



For Immediate Release

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## Equine events a major focus at 2009 State Fair

### *Horsemanship demonstrations, events, and competitions underscore equestrian significance at Meadow Event Park*

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DOSWELL, VA (August 20, 2009) – With an expanded line-up of Equine events – from Mutton Bustin and Cowboy Mounted Shooting, to Bull Riding, Team Penning and the Miniature Horse Show – the 2009 State Fair of Virginia at The Meadow Event Park returns to its rural and equestrian roots, as a home to champions – then and now.

The Meadow is best known as the Thoroughbred breeding farm started by Richmond native Christopher Chenery in the 1930s. It was the birthplace of 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat, as well as the home of Riva Ridge, the 1972 winner of the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. Located in Caroline County, 20 miles north of Richmond and 30 miles south of Fredericksburg in Doswell, Virginia, The Meadow Event Park is the new permanent home to the State Fair of Virginia.

At the center of The Meadow's Equine Complex is the **Southern States Legends Stable** – a state-of-the-art 143-stall barn and four show rings for year-round horse shows and activities. State Fair visitors can spend hours in the Complex seeing horses, mules, bulls, calves, sheepdogs and sheep – all competing in more than 20 events, competitions and demonstrations throughout the 11-day event. Near Southern States Legends Stable, visitors can see Secretariat's original foaling shed, which has been preserved.

At the new show rings over Opening Weekend – September 26 & 27 – visitors will enjoy the return of two events that are fast becoming State Fair favorites: **Mutton Bustin'**, where kids under 60 pounds compete at riding sheep for a designated time; and **Cowboy Mounted Shooting**, where cowboy-clad riders compete at shooting at balloon targets. The weeknights heat up quickly on September 29 & 30 with the new **Tundra Tough Trucks Bull Riding** event, one of the fastest growing extreme spectator sports in America. This includes **The One Arm Bandit Halftime Show**, featuring John Payne rounding up buffalo onto the top of a trailer!

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On Closing Weekend – October 3 & 4 – watch some of Virginia’s most talented young riders with the return of the **Tundra Tough Trucks High School Rodeo**.

The tentative Equine Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, September 24	Team Penning <b>NEW!</b> Draft Horse & Mule Show
Friday, September 25	Team Penning <b>NEW!</b> Draft Horse & Mule Show and pulls
Saturday, September 26	Mutton Bustin’ Cowboy Mounted Shooting Competition 4-H Dog Show 4-H Horse Show/Demonstrations <b>NEW!</b>
Sunday, September 27	Mutton Bustin’ Cowboy Mounted Shooting Competition Mechanicsville Drill Team 4-H Horse Show/Drill Team Competition <b>NEW!</b>
Monday, September 28	Team Roping <b>NEW!</b>
Tuesday, September 29	Tundra Tough Trucks Bull Riding with the One Armed Bandit <b>NEW!</b> Horsemanship Demonstrations <b>NEW!</b> Dog Agility Demonstrations <b>NEW!</b>
Wednesday, September 30	Tundra Tough Trucks Bull Riding with the One Armed Bandit <b>NEW!</b> Horsemanship Demonstrations <b>NEW!</b> Sheepdog Demonstrations Virginia Horseshoers Association State Competition <b>NEW!</b>
Thursday, October 1	Morgan Horse Futurity <b>NEW!</b> Reining Demonstrations <b>NEW!</b> Sheepdog Trials Miniature Horse Show
Friday, October 2	Barrel Race <b>NEW!</b> Virginia Reining Horse Association “State Fair Slide” <b>NEW!</b> Miniature Horse Show
Saturday, October 3	Tundra Tough Trucks High School Rodeo Quarter Horse Show
Sunday, October 4	Tundra Tough Trucks High School Rodeo Quarter Horse Show

Complete entertainment and ticket information and schedules can be obtained at [www.statefairva.org](http://www.statefairva.org) or by calling 1-800-LUV-FAIR (1-800-588-3247) or (804) 994-2900. The State Fair is handicap accessible. No pets permitted.

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*The State Fair of Virginia event is presented each Fall by SFVA (State Fair of Virginia, Inc.)*

*SFVA is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization not affiliated with state government. In a world where Virginia’s open land and traditions that shaped our culture are rapidly vanishing, SFVA’s goal is to keep cherished ideals and experiences alive in the Commonwealth.*