



# BarnTALK

Summer 2007

Volume 2 Issue 1

## State Fair To Continue Hosting Agricultural Mechanics Project Show

Following the introduction of the Agricultural Mechanics Project Show during last year's fair, with more than 70 exhibits, the 2007 State Fair of Texas® will host the contest again.

"The 2006 show was very successful," said Superintendent Barney McClure. "We expect to double the number of entries for the 2007 fair."

Lincoln Electric donated welding machines for last year's grand, reserve, and division champions. As well as helmets and gloves for class winners and safety kits for every exhibitor.

"Lincoln Electric stepped up to the plate and we could not have done it without them," said State Fair of Texas® Vice President of Agriculture and Livestock, Darly Real.

There are five divisions in the competition: agricultural machinery and equipment, electrical equipment, livestock equipment, trailers, and recreational projects.

The show is judged on workmanship, design and materials used, the exhibitor's knowledge of the project, documentation, and the degree of difficulty.

The show provides an opportunity for 4-H and FFA members to display projects constructed in agricultural mechanic labs, while developing skills through competition, and recognition for their accomplishments in agricultural mechanics.

"There have been a few changes made for this year's contest; therefore everyone needs to read the rules for this activity," said McClure. "Students who are not able to participate in the livestock show, can take part of this activity. It will be something they remember for a lifetime."

These same projects may also be entered into competition through the James F. Lincoln foundation.

For welding tips, ideas and curriculum visit [www.lincolnelectric.com](http://www.lincolnelectric.com).

The state fair provides an annual opportunity to showcase the state's livestock industry. The millions of visitors who attend the show during its 24-day run include people from nations outside the United States.

The state fair attracts approximately 3,500 4-H and FFA members from across the state exhibiting over 4,000 animals. The State Fair of Texas® is host to over 8,000 head of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, poultry and llamas for both Youth and Pan-American Livestock Exposition® shows. This year's state fair will begin September 28 and continue through October 21.

**LINCOLN®**  
**ELECTRIC**

## MOVING FORWARD

It's here - the time of year when people plan their Fall trip to Dallas and we here at the State Fair prepare for their arrival.



At The State Fair of Texas® we believe you must continually strive for improvement. As a result, we focus on: 1) improving facilities and operating processes and 2) creating more opportunities for our exhibitors.

Fair Park has a rich history, dating back to the 1936 Texas Centennial Celebration. While offering historical gratification, progress needs to be made. To help with this goal, the \$1.35 Billion City of Dallas Bond Program included approximately \$75 million for Fair Park, with \$6 million earmarked for a new Livestock Center. The Livestock Center will replace the existing open-air pavilion, construction is scheduled to begin in 2009.

Creating opportunities is a major part of our current focus. For our Pan-American Livestock Exposition exhibitors, we look to the original reason fairs and livestock shows were created - to provide marketing opportunities. We strive to schedule and promote these shows with the open exhibitor in mind.

For our Youth exhibitors, we work to raise funds through our Youth Livestock Auction. We continue to increase the total dollars given to Texas Youth. A new record was set in 2006 of over \$1 million and we look to surpass it in 2007.

We look forward to hosting you at the 2007 State Fair of Texas, where "The Sky's the Limit!"

# EDUCATION AT THE FAIR

Most people can tell you a cow says “moo”, and a lamb says “baa”. Not all people know the difference between a heifer and a steer, a ewe and a wether, or a barrow and a gilt. Exhibitors at the State Fair of Texas® help educate the general public about agriculture.

“Our goal every year is to provide a good educational background and competitive spirit for the kids and the public,” said State Fair of Texas Vice President of Agriculture and Livestock Daryl Real.

Exhibits like Planet Agriculture, Little Hands on the Farm, Guided Livestock Tours, the Children’s Barnyard, Southwest Dairy Museum’s milking parlor and breed displays help achieve the goal. These organizations educate and promote agriculture.

Planet Agriculture, hosted by Texas Farm Bureau, demonstrates how agriculture touches consumers on a daily basis. According to Texas Farm Bureau, the goal for those experiencing Planet Agriculture is to realize when they drive to work on tires, wear cotton or wool clothing, brush their teeth, or wear belts, or undertake countless other daily activities, they are interacting with agriculture.

Little Hands on the Farm is designed to allow children to work on the farm and encounter hands-on experiences at the farm. Little Hands on the Farm illustrates the many steps in farming, and that food and clothing does not originate at the store.

Guided Livestock Tours are a journey through livestock barns and pavilions. The tour takes spectators through displays and stalls of featured animals. Guides share information about the livestock and its role in everyone’s life.

The Children’s Barnyard allows fairgoers to see and feed numerous species including: zebras, camels, and kangaroos. Hand sanitizer stations are available at the zoo and throughout the fairgrounds to help stop the spread of germs.

The milking parlor sponsored by Southwest Dairy Museum’s gives live demonstrations showing people what happens on a daily basis at the dairy. It also helps educate onlookers on how milk gets from the dairy to our grocery store.

Breed displays are provided in the livestock barns. Animals are displayed with signs including the history of the

breed, origin, uses, traits and color markings.

The State Fair of Texas® needs your help in educating the general consumer about agriculture. Exhibitors should be available to answer questions about agriculture throughout their time at the fair.

“General fairgoers love animals and are drawn to see the animals,” said Real. “We as livestock exhibitors sometimes get secretive and do not want them in our way because we are at a competition, but we should take time to answer questions with a proactive approach to educate fairgoers about animal agriculture.”

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| June 1-30    | Youth Goat, Lamb, Steer and Barrow Validation |
| June 30      | Youth Ownership Deadline                      |
| June 30      | Youth Broiler Order Deadline                  |
| August 15    | Youth Broiler Hatch Date                      |
| August 25    | Youth Entry Deadline                          |
| September 1  | Open Entry Deadline                           |
| September 15 | Rabbit Show Entry Deadline                    |



Visit [www.bigtexlivestock.com](http://www.bigtexlivestock.com) for 2007 Schedule of Events.

## WEB SITE & ONLINE ENTRIES

In striving to simplify the entry process for State Fair exhibitors and officials, the online entry system has been a huge success. In 2005, exhibitors began submitting entries for the first time by using the Big Tex Livestock Web site.

As we continue to create ways to simplify the online entry process for our exhibitors, the usage of the system continues to expand. The online program now allows entry forms to be more accurate than ever before. The program allows us to easily catch mistakes and make any necessary corrections. Once entries have been submitted online they are compiled into a data system. The online system also decreases the risks of lost entries because the submitted forms are sent directly to the database.

Thanks to computer technology it is as simple as typing in the information and the click of a button. Everything you need to become a part of the livestock show is at your fingertips.

Online entries will close at midnight on August 25th for all Youth competitions. For instructions on how to use the online entry system please visit our Web site. For additional issues, you may contact the livestock department at (214) 421-8273 and we will be glad to assist you. ★

## E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Don't forget to sign up for The State Fair of Texas® Livestock Show e-newsletter.

Your source for all of the latest livestock information is just a click away. Be the first to know and sign up for the newsletter now on our Web site at [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com).

Sign Up Now 

## ★ ★ BARN TALK ★ ★



Thank you for making the 2006 State Fair of Texas another great year! With more of you adding Dallas to your list of shows attended, we have seen our numbers continually grow over the last few years. You entered and showed a record number of animals last year.

Youth Market week was no exception to this growth. We had approximately 100 more barrows and 200 more lambs and goats than 2005. The down side to the growing numbers is working through the growing pains that come along with continued support from our exhibitors.

We have to work together to make the unloading and release processes move more smoothly, and in turn this will make for a better show experience for you. We, at the State Fair, have put our heads together and have come up with some things that we feel we can do to speed up both processes.

We are working with our great group of volunteers, the Youth Livestock Committee, to provide more manpower to help unload your tack. In the past, they have been on hand to help the barrow exhibitors. This year, we plan to expand this help to lambs, goats, and steers. To facilitate this, we will be assigning stalls in line. Hopefully, with your tack being delivered for you, this will drastically cut down your unloading time. This is where we need your help. Please unload and move your trucks and trailers as soon as possible to show your fellow exhibitors some consideration.

Last year we began working on the issues that arise during release times. Your superintendents wrote releases when you arrived, eliminating one line to stand in. We received numerous positive comments and are planning to continue that this year.

We looked closely at our schedule, met with the Dallas Police Department and the State Fair of Texas Gates department, and have adjusted some release schedules

accordingly. Several have changed by a few hours, some have stayed the same. Realizing we are a Fair and have to consider other issues and many other department schedules, we altered release schedules where we could to make your Fair experience more pleasant.

Finally, 2006 brought a new feed store to the State Fair. We wanted to provide a quality product at a fair price. Although we accomplished doing so, it wasn't as seamless as we imagined. Thus, we have made some schedule changes to the Feed Store hours. They will stay open later on heavy move-in days, but please take note of the posted schedule at the store as light days will not vary from the schedule.

Thank you again for supporting us, signing up for our newsletters, and filling out surveys that have been sent your way. We are listening! We want to make this a positive experience for all of us and are planning a bigger, better show for you! We hope to see you in 2007. ★

**WEB SITE AND  
SIMPLIFIED ONLINE  
ENTRY SYSTEM**



**AGRICULTURAL  
MECHANICS SHOW**



**NEW GOALS FOR 2007**



**IMPORTANT DATES TO  
REMEMBER**



**EDUCATION AT THE FAIR**



**BARN TALK**

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**Youth  
Leadership  
Day**

**Mark Your Calendars**

We are currently planning the 2007 Youth Leadership Day event, Saturday, September 29, 2007. Plan to experience the Cotton Bowl and the new 80' Big Texatron™! As details are finalized they will be posted on our website, [www.bigtexlivestock.com/Schedule\\_Information.aspx](http://www.bigtexlivestock.com/Schedule_Information.aspx). Similar to last year, mailings will be sent mid-August and ticket orders will only be accepted online. So mark your fall calendars! We look forward to seeing you at the Fair! ★

**2007 CONFIRMED JUDGES**

**YOUTH JUDGES**

**PAN-AMERICAN JUDGES**

**MARKET & PROSPECT STEERS**

- Randy Daniel, Colbert, GA

**MARKET BARROWS** - Ryan Sites, Sallisaw, OK

**MARKET GOATS** - Dr. Brian Faris, Wendell, NC

**MARKET LAMBS** - Keith Berry, Sac City, IA

**MARKET BROILERS** - Jason Mooney, Schertz, TX

**BEEFMASTER, BRANGUS, CHAROLAIS,  
LIMOUSIN, MAINE ANJOU, ORAB, ORB,**

**SHORTHORN BEEF HEIFERS**

- Jake Franke, College Station, TX

**ANGUS, RED ANGUS, HEREFORD &**

**POLLED HEREFORD HEIFERS**

- Jeff Sargent, Denton, TX

**SIMBRAH, SIMMENTAL, & BRAHMAN**

**HEIFERS** - Dwight Callis, Rosenberg, TX

**RED BRANGUS & SANTA GERTRUDIS**

**HEIFERS** - Joe Taylor, Jourdanton, TX

**DAIRY GOATS** - Gary Whitehead, Nemo, TX

**BREEDING GILTS** - Willie Kirkpatrick, Fox, OK

**BREEDING SHEEP** - Brad Roeder, Fredricksburg, TX

**ANGUS & RED ANGUS** - Cary Crow, Coffeyville, KS

**HEREFORD & POLLED HERFORD**

- Jason Hoffman, McArthur, CA

**BRAHMAN** - Mitch Thomas, Raymondville, TX

**LONGHORNS** - Jerry McPeak, Warner, OK

**JUNIOR LONGHORNS** - Randy Allgood, Bellevue, TX

**JUNIOR PINZGAUER** - Michael Schertz, Denton, TX

**SANTA GERTRUDIS** - Jim Reeves, Brenham, TX

**RED BRANGUS** - Joe Taylor, Jourdanton, TX

**DAIRY CATTLE** - Norm Nabholtz, West Union, IA

**WOOL & DORPER SHEEP**

- Travis Hoffman, Fort Collins, CO

**DAIRY GOATS** - Rusty Repp, Loganville, GA

**LLAMAS** - Bill Schultz, Hammond, WI

**RABBITS** - Rusty Westhoff, Thompsons Station, TN

**RABBITS** - Josh Humphries, Georgetown, TN

**DONKEYS, MULES & MINIATURE**

**DONKEYS** - Debbie Mullins, Lancaster, TX

**BREEDING HOGS** - Jason Hodde, Carmine, TX

**BOER GOATS** - Warren Cude, Fort Stockton, TX