

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show returns next week with full slate of rodeo, horse racing and more

By Dick Mason

The Observer

UNION — Three years after rising from the ashes of a devastating fire, the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show is set to come out of the gate.

The EOLS opens next week after the coronavirus pandemic led organizers to cancel the show in 2020.

“We are very excited to be back in the saddle again,” said EOLS Second Vice President Cassie Miller.

The EOLS will be able to restart because of falling COVID-19 rates in Union County.

Rodeo action is set to begin June 10 with the Ed Miller Xtreme Bull Riding event. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the rides begin at 6:30 p.m.

Three days of PRCA rodeo will follow, with competition beginning at 4 p.m. June 11, 2 p.m. June 12 and 1:30 p.m. June 13.

The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show's Main Street parade also is returning and starts at 2 p.m. Friday, June 11. Youth FFA and

4-H events will go on this year on the EOLS grounds; the schedule for those activities is available at www.easternoregonlivestockshow.com.

Horse racing, long a major part of the event, also returns with races Friday, Saturday and Sunday. And for the younger set, the carnival will be open Thursday-Saturday.

Miller said the Oregon Health Authority played a big role in reviewing the livestock show. The OHA earlier modified its guidelines to allow outdoor events to operate at a percentage of their maximum occupancy. The county's risk level at the time of an event determines the percent of occupancy.

Keep updated by checking the event's website. See the box at the right for occupancy and ticketing details as of June 1.

“The EOLS is aware of the possibility that guidelines may fluctuate ... and we are prepared to adjust the plan as needed to stay in compliance,” Miller said.

This will be the second comeback the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show has made since July 24, 2017, when a fire destroyed three



racehorse barns and did other damage, but caused no injuries to people or animals.

Despite the blaze, the show opened on time in June 2018 with all the damaged structures replaced — and even improved.

“We have dealt with a lot of adversity during our 114-year history and always found a way to come back better,” Miller said.



The Observer, File Photos

The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, but the long-running event returns in 2021, with a full slate of FFA and 4-H exhibits, rodeos, horse racing, a parade, a carnival and lots of fried food.



2021 EASTERN OREGON LIVESTOCK SHOW TICKETING AND OCCUPANCY

Due to COVID-19 regulations rodeo ticketing looks different this year. There are multiple sections that tickets can be purchased in for each daily performance. The price varies, depending on the section.

The tickets are for sale online only but can still be purchased to support either of the EOLS Queen candidates. Tickets will be purchased until June 7.

There will be a limited amount of tickets sold for each section. As regulations change, the number of tickets available in each section could increase.

For the most updated details and to buy tickets, go to www.easternoregonlivestockshow.com/tickets.html.

2021 EOLS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

3-9 p.m. Carnival
6:30 p.m. Ed Miller Xtreme Bull Riding

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

2-9 p.m. Carnival
2 p.m. Main Street Parade
4 p.m. Kid's Corral (Ken Knott Barn)
4 p.m. PRCA Rodeo and Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

1-9 p.m. Carnival
2 p.m. Kid's Corral (Ken Knott Barn)
2 p.m. PRCA Rodeo and Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

1:30 p.m. PRCA Rodeo and Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing



FRIDAY

High 86 Low 50
Sunshine and warm



SATURDAY

High 79 Low 45
Mostly sunny



SUNDAY

High 67 Low 42
Not as warm

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