

Neal McCoy to headline musical performances at the Grandstand

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Contributing writer

LANCASTER — Monday nights at the Fairfield County Fair give people a good reason to put on cowboy hats, boots and Western wear.

As they enter the Grandstand, they'll be entertained with lots of foot-stomping and hand-clapping country music.

"People seem to like it when we have a major country music act from Nashville," said Dave Benson, fair manager. "Country music seems to help all county fairs across the country to raise money and revenue."

This year's headline performer is country artist Neal McCoy, whose current CD, "That's Life," was released earlier this year. Its first single, "Billy's Got His Beer Goggles On," was a top 20 hit.

Country music is a genre people can relate to, Benson said. Songs are short stories that talk about relationships, family, friendships, religious beliefs and the good and bad times that people go through every day.

Benson says country music is also about agriculture, and a lot of today's top country singers were raised on farms and still do farming on the side.

When choosing a country act to perform at the fair, Benson says he looks at how performers have fared at other county fairs.

So far he's chosen country acts that have been crowd pleasers every year during fair time.

In the past the fair has been host to Sammy Kershaw, Trace Adkins and Tracy Byrd.

"In 1998, we had Kenny Chesney at the fair before he was a major star," Benson says. "He was recommended to us by Tim McGraw's productions, and I never dreamed back then he would be a major big star like he is today. Of all the acts that we have had, Blake Shelton has been my favorite."

Benson says he's always looking ahead for future entertainers. In the future, he'd like to book the Oak Ridge Boys, Charlie Daniels, Josh Turner and Ricky Skaggs.

If You Go:

What: Neal McCoy Concert
When: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9

Where: Grandstand, Fairfield County Fairgrounds

Cost: Reserved Grandstand seats are \$15, and track seats are \$20. Tickets are available at the fair office now and at the Grandstand ticket office Oct. 8-9. For more information, call 740-653-3041.

Scheduled performances

The following musical acts are scheduled to perform at this year's Fairfield County Fair:

- 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Gospel Music, Grandstand, Free Show
- 7:30 p.m. Monday, Neal McCoy Concert, Grandstand, reserved seating only
- 11 a.m. Wednesday, Fairfield County Senior Citizens Choir, Round Cattle Barn, Free
- 1 p.m. Oct. 14, Music by Adelphi Band during Harness Races, Grandstand, Free

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