

Fair entertainers offer music for myriad tastes

By Amy Smith, Union staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, July 9, 2014 9:44 am

JEFFERSON — Jefferson County Fair organizers have cranked up its musical entertainment a notch this year with 12 featured acts, including several Wisconsin natives.

The 162nd annual fair kicked off its five-day run today, and enables see up to four acts in one night with a general admission ticket, including headliners Justin Moore and Colt Ford.

“What we were trying to do is not only have animals and exhibits, but make it even more fun with music,” said Leslie Pelikan, Jefferson County Fair marketing assistant.

“You can see any band for the price of general admission, which is a real value,” Pelikan added.

Reserved seats and party pit passes also are available for \$15 to \$25.

Besides adding three acts and a number of new artists, fair organizers have broadened the musical genres in the Miller Lite Entertainment Tent.

“We try to look to see who has a good following and try to mix it up to offer our fair-goers a variety,” Pelikan said.

Following last year’s two country headliners, organizers brought in hick-hop musician Colt Ford, who is known for hit songs, “Dirt Road Anthem,” “Driving Around Song” and “Answer to No One.” Though his music can be categorized as country, his country-rap style appeals to fans of all genres.

Also added to the line-up is the Milwaukee-based rock cover band, The Now Band; Shotgun Jane of Janesville, which describes itself as a “blend of pop/rockin’ country; the Rabid Aardvarks, a pop and country cover band; a traditional Wisconsin polka band, the Jimmy Hartwig Band of Jefferson; and a four-piece blues rock band, the Barn Cat Boogie Band.

Saturday’s headline opener, Megan Ruger, who was seen on Season 6 of “The Voice” television show, will add a touch of rock to the traditionally country-based artists seen at the fair. Ruger, who opens for Moore Saturday, will play an encore show at 10:30 p.m. Saturday in the Miller Lite Tent, featuring music from the 80’s and 90’s.



MUSIC FEST

MUSIC FEST — This year’s Jefferson County Fair features a variety of musical acts, with a total of 12 bands taking the stage throughout the week. While national country acts Colt Ford, Jon Pardi, Justin Moore and Megan Ruger will take to the main stage on Friday and Saturday nights, everything from swing and blues to classic rock is available on the Miller Lite Entertainment stage throughout the week. The entertainment kicks off Wednesday night, with Josh Napert, a Milton native, performing on the Miller Lite Stage at 5 p.m. Above is local favorite Madison County, which will perform at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday. At left is the Jimmy Hartwig band, a traditional Wisconsin polka band from Jefferson, which will perform Thursday.

“Megan will switch gears ... and do more rock and roll,” Peilikan said.

Live music kicks off tonight with with Milton native Josh Napert at 5 p.m.

Entertainment starts in the Miller Lite Tent Thursday with the Jimmy Hartwig Band at 2 p.m., followed by the Rabid Aardvarks at 7:30 p.m.

Friday music begins at 5 p.m. with The Now Band in the Miller Lite Tent, followed by Colt Ford and Jon Pardi at 6:30 p.m. on the grandstand stage.

Pardi is an up-and-coming country star with hit songs, “What I Can’t Put Down,” “Up All Night,” and “Missin’ You Crazy.”

Local favorite Madison County will follow the main act Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent and again at 10:30 p.m.

This Madison-based band has been voted Local Group of the Year for nine years at the Q106 MCMA Awards Show, the 2013 Isthmus Madison’s Favorite Country Group, as well as the 2014 Best of Madison’s Best Local Band. It is a country cover band that also has written and produced its own music.

Additional music follows on Saturday beginning with the Barn Cat Boogie Band at 1 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent followed by Shotgun Jane at 4 p.m.

Headliner and Academy of Country Music New Artist of the Year Justin Moore with Megan Ruger starts at 6:30 p.m. on the grandstand stage. Shotgun Jane plays again at 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent, and the night wraps up with Megan Ruger at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday at the county fair features music by the Swing Band Crew at 1 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent.