



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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## Gearing Up for Fun at the Fair

PATTY RITCHIE August 8, 2016

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When the calendar turns to August, there are a few certainties—back-to-school shopping, soaking up the last days of summer and of course, The Great New York State Fair. This year's State Fair kicks off on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and runs until Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> in Syracuse.

For more than 175 years, the Great New York State Fair has drawn millions of people to Central New York. It will be no different this year, as the Fair will again offer everything from delicious foods and thrilling rides to exhibits that shine a light on New York agriculture

and live entertainment.

Here's a quick look at what you and your family can expect to find at this year's Fair:

***A taste of the state:*** If you're looking to sample delicious food that's produced right here in New York, the fair will have plenty to offer. Since 2013, fairgoers have flocked to the Horticulture Building to enjoy free samples of products from every corner of our state. Make sure to stop by often, as you will find new vendors daily, including many from our region from Central and Northern New York.

***Agriculture all around:*** Every day at the Fair, agriculture—our state's leading industry—is on display. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Fair will celebrate "Dairy Day," an event that will feature this year's butter sculpture. And, if you're a "grillmaster," you can put your culinary skills to work at the "Perfect Burger" contest, which takes place on "Beef Day," August 30<sup>th</sup>. For more info on agriculture events, be sure to check out the fair's website at [www.nysfair.ny.gov](http://www.nysfair.ny.gov).

***Have fun without spending a ton:*** What's the least expensive day to attend the fair in 2016? Labor Day, September 5<sup>th</sup>, where admission will be only \$1. Kids can also enjoy the midway at a reduced price, with \$1 rides. In addition, every Thursday of the fair, admission will be \$3. For even more savings, purchase your tickets in advance by visiting the fair's website, [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org).

***Saluting those who serve:*** Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is Armed Forces Day at the fair, where active duty or veterans will enjoy free admission to the Great New York State Fair with proper military identification. To honor our troops, a special ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial, starting at 11:00 a.m. on that date, followed by a parade in the evening, at 6:00 p.m.

With delicious local foods, the largest Midway in the fair's history, concerts by some of the county's top musical acts and educational exhibits, there's something for every member of the family, young and old. For full details on how you can join in the "fun at the fair" be sure to visit [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org).