

Ford, Moore to headline fair

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JEFFERSON — The Jefferson County Fair will feature national country artists Colt Ford and Justin Moore as its grandstand headliners this summer, officials announced this morning.

The 162nd Jefferson County Fair, to take place from July 9-13, will present Colt Ford on Friday, July 11, with opening act Jon Pardi, and Justin Moore on Saturday, July 12.

Both shows will take place in the Wilbert Betschler Memorial Grandstand at Jefferson County Fair Park.

Colt Ford, a country rap musician, is best known for his songs “Dirt Road Anthem,” “Drivin’ Around Song” and “Answer to No One.” Born and raised in Athens, Ga., Ford also is a former professional golfer.

Jon Pardi is making a name for himself as a national act with songs like “What I Can’t Put Down,” “Up All Night” and “Missin’ You Crazy.”

On Saturday, Academy of Country Music New Artist of the Year nominee Justin Moore will perform the big show. Fans will recognize hits like “Point at You,” “Beer Time” and “’Til my Last Day.”

Moore began performing during high school, and moved to Nashville after graduation to begin his music career. He released his third studio album, “Off the Beaten Path,” in September 2013.

Other musical entertainment at the fair will include Madison County, a popular country band based in Madison. The group will perform in the Miller Lite Entertainment Tent on Friday.

Madison County was recognized as the 2013 Isthmus Madison’s Favorite Local Country Group, as well as the 2014 Best of Madison Best Local Band, and has been the Q106 Local Group of the Year for nine consecutive years.

Other entertainment in the grandstand throughout the week will be the Jefferson County and Badger State Tractor Pulls on Wednesday, July 9; Badger Truck Pulls on Thursday, July 10, and the Demolition Derby on Sunday, July 13.

This year’s fair theme is “Year of the Steer,” as a tribute to Wisconsin’s beef industry.

Fair Park director Dave Diestler said entertainment throughout the week will appeal to families.

Diestler said Welde’s Big Bear Show will amaze fairgoers with an educational presentation and exhibit filled with bear facts and comical antics of the majestic creatures.

Also, returning to the fair for the first time in a few years is the Granpa Cratchet puppet show.

Diestler noted that Granpa is a Muppet-type puppet that travels to fairs, festivals, and special events throughout the United States, driving his puppetmobile, a small truck driven by a puppet, throughout the grounds, telling jokes and meeting children.

Granpa teaches lessons that include the golden rule and “safety first.”

He will be joined by his fellow puppets, Root the Wonder Pig, Spike the Porcupine and Fearful the Possum.

In addition, the Fair Park director said, Hoos Woods Birds of Prey will return with educational presentation of local raptors.

“Family fun will continue with the Pleasure Valley Pig and Duck races,” Diestler said.

Kids’ Day will be Wednesday, July 9, with free gate admission for children age 12 and under until 5 p.m. A carnival wristband special will be available for youngsters that day from noon to 5 p.m.

In keeping with the theme, the fair will open with the Jefferson County Tractor Pull at 10 a.m., continuing with the Badger State Tractor Pull at 6:30 p.m. at the Wilbert Betschler Memorial Grandstand.

On Sunday, July 13, general admission will be free for anyone showing a current or past military ID.

The fourth annual “Celebrate Freedom Day” ceremony will begin with a parade down the fair’s Main Street and end at the grandstand.

The presentation of colors and national anthem will kick off the Action Auto Demo Derby at 1:30 p.m.

Advance Family 5-packs of tickets to the fair will be available for purchase in the Fair Office through May 1 for \$30 per pack. From May 2-July 8, Family 5-packs will cost \$35 per pack.

For more information, contact the Jefferson County Fair Park at (920) 674-7148, and watch the Jefferson County Fair’s Facebook page for continual updates.