

THE BIG E

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WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA

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BIG E AGRICULTURE: ANIMALS, ACTIVITIES, ATTRACTIONS & MORE

The Mallary Complex is the hub of the Fair's agricultural shows, demonstrations, contests and educational displays. Make your way to Farm-A-Rama in the center of the fairgrounds for an up-close and personal agricultural experience. Check the daily agriculture schedule to find out when you can see cows, sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, alpacas and more.

Farm-A-Rama – Experience the Big Y® Farm to Family Table Experience, a hands-on interactive exhibit that includes the "Fill My Plate" interactive dinner table. Join the Naturals as you harvest food at the farm and bring it to your family table. Or watch chicks hatch, see a sow and litter, honey bees and the Hallamore Clydesdales, all in the Farm-A-Rama building.

Agricultural Demonstrations – Get a glimpse into life on the farm with cows, sheep, goats, llamas and other livestock throughout the Fair. Watch livestock competitions and see a variety of agricultural demonstrations like sheep shearing by professional farmers and modern cow milking in the Milking Parlor.

NEW! Eastern States Farmers Market & Wine Barn – The new Eastern States Farmers Market is a showcase for agricultural and farm-to-table products. It encompasses The Fiber Nook, with a variety of spinning and weaving demonstrations, a Cheese Cave and the Farmers Market Demo Kitchen, with daily presentations from farms and restaurants, as well as 4-H competitions. At the Wine Café, located between the two buildings, treat yourself to a wine slushie and cheese plate to enjoy in the courtyard! The Wine Barn is home to many award-winning wines from The Big E Northeast Gold Wine, Cider & Perry Competition. Peruse the displays of rustic mementos, enjoy samples offered by New England and New York winemakers and purchase a bottle of award-winning wine & cider.

Butter Sculpture – Be sure to watch the food artistry team of Jim Victor and Marie Pelton as they create their masterpiece, "Big E On Parade," made from 600 pounds of Agrimark/Cabot Creamery butter.

Got Milk? – Enjoy traditional "Jetshakes." Supporting a cause never tasted this good! Stop by the 4-H Milk Booth located under the Mallary Rotunda to indulge in an old-fashioned chocolate, vanilla or strawberry "Jetshake." If you're feeling like having a light, healthy snack, the 4-H Apple Booth in Farm-A-Rama will hit the spot!

Pulling Contests – Witness the amazing strength of horses and oxen at the Coliseum's Horse Pulling Competition, Sept. 17, and Ox Pulling Competition, Sept. 18.

Giant Pumpkin and Squash Contest – Visit Mallary Arena 2 and watch as growers try to break the giant pumpkin record set in 2016 at 1,677 lbs. See the winners on display in Farm-A-Rama. Contest times and dates are available at TheBigE.com.

THEBIGE.COM



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One Day Contests in The New England Center – Each year The Big E celebrates the creativity of New Englanders by displaying an array of photography, sewing, knitting, beading, crocheting, spinning and hand weaving entries in the New England Center. Several contests are also held during the Fair. This year's line-up includes: Make It with Clay Contest, Sept. 18; King Arthur Flour Baking Contest, Sept. 20; Massachusetts Maple Syrup Cooking Contest, Sept. 25; Woodturning Contest, Sept. 26; and The Big E Paper Airplane Contest, Sept. 27.

4-H Activities – More than 2,500 4-H members are invited to take part in The Big E where they test their skills in showing sheep, dogs, dairy goats, horses and dairy and beef cattle. Ranging from age 8 to 18, they are extremely knowledgeable in agriculture, technology, health, food safety and public speaking. See them on weekends in the 4-H pods and on the stage in the New England Center presenting their informative projects, or catch them in the barns with their animals.

The 4-H Beef Sale – For 9 months, 4-H members participate in this steer-raising competition. Following a weekend of activities and contests, each steer is auctioned off at the sale which takes place Monday Sept. 24 at 6pm in the Mallary Complex. Proceeds from the sale of the steer are used by the 4-H'er to purchase a steer project for next year or in some cases add to their college education fund. If you are interested in purchasing a steer at the auction, please call 413-205-5011.

In the Coliseum

Eastern States Exposition Horse Show – Take a seat in the grandstands of the Coliseum to watch elegant horses trot, canter and gallop toward first place ribbons and prizes in the Eastern States Exposition Horse Show, a United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Heritage Competition, sponsored by *Williams Distributing*. Shows include: **The Hunter Show and USHJA Zone 1 HOTY Finals**, Sept. 12-16; **\$15,000 Hunter Classic**, Sept. 14; **Saddlebreds, Hackneys, Morgans, Friesians and Opportunity Classes**, Sept. 20-23. **The Big E Draft Horse Show** takes place Sept. 27-30, featuring the **\$35,000 Six-Horse Hitch Showdown**, the **North American Classic Cart Series Finals** and the **Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Finals**, Sept. 30.

World-renowned horse trainer and performer, **Guy McLean**, will perform in the Coliseum Sept. 27-30 during the Draft Show. Since he was a child, Guy held deep connections with the horses on his homestead in Australia, and knew practically his whole life that he wanted to be a Horseman. He's been training horses since his teen years, and now demonstrates his skills in shows around the world.

The Northeast Six Shooters come to The Big E Sept. 25. This fun-filled event includes friendly competitions while promoting safety and fun. Watch mounted shooters show off their cowboy heritage in traditional garb as they demonstrate target shooting on horseback!

The fifth annual induction of honorees into the **Equestrian Hall of Fame** takes place Sept. 22 at 6pm. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals or equines that have demonstrated excellence in their discipline and made significant achievements and contributions to equestrianism.

The 4-H Horse Show takes place Sept. 19-22 and **Sheep Dog Trials** are Sept. 24 at 11am and 4pm.

For your safety, we remind all visitors to enjoy viewing the animals and ask that you wash your hands before leaving animal areas and eating. All events are listed in the daily schedule, online and in The Big E Program sold by the Springfield Lodge of Elks. Animal fact sheets are available in the Mallary Complex and Farm-A-Rama.

The Big E runs through Sept. 30 in West Springfield, Mass. and is jam-packed with food, entertainment, and so much more! Visit TheBigE.com to sign up for emails and connect on social media to be the first to get exclusive information. Join us with #BigEMoments.