

Get ready for the sights, sounds and mouth-watering smells of the N.C. Mountain State Fair, which returns to the Western N.C. Ag Center Sept. 6-15. Fairgoers will find plenty of family entertainment, educational exhibits, exhilarating rides, livestock competitions, delicious foods, and music and dance. The fair celebrates the people, agriculture, arts and cultural traditions of the region.

“I hope you will come join me at noon on Sept. 6 for the official opening ceremony of the fair,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “The Mountain State Fair is one of the premier events in Western North Carolina, a region with deep agricultural roots. I look forward to attending this fair every year.”

Agricultural entertainment and exhibits are a big part of the fair’s lineup. Fairgoers can participate in Farmer Bill’s Ag-venture, check out newborn cows at the Mooternity Ward, watch an agricultural themed magic show and see farm animals up close in the barnyard. The mobile dairy classroom gives live milking demonstrations to show kids of all ages where milk comes from, and the livestock competitions feature draws more than 3,000 entries each year, making for a competitive show ring.

Tickets to the fair are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the gate for adults, \$4 in advance or \$6 at the gate for seniors 65 and up or kids 6-12 years old. Children 5 and under get in for free. For the first time, tickets can be purchased in advance online at <http://www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair>.

Make your plans now to attend the Mountain State Fair Sept. 6-15.