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It hardly seems like that time of year again. The Northwest Alabama Fair is only a couple weeks off now, actually the dates of this year's fair is September 12 through 16. Several of you have been calling our office wanting information about the fair.

As in years past, this year's fair will give you plenty of opportunity to enter a variety of individual exhibits for judging (and for winning cash awards) in a variety of categories including arts and crafts, canned goods, baked goods (my personal favorite), photography, farm and garden produce, flowers, art, and much much more. The fact is that there is just about nothing that there isn't a category for, and many categories have both adult and youth classes. Look for the upcoming Northwest Alabama Fair insert that will be running in the Daily Mountain Eagle soon for a full description of all the categories.

In order to enter something for judging, you must first pick up an exhibitor number and entry tags. This can either be done by stopping by the Walker County Extension Office on Airport Road or you can pick up a number at fair check-in.

All items entered in the Northwest Alabama Fair will be checked in on **Saturday, September 9 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** This includes all individual items and exhibit booths. Please mark this date and time on your calendar because this is the **ONLY** time that the fair will be accepting entries for judging.

The fair will feature nightly entertainment as well. On Tuesday evening one of my favorite events other than the livestock shows, the Demolition Derby will begin at 7:30 p.m. For those of you who have never seen a demolition derby, several cars drive around out in a crowded arena and deliberately try to crash into each other until only one car survives. It's sort of like driving your car out on Highway 78 at times. It is actually a lot of fun to watch.

On Wednesday there will be a youth dance performance sponsored by Elite J and the Aracoma Native American dancers will perform on the stage area behind the exhibit building. On Thursday the Miss Walker County Agriculture pageant and Talent Find sponsored by the ALFA Young Farmers Committee will be held. Applications for entry into the Miss Walker County Agriculture Pageant or Talent Find can be obtained by

contacting Chris McCullar at Curry High School, Chris Thrasher at Oakman High School, or Danny Cain at the County Extension Office.

Friday's entertainment will be Karaoke at the Exhibit Building Stage area sponsored by A-1 Heating and Cooling.

Thursday will also be an exciting evening at the fair for several reasons. First of all is the gate special.....\$1 entry into the fair and \$1 rides, can't beat that. Then Thursday evening the Northwest Alabama Fair will have a fireworks show.

Ok as good as all that sounds, here is my favorite part!!! What fair would be complete without a visit from the king of rock and roll....Elvis Presley! How much better does it get than that?? Elvis will be performing on Saturday evening at 7:00.

If livestock is your thing, then there will be plenty of opportunity to see the livestock shows as well. On Friday evening there will be a halter horse show with categories for both youth and adults to exhibit their horses. I have entry forms for the horse shows as well as the cattle shows available by just calling the Extension Office.

On Saturday beginning at 4:00 p.m. the Northwest Alabama Fair heifer show will begin. We anticipate a large number of youth from several different counties to be exhibiting livestock Saturday afternoon (September 16). The West Alabama Poultry Club will also be exhibiting poultry at the livestock pavilion from Tuesday through Friday evening.

There will also be plenty of rides, food (my favorite is the funnel cakes, I highly recommend them), and games to go along with the entertainment, exhibits, and livestock shows. Just don't forget the important dates.....check-in and registration is on September 9 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and the fair opens on Tuesday, September 12 and will run through Saturday, September 16. Be on the lookout for the Northwest Alabama Fair insert in the Daily Mountain Eagle soon, and I look forward to seeing you at the fair.