

NEWS RELEASE

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Additional Safety Measures Added at the Dutchess County Fair

Rhinebeck NY –The Dutchess County Fair opens its gates to over 300,000 people annually and safety has always been a priority to fair organizers.

The fair has added walk through metal detectors to random gates across the fairgrounds. These metal detectors are set to detect prohibited weapons or other items that are not typically allowed in the fair.

“Attendees will not have to open their backpacks, bags or empty their pockets, it’s a walk-through experience,” says Andy Imperati, President/CEO of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. “Many large events and venues have gone to the walk-through experience in regard to public safety. Bag check is necessary but when you have big crowds, the process slows down. We did a lot of research and made sure that we looked at the newest technologies. We hope this process is fast and will get fairgoers into the grounds quicker than the normal bag check process.”

If a person does not have anything of concern on them, they can enter without being stopped. If a security official or the metal detector identifies the need for further screening, the fair reserves the right to conduct additional screening of the fairgoer and their bags, to enter the grounds.

“Times are changing, and we want to be proactive. We’ve also installed additional security cameras installed throughout the grounds,” says Imperati.

The Dutchess County Fairgrounds Emergency Management Team consists of fair organizers and many State, County and local agencies. Meetings are held throughout the year to recap the previous fair and discuss safety and security options moving forward. Meetings are held daily during the 6 day fair to discuss the upcoming day and previous incidents, if any, that were addressed.

Prohibited items include:

- Weapons of any kind or objects that appear to be weapons. Regardless of whether you hold a conceal & carry permit, please leave your weapon at home.
- Illegal drugs, substances & related paraphernalia
- Skateboards, hoverboards, roller skates, bicycles, scooters
- Drones or any type of remote-controlled craft
- Fireworks, sparklers or explosives
- Laser pointers

- Offensive messages on clothing
- Gang related clothes, colors, signs
- Political signs
- Any form of apparel including face masks that conceal the wearer's identity.

Those entering the fairgrounds will have the opportunity to return the item to their vehicle prior to entry. Prohibited items turned over to security at the time of entry will be considered confiscated and not returned.

"We surround ourselves with a great group of professional people. It's a team effort. We all have the same goal and that's to continue to keep the Dutchess County Fair a safe and fun place," says Imperati.

The Dutchess County Fair runs August 22 – 27, 2023. Visit www.dutchessfair.com for more information.

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