

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

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Annual Big E Starts September 14

The 2007 Eastern States Exposition (the Big E!) opens in West Springfield, Massachusetts on Sept. 14 and continues through Sept. 30. Each year, over one million people visit the Big E to learn about the New England states and experience regional agriculture, hands-on living history, music and performances from regional and national entertainers, great food, demonstrations and exhibits, exciting rides and games.

New Hampshire has been a part of the Big E's Avenue of States since 1930. Generations of fair goers have experienced a little taste of New Hampshire at the Big E New Hampshire Building. "New Hampshire's Own" is the theme as the Granite State is showcased throughout the seventeen day event. Visitors to the New Hampshire Building will find an impressive gathering of businesses, products and entertainers, each sharing their own story, highlighting New Hampshire craftsmanship and the arts. A state information welcome center is front and center in the building to help answer specific questions about New Hampshire offerings.

This year the holiday season will be highlighted at the New Hampshire Building with snowflakes and candy canes and also trees and greens provided by the NH Christmas Tree Promotion Board. Visitors will see that "Holiday Happiness comes from New Hampshire!" where there are lots of unique shopping opportunities and holiday experiences—even Santa will be making special appearances at this year's New Hampshire Building!

A new photo banner exhibit at the New Hampshire Building will feature scenes of New Hampshire from the seacoast to the mountains. The banners are made of a new recycled fabric with a unique dye process that provides both superb photo clarity and durability. Created by Digital Dye Designs of Derry, NH the banners will be displayed inside the New Hampshire Building as well as outside to welcome all to the New Hampshire exhibit.

Food and agriculture are also showcased at the Building with special exhibits and demonstrations by the New Hampshire maple and Christmas tree associations. There will be plenty of the famous New Hampshire blueberry pie and ice cream, homemade broccoli & cheddar cheese soup, plus the very popular butter-dipped New Hampshire corn-on-the-cob, all served at the New Hampshire Building!

Special demonstrations have been scheduled each day of the fair featuring New Hampshire crafters at work. Fair-goers will be able to see spinning with wool, weaving, chair caning, egg decorating, fabric art, fly tying and more. Musical entertainment is planned for each Friday-Sunday in the New Hampshire Building, showcasing local musicians including: Gary Sredzienski, piano accordionist extraordinaire from Greenland, Reaganta, traditional Irish musicians from Exeter; Late Night Radio Band from Weare, specializing in "Americana" music; Parker Hill Road, a smooth bluegrass band from Lyman; the Purly Gates Trio of Alstead, offering swing and folk music; and Cardigan Mountain Tradition, high energy bluegrass band from Enfield.

New Hampshire Day at the Big E is Sept. 21st. Additional activities and events have been set for this special day, featuring performances by the Cheshiremen Barbershop Singers of Keene; country music performer, Rob Oxford from Manchester; the Blake Mountain Band from Thornton with an eclectic repertoire from Bluegrass to French Canadian tunes; Puppeteer, Lesley Smith from Durham with some special fun for kids of all ages; Inferno Cheer and Dance Center All Stars of Laconia performing a high energy routine featuring over 60 young athletes and dancers; East bay Jazz Ensemble from the Lebanon area performing big band legends and contemporary classics. Interested in fishing? NH Fish & Game Dept. staff will offer a hands-on opportunity to try casting in their "Let's Go Fishing" demonstration. Also, Bruce White, also known as the "Horseshoe Guy" from Rochester will create furniture and other items from welded horseshoes. Don't forget the annual New Hampshire Day Parade throughout the exposition grounds.

There will be lots to see and do during the 2007 Big E with plenty of good old fun for the whole family. For more information or to obtain a New Hampshire Building activity brochure, contact the New Hampshire Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food at 25 Capitol St., Concord, NH, tel. 271-3788, or see the brochure at www.agriculture.nh.gov. For more information about the Big E, log on to www.thebige.com

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