

# County fairgrounds



Nicole Werner / Spokesman file photo

## The Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo in Redmond.

The Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center is a 132-acre site located in Redmond, Oregon. It is placed strategically at the hub of the tri-county area (Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook Counties) together known as Central Oregon. It is 15-minutes from Bend, the largest city; 20-minutes from Prineville; 20-minutes from Sisters; 25-minutes from Madras; and 5-minutes from Redmond.

The facility is designed on a circular plot, standing at the center a person is never more than 300 yards from any one space. This Center Court is a beautiful location for any outdoor event, it features a showpiece water feature in a natural landscape setting on 3.65 acres, complete with beautifully manicured grass, ponds, cascading waterfall, and windmill.

See County Fair / P56

## Did You Know?

Redmond's fair history goes much deeper.

The area's first settlers organized agricultural events, dubbed Potato Shows, beginning in 1906, before Redmond was incorporated.

After the formation of Deschutes County in 1916 (before that, both Bend and Redmond were in Crook County), locals waged a battle with Bend over which community the state should recognize as the home of the official county fair.

Redmond won out in 1919, and over the next year, a flurry of construction yielded an arena, a 1,200-seat grandstand, a race-track, barns and exhibit buildings on land long used for community events. The site now is home to Fred Meyer and Lowe's stores.

Today the fairgrounds consists of a 279,000-square-foot event center, a 106-space RV park, a large outdoor rodeo grounds, three smaller buildings for community events and a variety of animal barns.