and the surrounding communities. From the midway to the food booths, from the competitive exhibit hall to the animal pens, there's something for everyone to see and do. As we remember the past and look to build the future, "Come Home" to the 39th edition of the Schnecksville Community Fair, June 18 to 22, 2024.



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A Showcase for All Ages

The 2024 edition of the Schnecksville Community Fair will make its debut when the gates open on Tuesday, June 18th at 5:00 p.m. The fair, now in its 39th year, has become one of the best-attended events in northwestern Lehigh County.

Carnival rides, food, entertainment and animals all come together to make a great attraction, but what makes this Schnecksville event different are the competitive exhibits. Local people compete with each other, whether it's for the best strawberry jam, the loveliest rose, or the foremost dairy beef animal.

Nearly \$12,000 in cash was awarded last year in the twenty-four departments of fair com-

petition. Ribbons were given out to nearly all exhibitors. Ribbon colors are 1st, Blue; 2nd, Red; and 3rd, White. The big purple ribbon is for Best of Show.

The amazing thing about the competitive exhibits is that you can be any age to enter, and youngsters don't have to be enrolled in a 4-H program to participate. For example, in 2023, exhibitors ranged in age from elementary school through senior citizens. Also, entries are not limited to residents of Lehigh County; we welcome exhibitors from everywhere! (Special baking contest entrants must be Pennsylvania residents, however.)

This year, competitive departments include animal classes

for Dairy, Beef, Goats, Sheep and Rabbits. The individual shows for each species will be held in the 4-H pavilion each evening from Tuesday through Friday. Check the schedule in this publication or on the website (www.schnecksvillefair.com) for times. A new contest this year is Animal Mardi Gras, held on Friday night at 8 p.m. -- there's a special prize for the Supreme Champion.

The Food and Canned Goods Department features over 175 different classes of homemade goodies or canned foods that you can enter. This includes everything from a jar of pickles to an apple dumpling. Why not try out your baking skills and win that "Best of Show" big pur-

ple ribbon! In addition, four of six of our special baking contests are held at other fairs statewide and the winners qualify to enter the 2025 Farm Show competitions.

The Needlecraft department also has many categories—from Afghans to Handcrafted Clothing for specific family members. A special Quilt Contest is again being held this year, sponsored by Yocco's and two winners in this contest will receive \$100.00 plus a Best of Show ribbon.

The Arts, Photography and Crafts Department is an annual favorite for competitors and fairgoers alike. Scores of beautiful homemade items, paintings and photos are judged. Crafts are put on display

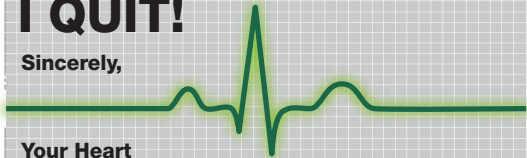
and artwork and photos adorn the walls of the exhibit hall. Brand new for this year is a class for needle felting. If you have an artistic flair, why not enter and showcase your talent?

If you can boast that you have a green thumb, the Vegetable, Hay and Grain, Edible Nuts, Fruits and Berry, Horticulture or Christmas Tree Departments are for you. All of these departments have sections in which you could be a winner.

The Youth department is for anyone under the age of 19. There are several sections with entries for a variety of items that kids have made or grown themselves, like vegetables, fruits and nuts, baked goods, plants, floral ar-

rangements, needlecrafts, photography, and art. We even have a department for Lego creations!



When you visit the fair this year, don't forget to stop and check out the competitive exhibits and be sure to visit the animals in the livestock area. Agricultural fairs are fun places to visit, but they are even more fun when you participate and win. The premium book, which lists everything you may enter and the amount of prizes awarded, is available by calling 610-799-9467. You can also pick one up in various retail stores in the Schnecksville area. The entire book is available online at www.schnecksvillefair.com.

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Great Food is a Highlight of the Schnecksville Fair



With fun, things to see, bright lights on the midway and great entertainment to watch, there is plenty to love about the 2024 Schnecksville Community Fair, and we haven't even mentioned food!

Food plays a big role in the reason people love fairs. The wonderful aroma coming from the many different food stands is tantalizing. It's hard to decide with such a variety to choose from. Out on the midway we have it all...hot sausage, burgers, tacos, pizza, fresh cut French fries, pit beef, pulled pork, and of course cotton candy, ice cream, candy apples and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

Because we are in Schnecksville, we have Pennsylvania Dutch food at our Fire Company Café in the Pavilion, in the center of the fairgrounds. A crew of workers from the Fire Company manages the Café, does all the preparation work, and serves all of the patrons. These volunteers get great satisfaction from helping and take pride not only in their community but also in the tradition of fairs. Featured menu items for the week include halupki,, mashed potatoes, and corn on Tuesday; a hot roast beef platter with coleslaw and fries on Wednesday; tacos on Thursday; clams, corn on the cob, and baked potatoes on Friday; and mac n' cheeze bowls on Saturday.

Don't miss out on the great food at the Schnecksville Community Fair, being held June 18-22 at the Schnecksville Fire Company on Route 309 near Lehigh Carbon Community College. We guarantee you won't leave hungry!



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An Animal Show Every Evening

Agriculture is the cornerstone of the fair industry. It is the one main attraction that makes fairs different from other entertainment venues, and farm animals are the mainstay of the Schnecksville Fair.

We expect that there will be over 100 dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, goats, and rabbits in the livestock barns this year. Many of these animals, which are entered in livestock competition, are owned and shown by 4-H members from all over southeastern Pennsylvania. The 4-H program, which is administered by Penn State Cooperative Extension, teaches youth age 8-18 to be future leaders. A child's dedication to their animal, whether it be a rabbit or an eleven hundred pound steer is a special bond. This bond helps make the daily tasks of feeding and caring for the animal go more smoothly. The end result of the pro-

gram is the responsibility that the 4-H-er has learned.

The 4-H-ers also organize and work in the 4-H Barnyard Zoo at the fair. This year the Zoo will feature goats, dairy calf, and sheep. They do a great job landscaping the area and encourage all youngsters to stop in and check out the animals.

Education is an important way to maintain the viability of Pennsylvania agriculture. Informing the consumer where their food and fiber comes from, and how it gets to them, is critical if Pennsylvania agriculture is to prosper.

The fair is one of many venues that can play a role in educating the public about agriculture. Fairs throughout history have been a reflection of the people and their times, as well as an agent of change. Fairs are also one of the few places left where a large number

of people can view a broad spectrum of agriculture.

A different species of animal is featured each evening in the Show Ring Pavilion in Schnecksville. Tuesday is dairy night, which starts at 6:30; Wednesday are both sheep and rabbits at 6:00; Thursday is steer and dairy beef at 6:00; and Friday is market goats at 5:00, followed by breeding meat and dairy goats.

Although not a "real" cow, you can learn how to milk a "pretend" cow in the "Wanna Be a Farmer" tent at the fair. Volunteer Darlene Wirth and her crew man the tent that is geared to youngsters under the age of eight. Many other farm-related activities are also available.

So load the kids in the car, and come to the 2024 Schnecksville Community Fair from June 18-22. It's a fun learning experience for the whole family!



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to all the advertisers who made this supplement possible.

Over our many years of operation, we have been very fortunate to have had so many supportive friends.

Our friends include the businesses and organizations who sponsor our premium book, this special edition and activities; the competitive exhibitors, all of whom we are very proud; and the hundreds of volunteers who give their valuable time and talents.

Our biggest debt of gratitude,

however, is owed to the public – the thousands of fair-goers who have attended over the years and the new ones who are about to discover us for the first time.



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