

Having a field day



Members of the Clarksburg community gather to enjoy a meal at a Clarksburg Field Day.

By COREEN HENRY
Gazette Staff Writer

Bring on the animals. It is time again for the annual Clarksburg Field Day, an event celebrated since 1919. But this year, adding a new touch to tradition, the festival committee has invited the zoo.

"New this year will be a petting zoo for the kids," said Denise Kern, head of the planning committee. "It will also be about 20 degrees cooler than last year - so the heat won't keep people away."

The field day began 90 years ago as a fund-raising fish fry, put on by the United Methodist Church men's Sunday School group.

Apparently, after a couple of years, the women of the church didn't approve of their decisions and decided to make changes.

"It began as a big picnic. It was really more for the farmers and farm hands to discuss practices and show off their machinery, but that changed once the heat was involved," Kern said.

Kern also said the field day has had a few minor setbacks, one during World War II when gasoline was being rationed and people weren't traveling as much as they do now.

"The field day had to be canceled, but local merchants decided to put on a street festival in its place. Since then, we've had it every year," she said.

The event had always been scheduled for the first Thursday in August, but three years ago, committee members moved it to Saturday to accommodate working families.

"It's just a big family reunion for the people of Clarksburg. A lot of people come back that live out of town," Kern said.

Entertaining at the festival will be Gabriel Peecher, the Adena High School band, Valerie Wilburn, Paul Minney with gospel, Adelphi Band, Garrison Gospel Quartet, Great Seal of Ohio Band, Pettifords gospel and the Steady Stomper Cloggers.

Traditional displays and events will include the antique tractor show, historic artifacts display, crafts and antique vendors, horseshoe throwing contest, greased pole climb, garden tractor pull and carnival games.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Deerfield Township Fire Department and EMS will have informational demonstrations and displays, including free blood pressure testing.

The event is sponsored by the United Methodist Church.

To go
Clarksburg Field Day will be Saturday at the grove of trees, a quarter-mile east of town on Ohio 138. Activities and entertainment will begin at 11 a.m. and will run through 8:30 p.m. The price for admission is \$1.

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