



For Immediate Release
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Agriculture at the Fair

Most people think of fair food and carnival rides when it comes to the State Fair of Texas, but many come back to enjoy memories of their childhood, like the Little Hands on the Farm exhibit.

The exhibit takes kids ages 2 to 10 through the life in the day of a farmer. Kids do everything from planting seeds to ultimately taking it all to market.

“We try and educate our youth about where their food comes from and what a farmer does,” said Jeannene Xanthus, Little Hands on the Farm manager. “This is an exhibit that teenagers and young adults come back just to walk through and re-live the memories from their childhood.”

Kids begin the trip through the day of a farmer by picking up corn to feed. They plant seeds, water trees, feed animals then harvest all of the products they have made.

After that, they take the food to market where they are paid for the produce. They take their hard-earned money to shop in the general store.

“Many kids do not associate where their food comes from,” Xanthus said. “When you ask them where milk comes from, they answer the grocery store, not cows.”

While they work to educate the youth, the Food and Fiber Pavilion offers education and entertainment for all ages.

Various Texas agriculture booths fill the building, from dairy products to a store showcasing only made in Texas items. The Texas Authentic Store only offers items that were produced from products made in Texas.

The Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association displayed a booth encouraging consumers to buy a real tree for their home this Christmas.

“Going green is visiting a Texas tree farm to purchase a real Christmas tree,” said Claudia McMew, a member of the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Christmas trees offer family fun, are environmentally friendly, safe and they help Texans, McMew said. They are a Texas product for Texas consumers, so you are supporting the economy when you buy a real Christmas tree.

There are several different types of trees grown in Texas. One unique species is the Leyland Cypress, which does not produce pollen so it is great for those who have allergies.

Walking through the Children’s Medical Center Barnyard, animal lovers of all ages enjoy feeding and petting the animals. Animals range from common ducks and pigs to zebras and 4-horned sheep.

“My favorite thing is seeing all of the exotic animals,” said Katie Webb, 13.

People walked through the barns with bags of feed purchased upon entering. There were also various machines to purchase more feed in the building.

“I like all of the animals,” said Katie’s brother Tyler. “Except the ones you can’t feed.”

Upon entering the Texas Wine Garden is a sign that reads: “Texas Wine: The total economic impact to the state of Texas from the wine and wine grape industry is \$1.35 billion.”

Several people sat and enjoyed Texas wine.

“We have always drank Texas wine,” said Cheri Greene of Gordonville, Texas, who was enjoying the fair with her husband, Herman. “This is the first time that we have ever been to the wine gardens at the fair though.”

“It is a nice way to relax and take a break from the fair,” Herman said.

Other attractions included Spirit of the Horse, Livestock Breed Displays, Milking Parlor, Pig Races, Pee Wee Stampede and the livestock shows to enjoy agriculture at the fair.

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