Madison County Government
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Madison County Fair
Madison County, NC – September 24, 2026

The Madison County Fair is returning for the 2026 season. Beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25th, residents and visitors alike will have another opportunity to participate in and explore exciting exhibits, demonstrations, vendor booths, and programming as well as delight in the sounds of the mountains with live music by local talent. Throughout the two-day event, participants from around the County and Western North Carolina will join at the Madison County Agriculture and Event Center located at 330 Carolina Lane in Marshall to be a part of an exciting lineup of programming during the days and evenings of fall fair fun in Madison. The fair will conclude at 9:00 p.m. on Friday night and gates will reopen on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is $10 per person with children five years old and under being admitted free.

As gates open on Friday to kick off the weekend, event vendors and information booths will be on site along with children's activities including bounce houses, games, a mechanical bull, and train rides. In addition, local craft and food vendors will be offering handmade works of art and delicious treats for purchase. Livestock shows will be held throughout the fair with the adult open poultry show making its debut. Additional information regarding registration and livestock shows can be obtained by contacting North Carolina Cooperative Extension-Madison County Center at 828-649-2411.

The official opening ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening with participation from students and groups from Madison High School and Madison Early College High School including senior class presidents, marching band, JROTC, and FFA along with special guest Ardis Honeycutt who will make a grand entrance via horse and carriage to be crowned as the 2026 Queen of the Fair. The line up will also be joined by local leaders and elected officials as plaques of service and appreciation are presented to those who have worked tirelessly to secure the facility as a center of excellence for the education, pleasure, and enjoyment of all who enter.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, the Madison County Championship Rodeo returns to the fair under the covered arena, featuring hometown favorite Cowpatty the Rodeo Clown. Heart pounding events including wild horse and steer riding, chute dogging, barrel racing, team roping, and bull riding will all be included.

For questions or to inquire further about the fair, contact the Madison County Agriculture and Event Center's Managing Partner via telephone at 828-649-5166.

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