

# STATE FAIR

OF VIRGINIA AT THE MEADOW

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Festival Stage to host award-winning musical talents**

***Hear Country, Soul, Rock & Hip-Hop – now FREE with Fair admission!***

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DOSWELL, VA (August 20, 2009) – Visitors to the State Fair of Virginia can see nationally-known concerts across a variety of genres, now offered FREE with State Fair admission. The **Toyota Tacoma Concert Series**, presented on the State Fair's new Festival Stage, features award-winning artists **Jason Michael Carroll**, **Percy Sledge**, **Plain White T's** and other up-and-coming young music talent delivering performances of Country, Soul, American Rock, Hip-Hop and more to all ages.

The State Fair of Virginia will be held September 24 through October 4, at the State Fair's new home: The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County, 20 miles north of Richmond and 30 miles south of Fredericksburg in Doswell, Virginia (Interstate 95 at exit 98 next to Kings Dominion).

Country music kicks-off Opening Night –Thursday, September 24 – featuring **Jason Michael Carroll with Dean Brody**. First on Festival Stage is **Dean Brody**, playing hit songs including "Brothers," "This Ain't the Same Town," "Gravity," and more. With two chart-topping albums, **Jason Michael Carroll** has opened some of country's hottest tours, including Brooks & Dunn, Trace Adkins, and Alan Jackson, Carrie Underwood and Martina McBride. This Opening Night show is sure to connect with fans!

On Saturday, September 26, the State Fair turns to soul with **Percy Sledge**, considered to be among the pioneers of country-soul and deep Southern soul during the late '60s. His 1966 hit, "When a Man Loves a Woman," topped both the pop and R&B charts and still is heard today in radio, movies and television. This Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee has continued to tour and entertain audiences for years.

On Thursday, October 1, **Plain White T's** will deliver solid American Rock on Festival Stage. With five albums including recently released *Big Bad World*, this Chicago-based band has been building a following for a decade. Their hit song, "Hey There Delilah," received a Grammy nomination and won the 2007 Teen Choice Award.

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Country music returns Friday, October 2, with singer-songwriter **Randy Houser** delivering a charismatic, emotional performance of songs including “Anything Goes,” “Strange,” “How Many Times” and more. On Saturday, October 3, **Luke Bryan with Tailgate Down** takes Festival Stage. **Tailgate Down** is a Southeast Virginia-based, high energy country rock band. They open the show for **Luke Bryan**, whose “All My Friends Say” is a Top 5 single on the *Billboard Hot Country Songs* charts and his debut album, *I’ll Stay Me*, produced chart singles.

Every day, visitors can hear more free entertainment on Festival Stage, featuring a variety of folk, pop, bluegrass, soul and more. Several concerts and shows return over Opening Weekend, starting with the **Colgate Country Showdown** – the largest country music talent search in America – on Friday, September 25. The State Fair also welcomes the return of the **Radio One Step Show & Competition** – Saturday, September 26 -- 12 noon to 3 pm – where groups of talented Virginia youth will compete. On Sunday, September 27, Fairgoers can hear the **Praise Palooza Gospel Show**. On Tuesday, September 29, the **James River Ramblers** – part of the US Army TRADOC Band from Ft. Monroe, Virginia – takes Festival Stage with two performances – 1 pm and 6 pm – featuring jazz and a taste of New Orleans.

The State Fair concludes 11 days of entertainment on Sunday, October 4, and who better to deliver a Closing Day concert than **V Factory & Joey Page**. **V Factory** – a band of five talented young male singers and dancers – combines edgy urban pop and electrifying hip-hop dance moves with instantly addictive songs, including their first single “She Bad.” **Joey Page** is a talented teenage singer/songwriter/producer, whose music is heavily influenced by current artists such as Justin Timberlake and Usher. Expect a great show to close the first State Fair at The Meadow Event Park!

Enjoy this free entertainment on Festival Stage, at The Meadow Event Park amidst Central Virginia’s rolling hills and a beautiful, rural setting! Bring or rent a chair – or just hang out on the lawn and enjoy the show! Details at [www.statefairva.org](http://www.statefairva.org)

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.*