

POSTED: Sunday, Aug. 08, 2010

Major exhibits to focus on agriculture at 2010 Northwest Washington Fair

DAVE GALLAGHER - THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

LYNDEN - Farming will be receiving much more attention at this year's Northwest Washington Fair.

Near the grandstand and the clock tower will be a new 5,400-square-foot tent for the Farming For Life! exhibit. Next to the tent will be an expanded Ag Adventure Center, which will have container gardens grown by local students, more tractors and a methane digester shown by the Ferndale FFA, said Cheryl DeHaan, community education program manager at Whatcom Farm Friends.

The center also will have a variety of farming activities for children, including a hay maze.

The Farming For Life! exhibit will show what agriculture means to Whatcom County today, said DeHaan. The exhibit will include photos, displays, children's activities and a 20-minute video in a theater setting. One of the more popular exhibits will be back - Twister the cow. Fair-goers will have the chance to milk the model cow.

"This is an opportunity to show the relationship agriculture has had not only at the fair but throughout Whatcom County," DeHaan said.

Through the years Whatcom Farm Friends has been showing children and adults how a farm works, making the connection of what's done on the farm to get products to local stores and restaurants.

DeHaan said it's sometimes surprising how many people don't put much thought into where food originates.

"Many kids in classrooms I visit will know about french fries but will have never seen a potato," DeHaan said.

Having the Farming For Life! exhibit in a more central part of the fairgrounds will give Whatcom County agriculture more exposure in a fun, relaxed way, DeHaan said.

"I hope (fairgoers) will be pleasantly surprised by what they find," DeHaan said.

FAIR INFORMATION

Online article at: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/08/08/1559936/major-exhibits-to-focus-on-agriculture.html#ixzz0w82qiCHZ>

Fair guide: Maps, lists of vendors, entertainment schedules and all the details of the 2010 Northwest Washington Fair can be found in the official guide. Pick up a Saturday, Aug. 14, edition of The Bellingham Herald to get your copy.

Online: Go to bellinghamherald.com/fair for the latest fair news, past photo galleries and more.

Tickets, official site: Go to nwwafair.com for grandstand events, to buy tickets and other fair information.