



For Immediate Release

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SFVA to unveil new home at 2009 Fair opening on September 24

State Fair returns to its rural roots at historic Meadow Event Park

DOSWELL, VA (July 28, 2009) – Visitors to the 2009 State Fair of Virginia are in for a special, never-before-offered experience from the moment they arrive: new and returning attractions, animals, competitions, thrills, rides and food, all within the State Fair's new home at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County, Virginia.

The Meadow Event Park is located 20 miles north of Richmond and 30 miles south of Fredericksburg in Doswell, Virginia (Interstate 95 at exit 98 next to Kings Dominion). Here, the State Fair is presented in a beautiful, rural area, with open grassy fields and views of rolling hills and forest. Within The Meadow's 360 acres, the State Fair continues its mission of showcasing the best of Virginia's animals and agriculture, while offering families a fun, safe experience with competitions, exhibits, shows and rides.

The Meadow Event Park presents a delightful experience to new and returning State Fair visitors. From the main parking area, visitors can purchase Walk-Around Fair admission tickets at the **Ticket Plaza** to enjoy all the new and returning attractions. Visitors will pass by the **Festival Stage**, featuring the FREE Toyota Tacoma Concert Series: **Jason Michael Carroll w/ Dean Brody** (Sept. 24), **Colgate Country Showdown** (Sept. 25), **Step Show & Competition** (Sept. 26 – 12 noon) and **Percy Sledge** (Sept. 26 – 7:30 pm), **Praise Palooza Gospel Show** (Sept. 27), **James River Ramblers** (Sept. 29), **Plain White T's** (Oct. 1), **Randy Houser** (Oct. 2), **Luke Bryan with Tailgate Down** (Oct. 3) and **V Factory & Joey Page** (Oct. 4). From here, visitors can enjoy the new **Equine Complex**, featuring the **Southern States Legends Stable**, a modern 143-stall barn, as well as four show rings for horse shows, the 4-H Dog Show, the new **Tundra Tough Trucks Bull Riding** event and more!

From Festival Stage and the main ticketing area, *Starting Gate Lane* leads visitors through a pedestrian tunnel under Route 30. From here, *Arrowhead Trail* takes visitors towards the **Entertainment Area**; they will pass the new **Theater Stage**, featuring a variety of live music daily, as well as the new **Magic of Lance Gifford**, a magical illusion show.

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Visitors can follow sounds of cheers and laughter to the ever-popular **Racing Pigs**, where Wayne Rosaire and his brood of swine entertain audiences year after year.

Arrowhead Trail connects to *Festival Loop*, one of several areas offering vendors and many Fair food favorites: funnel cakes, candied apples, sausages, giant turkey legs and more! From here, follow the roars and rumbles to the **Thrill Pit** area, where visitors can experience **Tractor Pulls** (Sept. 25 - 27), the new **FMX Freestyle Moto-X** – a dirt bike stunt show (Sept. 29 - Oct. 1) – as well as the **State Fair of Virginia Demolition Derby Championships** (Oct. 2 - 4). Leave the Thrill Pit and stroll along *Chenery Lane* to the new **Heritage Village** and **Natural Resources Area**. Here, education and history come to life in cultural exhibits, demonstrations and animals – from real Oxen used by pioneers on the Oregon Trail, to Civil War and African American heritage.

Visitors can connect back to *Festival Loop*, which leads them to *Ferris Wheel Lane* and all the excitement and thrills found in separate – but adjacent – **Midway** and **Kidway** areas! By purchasing ride tickets or ride wristbands, visitors of all ages will find over 60 rides to enjoy. After one ride – or many – visitors can step inside the new 63,500 square-foot **Farm Bureau Center**, located behind *Festival Loop*, for more vendors and shopping. Be sure to check out the Great American Duck Races – a returning family favorite! Nearby, more exhibits and competitions await in the new **Commonwealth Hall** and the **Arts & Crafts Hall**.

From here, visitors can take *Starting Gate Lane* and *Elm Walk*, offering spectacular views of rolling hills and farmland, and access the **Agriculture Area**. The new **Americraft Pavilion** houses Virginia agricultural exhibits – including Aquaculture, Crops and Vegetables with Giant Pumpkins, as well as vendors selling Virginia-grown products and foods. The adjacent *Livestock Loop* offers more vendors, **Young McDonald's Farm** and the **Dairy Cattle Birthing Center** (both presented by Virginia Farm Bureau), along with numerous pavilions and show rings for Cattle, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Pigeons, Doves, Rabbits and Poultry. Near *Livestock Loop*, visitors will enjoy entertainment with the **Extreme Canines Stunt Dog Show**, new **Lumberjack Show** and new **Fire Safety Show**.

Along every Loop, Lane, Walk, Trail and Path, the State Fair of Virginia delivers the same traditions of celebrating Virginia's cultural heritage – in a *new* environment at The Meadow Event Park! Complete entertainment and ticket information and schedules can be obtained at 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.