

The Mountain State Fair is just around the corner with plenty of food, family favorite activities and fun planned for Sept. 8-17 at the Western Ag Center in Fletcher.

Magic shows, acrobats, performing sea lions, a dinosaur show, musical acts, puppet shows, precision horseback riding and a high-diving act are some of the featured grounds entertainment fairgoers can enjoy.

Add in the colorful twirl of the midway, tasty food, agricultural exhibits, heritage crafts, clogging and a variety of competitive entries on display and there is truly something for everyone at the annual Mountain State Fair.

On the agricultural front, be sure to check out the ever-popular Mooternity Ward, which offers visitors a unique opportunity to see live animal births. Several births are anticipated each day of the fair, although Mother Nature determines the exact arrival time.

Other popular agricultural exhibits include: Farmer Bill's Ag-Venture featuring piglets, baby ducks and barnyard activities for the kids; Agricadabra magic show focusing on the science of ag; a mobile dairy classroom and livestock competitions and displays.

Sit a spell and enjoy some down home mountain music each night on the Heritage Stage. Music is from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 8-16, and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 17.

The fair is a great value with the following special discount days offered:

Sept. 8 – Free gate admission for students grade K-12 until 6 p.m.; or take advantage of Friday Night Frenzy from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. where \$25 covers admission and unlimited rides.

Sept. 11 & 14 – Ride all day for \$20, plus gate admission

Sept. 12 – Kids 12 and under ride all day for \$20 plus admission.

Sept. 13 – Ingles Day, where fairgoers can gain free admission with five cans of Laura Lynn brand foods from Ingles.

Sept. 15 – Free admission for seniors 65 and up. A second Friday Night Frenzy from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. where \$25 covers admission and unlimited rides.

Sept. 16 – N.C. Education Lottery Day where visitors 18 and up receive a free scratch and win promo ticket.

Adult tickets are \$9 at the gate or \$7 in advance. Kids (6-12) and senior (65 +) tickets are \$5 at the gate or \$3 in advance. Children under 5 are admitted for free. Advance tickets are on sale at the WNC Ag Center, the WNC Farmers Market in Asheville and at Ingles stores.

For more information, go to www.mountainfair.org.