

Fair entertainment tickets on sale Thursday

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JEFFERSON – Tickets for the 2014 Jefferson County Fair main stage musical performances will go on sale Thursday at noon.

This year's musical entertainers in the Wilbert Betschler Memorial Grandstand will be Colt Ford on Friday, July 11, with opening act Jon Pardi. Cold 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, July 12, Academy of Country Music New Artist of the Year Justin Moore will headline the main stage, with local opening act Megan Ruger from the TV show "The Voice."

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.

Ruger is a native of Twin Lakes, Wis. who participated in both American Idol and The Voice, before kicking off a tour that will take her through her native state this summer.

Grandstand seating for the musical performances is free, but reserved seats and party pit tickets will be available for prices ranging from \$20 to \$80. They can be purchased starting Thursday at noon online at JCFairPark.com or by calling the Fair Park Office at (920) 674-7148.

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.

All other scheduled entertainment at the fair is free with gate admission. Other features at the grandstand will be Jefferson County and Badger State Tractor Pulls on Wednesday, Badger Truck Pulls on Thursday and the Demolition Derby on Sunday. Daily shows on the Standard Process Kid's Stage include Hoo's Woods Live Birds of Prey, Granpa Cratchet Puppet Show and The Magic of Jim Mitchell. Other daily family entertainment includes the Ag Adventure tent, LogHoggers Chainsaw Carving, Pleasant Valley Pig & Duck Races, and Welde's Big Bear Show.

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.

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.

Keeping with tradition, 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, the Jefferson County Courthouse, PremierBank locations and the UW-Extension office until July 8 for \$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.