

▼EMERALD

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Country Fair brings activity to Veneta

■ FAIR: Coordinators made some changes to this year's event to have less impact on the Veneta community

By Michael Hines
Oregon Daily Emerald

Leave your drugs, dogs and diapers at home this year when you head to the 28th annual Oregon Country Fair.

The Country Fair in Veneta offers something for everyone, fair officials say. This includes entertainment, food and even rentable diapers, if parents find them necessary.

The fair, which begins Friday and ends Sunday, has made several changes for this year's festivities, including a stiff statement that drugs and alcohol are prohibited.

Consistent Country Fair participants will notice changes beyond the tougher stance against intoxicants. All tickets must now be purchased through Fastixx. Fair officials did not want people to arrive in Veneta and be disappointed at the gate.

"We anticipate selling out all three days this year," Jean Schauerman, fair advertising coordinator, said.

The Country Fair will employ 700 security personnel to manage the estimated 50,000 or more visitors over the weekend. The security guards are trained to handle situations in nonviolent ways, Schauerman said.

Another difference from previous years is that people going to the fair are being encouraged to drive to Autzen Stadium to park for free and ride a bus to the fair.

Biking to the fair is also encouraged this year. Fair coordinators are attempting to have as little impact on the Veneta community as possible.

Once inside the fair, Schauerman promises fun for everyone.

Two more stages were added to the fairgrounds to bring the total to more than a dozen. The new stages will be used for vaudeville acts.

Other entertainment will include concerts by Babes With Axes, John Hammond and the Revelators.

Crafts will also be available.

"You can find almost anything and everything," Schauerman said.

Jewelry, woodwork, painting and nearly every other type of artwork will be on display.

Another feature of the fair is its food. The fair will have almost 70 different food booths; the flavors range from Korean food to cheesecake.

"It's some of the best food you'll find anywhere in the Northwest," Schauerman said.



ARCHIVE PHOTOS
(Above) Music and dancing acts, such as this one at the 1996 Country Fair, will be entertaining the crowd. (Left) Long lines at the gate will be a thing of the past, thanks to a new rule that requires all tickets to be purchased off-site.

The fair also features something called the Energy Park. It is an area that specializes in alternative energy, a important fair theme. The park provides an opportunity to discuss and learn more about recycling and conservation.

"We are a very peace-loving or-

ganization," Schauerman said.

The organization even offers child care, but only for children not in diapers — for sanitary reasons.

Tickets for the fair are \$10 for Friday and Sunday and \$15 for Saturday, the traditionally busy day. The Country Fair will end

Sunday with flair, Schauerman said, because some of the most popular bands will play near the end of the event.

Schauerman said fair officials are not worried about bad weather.

"The Sun Goddess always shines on the Country Fair."

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