



FALL in 	
with	
HARVEST TIME	
CORN	5¢
APPLES	1¢
Pumpkin	15¢
TATORS	10¢

Welcome

# The Bloomsburg Fair

**T**he Bloomsburg Fair and I go way back. It has molded my life and has been instrumental in the lives of many men and women in our area. It's a part of our community and has been in one way or another for over **150 years** now. It is an institution, our institution.

There are 117 fairs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Bloomsburg Fair has the distinction of being rated among the top 50 fairs in the nation. My personal partnership with the Bloomsburg Fair began before I was even aware of the fair. My mother was six months pregnant and my parents lived within a block of the fairgrounds. During a flood, one of the many that the Fair would endure over the years, my mother had to be evacuated from their home through a second story window. My father carefully took her to safety above the Magee Carpet Company. Is it any wonder that I've always felt at home at the Fair?

Legally, the Fair is known as The Columbia County Agricultural, Horticultural & Mechanical Association. Those of us who love it and grew up surrounded by it know it to be simply, "The Fair." The Fair is many things to many people...and the people are one of the things that make our fair awesome. Currently, the Fair is an **eight-day long, all-day event** and plays host to many top entertainers who perform at the night shows. The gates see upwards of 450,000 people come through each year and there's plenty of room for everyone on the 228 acre fairgrounds. The Fair is a place to congregate, to show our wares, to sell, to eat, and to look at the latest and greatest that the tractor and RV companies have to offer. The bottom line is that the Fair means home and a sense of pride felt by those of us who put our hearts and souls into making it wonderful year after year.

Animals are also a huge part of the Fair. Many kids in Columbia County have spent Fair Week sleeping in the livestock barns with their **cows, sheep, and swine**. What kid wasn't envious because they didn't get to stay



overnight **INSIDE** the fair gates?! There are so many things judged at the Fair that I can't even begin to list them all. Everything from **flower arrangements to canned goods**. People file through the buildings curious to see the largest pumpkin, the latest high school art projects, and the beautiful quilts... all created in our little corner of the world.

I've been fortunate enough to enjoy the many concerts, band shows, rides, games, horse races, and demolition derbies at the Fair. Of course, I have also sampled my share of the unique foods that the Fair has to offer. Homemade apple dumplings, deep fried Oreos, haluski, more funnel cake toppings than you can shake a stick at, apple cider, pizza, gyros, cheese steaks, donuts, ice cream, and the list goes on and on. I don't know of anyone who doesn't equate the Bloomsburg Fair with some of the best food for miles around. In all, there are **over 639 food and craft vendors** who bring their goods for a week of hard work and fun.

I've been an integral part of the Fair for many years now. I know the inner workings that make it tick and I know the joy, pride, and sense of tradition that is felt by those who attend regularly and without fail. I am proud that I have made a difference to the Fair, and I know the Fair has made a difference to me.

**September 26 - October 3, 2009**