

# BEST ATTRACTION

## The Cheshire Fair Celebrates Its 80th With “Traditions We Treasure”



Horse pulls, carnival rides, 4H animal shows, fireworks, fried dough and, of course, the demolition derby – all things to look forward to at the Cheshire Fair. This year the fair will celebrate its 80th anniversary with

the theme “Traditions We Treasure.”

The fair has grown from humble beginnings when it was inspired by a Farmers Field Day, once held at Wheelock Park in Keene. The Cheshire Fair Asso-



The Fair in 1937

ciation was formed in the spring of 1938, two years after the event moved to Safford Park in Swanzey. The association paid to rent the park until 1946 when the directors bought the grounds and buildings from the Safford family.

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the fair. The horse and ox pulls have been popular from the beginning. It has expanded to include livestock exhibits, 4-H projects and other events still held today such as the canning, food, and produce displays.

Bolton Hall was constructed in 1948, followed by the grandstand in 1951. As the fair grew in popularity, more additions were made to the grounds such as the horse show ring and the Little Red Barn, which still houses local farm animals today. The Cheshire Fairgrounds also is the location of the first car racing track in the area. As the fair grew, the car races gave way to today’s demolition derby.

The Cheshire Fair strives to educate and entertain folks of all ages with their exhibits, show animals, competitions, and performers. This year’s fair will carry

on that promise with four days of fun-filled activities. Of course, there will be the traditional horse shows, 4-H sheep, rabbit, dairy and beef shows, ox pulls, and horse pulls. Exhibits will include crafts, baking, vegetables, photography, maple syrup, and honey. Children are encouraged to attend on Thursday, Children’s Day, and compete in such events as the cupcake-eating contest, Little Miss Cheshire Fair, and the Pedal Power pull. Then there is the entertainment; this year’s line-up includes various local bands playing at the Pinegrove Stage, the Pond Hill Ranch Rodeo, a chainsaw artist, magician and hypnotist Lance Gifford, farm tractor pulls, truck pulls, and the grand finale, the Demolition Derby.

For many in the Cheshire County area, the fair has been a treasured family tradition for generations. Anyone who has never experienced the Cheshire Fair is encouraged to attend. This year the fair will be held from August 2nd through August 5th. For more details and the schedule of events, visit [www.cheshirefair.org](http://www.cheshirefair.org).

Thank you to all who voted for us!

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