

HARDWICK COMMUNITY FAIR ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1
HARDWICK, MA 01037

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264th Hardwick Community Fair

Originated in 1762 • "The Oldest Fair in the United States"
On the Common • Hardwick, Massachusetts

Local Postal Customer

Friday, August 14, 2026 *AND*
Saturday, August 15, 2026

☆ The 2026 Hardwick Fair is Dedicated to Pam Hinckley ☆

HARDWICK FAIR RULES & INSTRUCTIONS

EXHIBITORS

Please arrange your exhibits on:

Thursday, August 13th Friday, August 14th
7 PM – 9 PM 9 AM – 2:30 PM

**NO EXHIBIT WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER
2:30 PM ON FRIDAY AUGUST 14TH**

Please note: Entries for the Literary Competition have
a strict deadline of 7:00 PM on Thurs. August 6th.

*** Please note this is a week earlier than usual
due to judge availability ***

Exhibit halls will be closed to the public for judging on Friday, August 14th at 2:30 PM, so be sure to enter your exhibit(s) prior to this time. All exhibits must remain in place until Saturday, August 15th, 3:00 PM. Youth exhibits are for boys and girls 16 years of age and under as of January 1, 2026, unless otherwise stated.

A person shall not offer for exhibit any item not produced and/or prepared by him/herself, or any item previously entered in the Hardwick Community Fair. An exhibitor shall make only one entry in a given class. The only exception to either of these rules is in certain livestock classes.

New classes may be listed and judged at the discretion of the Committee Chairperson, provided there are three or more entries. Undesirable quality exhibits and those not properly entered will not be accepted. The committee, judges, and Fair management reserve the right to reject any and/or all exhibits they determine to be undesirable. Placing is awarded on the basis of quality of exhibit, and the decision of the judge(s) is final.

Final prize money will be allocated to exhibitors based upon money available and total number of points earned. Any interpretation of these rules rests with the Fair's Board of Directors. Unless otherwise stated, all prizes will be: 1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points, and 3rd – 1 point.

All fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, eggs, baked goods, and hay will be auctioned at the end of the fair on Saturday, August 15th at 3:30 PM. All Fair exhibitors should read the rules as given in the premium list and follow the premium list exactly.

All booths and concessions must be approved by July 31, 2026 by the Fair's Board of Directors and must be accompanied by a signed contract and full payment. For information, please check our website, hardwickfair.com, call 617.834.0048, or write to the Fair at P.O. Box 1, Hardwick, MA 01037.

Livestock exhibitor standards: It is recognized that in classes of livestock, exhibitors have standards of dress that have been accepted by the industry. Examples are white shirts, white or tan slacks, skirts, or dresses. NO shorts or bathing attire will be allowed. A solid, durable shoe must be worn at all times. NO sandals, clogs, sneakers, or bare feet will be allowed. Please refer to the Fair Animal Health Rules for livestock rules in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These are posted at: www.mass.gov/info-details/animal-imports-and-livestock-markets.

The Hardwick Community Fair, Inc. will not be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits, or injury to animals or persons.

For more information, visit us at hardwickfair.com

PLEASE REMEMBER



No Dogs are permitted at the Fair unless they are a service animal. Owners must provide appropriate tags or certification reflecting that registration and vaccines are current. Thank you!

FAIR SUPPORT & VOLUNTEERS

President Fay Butler
Vice President Richard Jakshtis
Commodities Superintendent Abbie White
Cattle Superintendent Jessica Goodfield
Secretary Lisa Cohen
Treasurer Maureen Czabaj
Board Members Fay Butler, Rich Jakshtis, Lisa Cohen, Maureen Czabaj, Kim Veilleux, Colin Brown
Facilities, Service, & Maintenance Hardwick Farmers Co-op, Kenny Stolgitis, Zach Wilson, Neil Halin, Jakob Ladue, Paul Larson, Tim Nydam, Chad Holmes, Laura Grunweg, Barry Koch, Bob Cowart
Social Media & Web Lauren Mace, Cara Wilczynski, Marcus Hayden
Refreshments Stands Aaron Annon, Judi Korzec, Marc Korzec, Shelley Regin, Steve Prouty
Merchandise The Mace Family
Historical Exhibits Historical Society
Door Registration Marlo Stein
Road Race Colin Brown
Mountain Bike Ride Rick Romano, Neil Dawson
Antique Tractor Exhibit Dana Prouty
Obstacle Course Paula Ouimette
Kiddie Kraft Kate Kelly
Children's Parade Megan Kelly Dias
Legos Kate Kelly
Scarecrows Kathy Hosley
Eggs Megan Kelly Dias
Cattle Jessica Goodfield, Nicole Kibbe
Lumberjack Contest Russell Ward, Russ Sanderson, Robinson Lumber
Homebrew Contest Eric Vollheim, Paul McNeil
Auctioneer Laura Grunweg

Art & Photography Liz Hanson, Jen Dimauro, Nikki Hamm, Kate Morreale, Craig Childs, Judy Kohn
Crafts Tracie Shea, Maura Shea, Ellie Shea, Marilyn Frost
Literary Gayle Huntress, Julie Bullock, Judith Berg Kohn, Mary Warbasse
Fruits, Veggies, & Herbs Abbie White, Mary Ushkurnis, Roberta McQuaid & Family, Nan Wolverton & Family, Abby and Don Mayou
Home Baking Maureen Czabaj, Kaeli Raymond, Laurie Hickson, Cara Wilczynski
4-H Room Tracie Shea, Maura Shea, Ellie Shea, Marilyn Frost
Fiber Arts Pam Hinckley, Sharyn Buelow, Diane Kubaska, Barb Newton, Patty Shaaf, Christine Greene, Beth Caramella Paula Hurd, Anne Van Arsdell, Jennifer Mott, Ellie Frost, Robin Paris
Home Canning Lucinda Childs
Flowers Michelle Webb, Donna Holden, Emily Paquette, Lisa Swanson, Jill Stolgitis, Suzanne Harper, Kirsten Noble, Karen Gerulaitis, Chris Greene, Elizabeth Lang-Holmes
Nature Photography & Conservation Stacey Hill, Hilarie Shea
Field Crops Steve Gould
Friendly Farm Animals Kimberly Veilleux and family
Children's Games Ian and Kristyl Kelly
Frog Jumping Skip Kohn, Ed Wiktor, Hank Brantley, Roger Raymond
Horseshoes Luke Wright, Dane Stolgitis
Blacksmithing Jennifer Petrilla
Stone Cutting Randy Noble
Timber Framing Ridge Shinn and Hardwick Post & Beam
Pottery Clayworks/Workshop 13
Dance Demonstration Get Up & Dance
Rabbit Demonstration Central Mass Rabbit Breeders, Kristen Coltey Wentworth
Tractor Pulls Dana Prouty

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Homebrew Contest

{ TOWN HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *



Local home brewers, show off your talents! This event has two classes: lagers and ales. Entries will be judged using a standardized judging sheet evaluating aroma, appearance, flavor, and mouthfeel. Entries must include a list of ingredients and alcohol %.

Deadline for entries: August 7th at 4:30PM

Fee: \$5 per entry

Drop off entries at Hardwick Crossing any day between 12-7PM.

For a full list of rules and instructions, visit www.hardwickfair.com.

NO COMMERCIAL BREWERS, PLEASE

Hardwick Farmers Guild Burger Bash



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 PM • RAIN OR SHINE!**

The Hardwick Farmers Guild invites you to cap off the 2026 Hardwick Fair with an ALL LOCAL Burger Bash on the town common. Smoked Brisket Burgers and Sides - raised and produced by Hardwick Farmers.

MEAL DETAILS:

Includes 1 burger, 2 sides + non-alcoholic beverage.
Meals also available to-go! Separate mocktail bar available

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

Visit: <https://farmersguildofhardwick.org/collections/events>
or **scan** the code below:



* *Tickets are limited, so get yours before they are sold out!*
*Tickets are non-refundable**

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

FIBER ARTS

{ FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH "ON THE HILL" }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: All framed articles must be ready for hanging. Youth (age 16 and under) will be judged separately from Adults (17+ years).

A. Machine Sewing

1. Clothing
2. Other

B. Hand Sewing

1. Embroidery (stamped pattern)
2. Cross stitch (evenweave or aida fabric)

C. Pillows

D. Knitting

1. Sweaters
2. Socks
3. Hats/mittens
4. Afghan
5. Other

E. Crochet

1. Sweater
2. Baby Clothes
3. Afghan
4. Other

F. Quilts

1. Hand quilted
2. Machine quilted by exhibitor
3. Machine quilted by professional
4. Tied

G. Hand spun yarn

H. Weaving

I. Hooked rugs

J. Felting

K. Open class for seniors (age 65 and older)

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY & CONSERVATION

{ TOWN HOUSE – 1ST FLOOR }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: One entry per category.

Each entry must be an original work and must have been created within the last year. Size limit on photography is 8 x 10 inches. *Pieces must be ready to hang or tack; no man-made objects can be visible except as noted below. Please, no heavy frames or glass. No names on the front of photos please.* Separate classes for Youth (16 years and under) and Adult (17+ yrs). Classes may be divided further at discretion of the committee and/or judge.

A. Nature Photography – B&W or Color

1. Flora
 - a. Wild plant life
 - b. Cultivated plant life
2. Fauna
 - a. Birds
 - b. Bugs, Butterflies, or Bees
 - c. Other wildlife
 - d. Farm animals (fences and collars allowed)
 - e. Domestic animals (fences and collars allowed)

3. Landscape
 - a. Land view
 - b. Water view
4. Artistic view of natural subject

B. Collections – Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral (At least 10 specimens mounted and labeled)

C. Bird House, Feeder, Terrarium or Display (i.e.: "Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle" or "Energy Conservation" theme.)

SCARECROW CONTEST

{ TOWN HOUSE – CEMETERY }

* No Electronics please. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: Exhibitors are responsible for mounting scarecrows for display on stakes provided by the Fair. Scarecrows should not have been exhibited at any previous Hardwick Fair. Adults (17+ years) and Youth (16 years and under) will be judged separately. Judges may change category entered at their discretion.

A. Traditional

B. Scariest

C. Most Creative

D. Recyclables

E. Mechanicals (Powered by solar, wind, or hydro; must be self-contained & reasonably quiet)

F. Prettiest

HOME BAKING

{ TOWN HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: All food will be cut and auctioned or sold at the fair. All food **must** be made by the exhibitor. No **microwave** cookery. All food **must** be cooled and placed on a plate that can go to auction (in a resealable plastic bag.) We **do not** accept exhibits that require refrigeration. **All** quick breads and cakes **must** be whole. (**Do not slice**) All entries must include a **complete recipe** and not just an ingredient list. Please use a 3x5 index card or typed any size. **No** box mixes, **except in specific category**. All winning recipes become the property of the Hardwick Community Fair. Please note required amounts for some items. (When in doubt, or not specified, place 7 items on a plate)

ADULT COOKING (15+ years)

A. Pies with Homemade Crust (Must include recipe for crust as well as filling)

1. Apple
2. Favorite

B. Freestyle Bake

(Enter your favorite recipe)

C. Quick Breads

(must be standard loaf size, uncut)

1. Date
2. Favorite
3. Banana

D. Muffins (7 on a plate)

1. Berry
2. Favorite

E. Ditch the Coca Cola and Grab Some Granola!

(Your favorite granola recipe
presented in a quart Mason jar)

F. Cakes

1. Coffee
2. Favorite
3. Chocolate

G. Cookies (7 on a plate)

1. Chocolate Chip
2. Sandwich
3. Favorite

H. Squares (7 on a plate)

1. Fruit
2. Chocolate

I. Creative Use of a Mix

(Start with a boxed mix and add
ingredients to create something
entirely different!)

J. Sweet Yeast Dough

(Tea rings, Braids, Poppy Seed
Breads, Rolls, etc.)

K. Gluten Free

1. Cookies
2. Squares
3. Cakes

L. Yeast Bread

(Sourdough, Bagels, Rolls, etc.)

M. Let's Roll with It!

(Favorite your favorite jelly roll
or other type of rolled cake)

N. It's a Small World!

(Delight us with your favorite
old world family recipe)

O. Micky DiMartino

Adult Challenge Recipe

(In honor of our friend and
long-time Hardwick Fair Baking
Committee leader and our country's
250th, this year's challenge is:
Red, White, and Blueberry Cake.
Recipe can be found at www.hardwickfair.com. **Recipe may not
be altered in any way**)

YOUTH COOKING (14 years and under)

A. Cookies (7 on a plate)

1. Peanut Butter
2. Chocolate Chip
3. Favorite

B. Squares (7 on a plate)

1. Fruit
2. Chocolate

C. Quick Breads

(must be standard loaf size, uncut)

1. Banana
2. Favorite

D. It's Sprinkling Sprinkles!

(Any recipe that features sprinkles
of any type or shape (rainbow,
chocolate, etc.)

E. Freestyle Bake

(Enter your favorite recipe)

F. Bug Off!

(Decorate sugar cookies to look like a
bug – be sure to include your recipe)

G. Cookie Pizza

(Create a yummy looking pizza using
your favorite sugar cookie recipe)

H. Tartful of Delight in Every Bite!

(Create your homemade version
of a crazy, delicious Pop-Tart)

I. Youth Challenge Recipe

(Let's see who can create the best
Patriotic Sugar Cookies using the
same recipe. Recipe can be found
at www.hardwickfair.com. Please
enter 7 squares. **Recipe may not be
altered in any way**)



FAMILY & FRIENDS CHALLENGE

Pick one of the above categories
and challenge your family
members and/or friends to a
bake off! Have fun!

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

4-H ROOM

{ TOWN HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR, BACK ROOM }

* Premiums: 5 pts., 3 pts., 1 pt., unless otherwise noted *

RULES: Only 4-H members may exhibit. Separate classes for Cloverbud (5–8 yrs), Junior (9–13 yrs) and Senior (14–18 yrs) as of January 1st

A. Fiber Arts

1. CREATIVE STITCHING
 - a. Small item
 - b. Large Item
2. QUILTS
 - a. Tied
 - b. Hand Quilted
 - c. Machine Quilted
3. SEWING
 - a. Tops
 - b. Pants, Shorts, or Skirts
 - c. Any other article of clothing or accessory
 - d. Sewn Household Item (potholder, placemat, pillow, etc.)
 - e. Any other sewn item (1 entry only)

B. Cooking

(Home baking rules apply)

1. Quick Bread of Muffins
2. Cake or Cupcakes
3. Dropped Cookies
4. Bars (cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Creative use of a box mix

C. Home Improvement

1. Any item for the Kitchen
2. Holiday or Seasonal Decoration
 - a. Spring
 - b. Summer
 - c. Autumn
 - d. Winter
3. Flower arrangement in a vase or container (live cultivated and/or wildflowers)
4. Any other (1 entry only)

D. Crafts

1. Creative use of discarded materials (discarded materials must be named)
2. Jewelry Item
3. Decorative Painting (t-shirt, bag, pillowcase, pwooden plaque, etc.)
4. Any project using clay, pottery, or ceramics
5. Nature craft (any craft using primarily natural items)
6. Any other craft project (1 entry only)

E. Photography

1. 4-H Friends
2. 4-H Projects (animals, community service, etc.)
3. 4-H Fun

F. Trades Craft

- (Carpentry, Metal work, Electrical, etc.)
1. Wood work (small item)
 2. Wood work (large item)
 3. Any other work (small item)
 4. Any other work (large item)

G. Posters

1. 4-H is Great! (any poster promoting 4-H or a 4-H event)
2. Any other entry (1 entry only)

H. Educational Display

- (5 pts., 4 pts., 3 pts.)
1. Science, Engineering and Technology: includes animal science (Individual)
 2. Science, Engineering and Technology: includes animal science (Group)
 3. Any other – Individual (1 entry only)
 4. Any other – Group (1 entry only)

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, & HERBS

{ TOWN HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR }

* Premiums: 5 pts., 3 pts., 1 pt. *

RULES: All entries must be grown, selected, & arranged by exhibitor. FAQ are posted online. New classes will be created at the discretion of the committee & judges. White paper plates will be provided by the Fair. Other display containers are provided by exhibitor. Exhibitors have option to use moist paper towels, and/or jars of water to maintain freshness. Youth (age 16 and under) will be judged separately from Adults (17+ years).

A. Fruit Plates

1. 5 Apples, any variety
2. 5 Pears, any variety
3. 5 Peaches, any variety
4. Blueberries, 1 pint
5. Other, 1 pint or 5 each

B. Container Display

1. Display of at least 6 kinds of vegetables
2. At least 2 kinds of fruits, 2 kinds of herbs, & 2 kinds of veggies
3. 1 kind of vegetable, at least 6 different varieties

C. Vegetable Creatures (Home grown vegetables not required)

1. Creative inspiration
2. America 250 Critters

D. Vegetables & Fruits for Taste

(Judged solely on taste, not appearance)

1. 15 Beans
2. 2 Cucumbers
3. 2 Garlic Heads
4. 5 Hot Peppers
5. 5 Small Tomatoes
6. 2 Large Tomatoes
7. Blueberries, 1 pint
8. 2 Melons
9. 5 Peaches

F. Herbs

(Displaying in jars of water, preserves freshness)

1. 2 stems of one kind
2. At least 6 kinds

E. Vegetables for Display

1. 15 pods green beans
2. 15 pods other color beans
3. 5 beets
4. 2 heads cabbage
5. 5 carrots
6. 5 ears of sweet corn
7. 5 pickling cucumbers
8. 2 slicing cucumbers
9. 5 garlic
10. 5 stems greens such as swiss chard, kale, spinach
11. 2 heads lettuce
12. 5 onions
13. 1 onion/garlic/shallot braid
14. 5 bell peppers
15. 5 hot peppers, 3" or longer
16. 15 hot peppers, less than 3"
17. 5 potatoes
18. 2 pumpkins
19. 5 green tomatoes
20. 5 red tomatoes
21. 5 ripe other-than-red tomatoes
22. 15 cherry/grape/plum tomatoes
23. 2 zucchini
24. 2 yellow summer squash
25. 2 winter squash
26. Other not listed: large–2 each, medium–5 each, small–15
27. 1 largest size of any type
28. 2 eggplant

LITERARY COMPETITION

{ TOWN HOUSE – 1ST FLOOR }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: All entries must be received **no later than 7:00PM Thursday, August 7th. Note: this is a week earlier than fair weekend due to judge availability.** Please attach one form (found at hardwickfair.com) to each entry and deliver or mail to the Paige Memorial Library, Literary Competition, P.O. Box 413, Hardwick, MA 01037. Entries must be limited to 1000 words (equivalent to about 4 double-spaced pages with one-inch margins and 11 to 12-point font. Exception for picture books, limit 20 pages). **Please do not write your name on your entry.** Separate classes for Children (up to 8 years), Youth (9-12 years), Teens (13-16 years) and Adult (17+ years). One entry allowed per class.

A. Poetry

(any free verse or any verse that follows a rhyme theme)

B. Picture Books/Comic/Graphic Art Books

(Computer generated and hand-drawn art welcome! Books should be no longer than 20 pages)

C. Fiction

(any piece of fiction)

D. Non-Fiction

(any piece of non-fiction such as editorial, essay, school paper, scientific paper, biography, editorial, or personal perspective piece such as a blog post or memoir excerpt)

FIELD CROPS

{ TOWN HOUSE – OUTSIDE }

* Premiums: 10 pts., 7 pts., 5 pts. *

RULES: Only full bales will be accepted

A. Full Bale, 1st Cutting Mixed Hay

B. Full Bale, 2nd Cutting Mixed Hay

C. 5 Stalks Silage Corn (70 day)

D. 5 Stalks Silage Corn (90 day)

E. 5 Stalks Silage Corn (105 day)

F. Sunflowers (Open to all ages)

1. Best of three (3 specimens of the same color and size)
2. Largest sunflower

EGGS

{ TOWN HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR }

* Premiums: 5 pts., 3 pts., 1 pt. *

RULES: All Youth and Adult Classes

A. Dozen Large Brown Eggs in a Box

B. Dozen Large White Eggs in a Box

C. Dozen "Other" Eggs in a Box

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

CRAFTS

{ FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH "ON THE HILL" }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: One entry per category. Separate classes for Preschool (under 5 yrs), Children (5-8 yrs), Youth (9-12 yrs) and Young Adult (13-16 yrs), and Adult (17+ years) as of January 1st

A. Woodworking

1. Carved
2. Assembled

B. Metal Working

1. Welded
2. Other – wire, forged, etc.
(only 1 entry per exhibitor)

C. Leathercraft

D. Baskets

E. Pottery

1. Thrown
2. Hand Built

F. Glass

1. Stained glass
2. Other – fused, flamework, etc.
(only 1 entry per exhibitor)

G. Jewelry

1. Single Item
 - a. Necklace or Bracelet
 - b. Earrings or broach/pin
2. Set of 2 or more
(Must be displayed in a box or attached to a display board.)

H. Home Decorations

1. Suncatchers
2. Holiday/Seasonal
 - a. Spring
 - b. Summer
 - c. Autumn
 - d. Winter
3. Other home decor – wreaths, centerpieces, wall hangings, etc.
(only 1 entry per exhibitor)

I. Play it Again Sam

1. Upcycle – a new use or new look!
Give an old item a totally new look or purpose.
2. Recycle – Pull stuff from the recycle bin, get creative, & Frankenstein it into something new!

J. Windchimes

Make a wind chime out of anything you would like! Please bring your own shepherd's hook to hang it from! All wind chimes will be displayed on the church lawn.

K. Garden Art

Make a piece of garden art! What will it be? A garden gnome? A fantasy creature? A work of art? It will be displayed on the lawn so make sure it's weatherproof.

L. School Project

Preschool to Grad school! Any item created for school – an art project, a poster, or display, a STEM project, etc. Please remember – only 1 entry per exhibitor.

M. Make it Technicolor

Download and print this year's picture at hardwickfair.com/crafts, then give it some color! Use any medium you like: crayon, pencil, watercolor, collage, etc.

HOME CANNING

{ TOWN HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR }

* Premiums: 5 pts., 3 pts., 1 pt. *

RULES: The products shown must have been canned in the past 12 months and made by the exhibitor. Labeling must be uniform and indicate the type of processing. The jars in each entry shall be of the same size and must be screw top. Screw bands must be removed from all jars, except maple syrup, honey, and salsa, which will be opened. All products, including jam (but not jelly), shall be sealed by processing, hot water bath for fruits and tomatoes, and pressure for vegetables. All canned goods will be returned. Youth (16 and under) and Adult (17+ years) canning will be judged separately.

A. Vegetables (2 jars, any kind)

B. Fruit (2 jars, any kind)

C. Pickles (2 jars)

1. Dill
2. Bread & Butter
3. Relish
4. Other

D. Jam

(2 jars, not less than 4 oz. each)

1. Strawberry
2. Raspberry
3. Peach
4. Blueberry
5. Other

E. Jelly (2 jars, not less than 4 oz. each)

1. Strawberry
2. Apple
3. Grape
4. Other

F. Jam/Jelly Combinations

(2 jars, any kind)

G. Collections

(3 jars, 1 jar each of 3 kinds)

1. Vegetable
2. Fruit
3. Jam/Jelly

H. Honey (strained, 2 jars)

I. Maple Syrup (2 pints)

J. Salsa (2 jars)

K. Vinegars (herbal)

CATTLE

{ CATTLE TENT – CORNER OF GREENWICH & 32A }

* 50 pts., 40 pts., 36 pts., 30 pts., 24 pts., 16 pts., 10 pts. *

RULES: Send entries by August 3rd to: Jessica Goodfield, 59 Adams Rd, Athol, MA 01331. Showmanship Classes will begin at 9:30 AM sharp. General Livestock Rules & Standards and Entry forms at www.hardwickfair.com. *Purebreds will compete against other purebreds; crosses will compete against other crosses. Heifers and steer will compete separately. Classes are for animals over one year and under one year for each prospective breed and sex. There will be no individual champions of breed, and if there are less than 10 head, there will be only one overall Champion.

FEES: \$5 Entry fee per animal – Checks payable to the Hardwick Community Fair.

A. Dairy/Beef Showmanship

1. NOVICE: Age 8 years and over with no prior show experience.
2. JUNIOR: Ages 8 through 12
3. INTERMEDIATE: Ages 13 through 15
4. SENIOR: Ages 16 through 19 as of January 1, 2026.

B. Dairy

1. JR. (SPRING) CALF (born March 1 – May 31 of current year)
2. INTERMEDIATE (WINTER) CALF (born Dec. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026)
3. SENIOR (FALL) CALF (born Sept. 1, 2025 – Nov. 30, 2025)
4. JR. (SUMMER/SPRING) YEARLING (born March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025)
5. SENIOR (WINTER/FALL) YEARLING (born Sept. 1, 2024 – Feb. 28, 2025)
6. JUNIOR CHAMPION – Rosette only (if over 10 head of each breed, otherwise there will be champion only)
7. COW CLASS (born before Sept. 1, 2024)
8. CHAMPION

C. BEEF

1. STEERS UNDER 1
2. STEERS OVER 1
3. HEIFER UNDER 1
4. HEIFER OVER 1
5. COW
6. CHAMPION STEER
7. CHAMPION FEMALE

KIDDIE KRAFT CLASS

{ TOWN HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR, BACK ROOM }

* Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: One article will be accepted from any youngster 7 years and under. All entries will be judged on the Danish System.

LEGO® CONTEST

{ TOWN HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR, BACK ROOM }

* Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: Creations may be no larger than 1 ft. long x 2 ft. wide x 2 ft. high. Kits are allowed in the Preschool class only. Portions of kits may be used as pieces of the exhibit in other classes but cannot comprise the whole entry. Classes: Preschool (under 5 yrs.), Children (5-6 yrs.), Kids (7-8 yrs.) Youth (9-12 years), and Young Adult (13-16 years)

FRIENDLY FARM ANIMALS

{ ON THE COMMON }

ABOUT: Visit a display of farm animals including chickens, waterfowl, rabbits, and sheep. There will be wool spinning and needle felting demonstrations. See you there!

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

ART

{ TRI-PARISH CHURCH }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: One entry per category.

Each entry must be an original work and must have been created within the last year. ***Pieces must be ready to hang or tack. Matted pieces and lightweight frames are encouraged. Please, no heavy frames or glass.*** Please indicate which way is up for hanging purposes. We are not responsible for damage to frames. Entries will be hung and displayed at the discretion of the Committee. Separate classes for Children (5–8 yrs), Youth (9–12 yrs), Young Adult (13–16 yrs), and Adult (17+ yrs)

A. Oil/Acrylic

B. Watercolor

C. Pen & Ink

D. Pencil

E. Pastel/Charcoal

F. Mixed Media

G. Sculpture

H. Open Class for Seniors

(Age 65 and older)

FLOWERS

{ TOWN HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR }

* Premiums: 5 pts., 3 pts., 1 pt. *

RULES: One entry per class. Designs must be the work of the exhibitor. Exhibitor MUST grow horticulture specimens. All plant material must be fresh. Containers for cut specimens (G-I) to be provided by the Fair. Three specimens of same color and size are required in the cut specimen classes; foliage to be included. If your specimens do not have those requirements they will not be accepted for judging. The arrangements MUST stay within the measurements listed or will not be accepted for judging. Measurements include the container. Youth (16 years and under) and Adults (17+ years) will be judged separately.

THEME: "America's Birthday"

(in honor of America's 250th Birthday)

ARRANGEMENTS

A. Show Your Pride

A Big & Bold arrangement incorporating the American Flag.

B. Purple Mountain Majesty

A cascading arrangement using primarily purple flowers.

C. Land of the Free

A fun & free arrangement of your choice using creativity to represent our country's freedom.

D. Rooted in History

A arrangement using primarily field flowers in a container with a nod to America's history.

**E. Sparkle and Shine
(mini arrangement)**

An miniature arrangement of primarily white flowers, adding in touches of gold and silver. (Arrangement not to exceed 7x7 inches in height and length)

F. Birthday Party – YOUTH CLASS

Must be 10 years or younger.

A Bright and Cheerful arrangement incorporating party favors, props, or items

CUT SPECIMENS

G. Perennials

1. Roses
2. Phlox
3. Asters
4. Delphiniums
5. Other

H. Bulbs, Corms, or Tubers

1. Dahlias
2. Gladioli
3. Other

I. Annuals

1. Marigolds
2. Zinnias
3. Petunias
4. Cosmos
5. Other

J. Plants

1. Hanging
 - a. Flowering
 - b. Non-Flowering
2. Non-Hanging
 - a. Flowering
 - b. Non-Flowering

PHOTOGRAPHY

{ TRI-PARISH CHURCH }

* Amateur exhibitors only. Ribbons Only are awarded *

RULES: One entry per category.

Each entry must be an original work and must have been created within the last year. ***Pieces must be ready to hang or tack. Matted pieces and lightweight frames are encouraged. Please, no heavy frames or glass.*** Please indicate which way is up for hanging purposes. We are not responsible for damage to frames. Entries will be hung and displayed at the discretion of the Committee. Separate classes for Children (5–8 yrs), Youth (9–12 yrs), Young Adult (13–16 yrs), and Adult (17+ yrs)

A. Color Photography

(Categories open to creative interpretation)

1. Favorite Faces
2. Macro
3. Amazing Places
4. Action
5. Pets at Their Best

B. B&W Photography

1. Portrait
2. Landscape
3. Other

C. Photo Series (3–6 photos that together tell a story; must be mounted as one piece and be ready to hang)

**D. Best Photo of the
2025 Hardwick Fair**

E. Filter Fun

(Any type of photo editing software may be used)

F. Panoramic Views

18TH ANNUAL MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE/RACE

{ ON THE COMMON }

* Helmets Required. No e-bikes. Meet on the Common at 9:00 am *

RULES: Come join the friendly competition as we ride through the rolling terrain surrounding the Hardwick Common. This 1+/- hour intermediate trail traverses a variety of Hardwick environs, introducing the rider to our historic, local, open space, allowing for a great start to a great day!

49TH RUNNING OF THE ROAD RACE

{ ON THE COMMON }

* Arrive early if you did not pre-register. 8:00 am start *

FEES: \$25 – Pre-registration (Pre-register by August 10th)

\$30 – Registration day of the race

RULES: The race is a hilly, 5.7 mile figure eight, featuring mile markers, water stations, timed splits, bathroom facilities, and a post race raffle. The event is USATF sanctioned. For an application, please download it from www.hardwickfair.com, or send a SASE to Colin Brown at PO Box 33, Gilbertville, MA 01031. For more info. or to volunteer, please contact Colin at 413-668-7670.

HARDWICK ADULT BINGO

{ FUN FOR ADULTS IN THE BEER GARDEN! }

* Bragging rights awarded *

ABOUT: Join us for a fun-filled game of Bingo. It's completely FREE to play, and while there are no prizes, you'll earn something even better—bragging rights! Come laugh, play, and see if you can call yourself the Hardwick Fair Bingo Champion!
Starting on Saturday, August 12th at 4:30 PM

* RETURNING THIS YEAR! *

Kids (chaperoned by an adult) are welcome to pick flowers for the arrangements only (not specimens) at Lone Birch Blossoms located at 1800 Lower Road in Hardwick, FREE of charge on Thursday, August 13th from 3-6pm.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

CHILDREN'S PARADE

{ ON THE COMMON }

* Participation Ribbons awarded *

THEME: "Party in the USA – Kid Edition"

Imagine the fun of a birthday party, with a patriotic twist! Balloons, streamers, pennants, and vibrant colors fill the air as we celebrate 250 years of true American spirit. Come dressed and march in your most playful outfit—stars, stripes, rainbows, and all—and show how each of us shines in our own unique way Assemble by the bleachers on the Common (Frog Jumping area) at 11:45am on Saturday, August 16th. Children will walk a parade route beginning at 12:00pm.

FROG JUMPING CONTEST

{ ON THE COMMON BY THE BLEACHERS }

* Children ages 4–12 *

FEES: None

RULES: For over 40 years, Hardwick fairgoers have enjoyed the competitive pastime of frog jumping. Each participant (ages 4–12) brings their own frog. Then, each frog is placed on a jumping pad. Once put down, the frog may not be touched to make it jump. (HINT: trying blowing on the frog instead!) The frog that jumps the farthest, wins!

- Pre-registration required (by the bleachers from 12:00 – 1:00 pm)
- Frogs only. NO TOADS PLEASE

CHILDREN'S GAMES

{ ON THE COMMON }

* Good Old Fashioned Fun! *

RULES: Potato Sack Race (4–13 years) Egg Toss (all ages welcome!)
Foot Race (4–13 years) Pie Eating Contest (5–15 years)
Potato Toss (4–13 years)

KID ADVENTURE TRAIL

{ FAIR OFFICE IN THE TOWNHOUSE }

* Fun for all ages! *

ABOUT: On Saturday, pick up your Trivia Passport at the Fair Office in the Town House! Visit the designated trivia stations throughout the fair and collect a stamp along the way. Once you've filled your passport, return it to the Fair Office by 3:00pm to claim your prize!

SELF-GUIDED GRAVEYARD TOUR

{ NEXT TO THE TOWNHOUSE }

* Fun for all ages! *

ABOUT: Wander through the graveyard and visit the graves of some of Hardwick's key figures of the Revolutionary War. Tour maps are available in the Fair Office in the Town House.

TRACTOR PULLS

{ BEHIND THE CATTLE TENT }

FEES: Donations accepted but not required

RULES: Antique tractor stone boat pull. For more info. call or text Dana Prouty: 413-813-8119. Pullers may be required to sign a release form for insurance purposes.

ANTIQUE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT PARADE

{ CORNER OF GREENWICH RD. AND 32A }

* No fee to participate. Display exhibit only *

The Hardwick Fair antique tractor exhibit features some iconic and impressive tractors of the last century. Participants may bring their tractor to the field in front of the cattle, where the tractors will remain for the duration of the fair.

On Saturday at 12:30 p.m. anyone willing to drive their tractors may participate in the antique tractor parade, going around the common twice before returning to the field. After the auction on Saturday, exhibitors may take their tractor whenever convenient for them.

LUMBERJACK CONTEST

{ ON THE COMMON }

* Class winners take all proceeds *

FEES: None

RULES: The Lumberjack Contest showcases some of the best and most skilled lumberjacks in the area. Contestants must make two different cuts within predetermined lines, as quickly as possible. Best qualified time wins. There are four classes based on engine size, starting with 55CC and under, through 91CC and above. Following the chain saw portion, there is an open crosscut saw competition; best time wins.

HORSESHOE CONTEST

{ NEXT TO THE CATTLE TENT ON GREENWICH RD. }

* Cash prizes for 1st – 3rd place. Trophies awarded to the winners *

FEES: \$5.00 per person per match

RULES: The Horseshoe Contest is made up of singles and doubles matches. All matches are played to 11 points, but one must win by at least 2 points. It's a great time and remains a popular event at the fair.

AUCTION OF EXHIBITS

{ TENT BY THE TOWN HOUSE }

* Bring your cash! *

ABOUT: The Auction of Exhibits is a fun event where the highest bidder takes home the best of the fair's exhibits. Have your eye on a prize winning apple pie? Want to bring home an assorted bag of locally grown vegetables? Bring your wallet (cash or check) and outbid your neighbor for that gorgeous floral arrangement!

All proceeds from the auction go directly back to the yearly operation of the fair.

Contra Dancing

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

{ TOWN HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR }

* FREE ENTRY! *



Contra dancing is an American social folk dance featuring two long lines of couples, a live band, and a caller. No partner or prior experience is needed. All experience levels welcome. **Called by:** Jane Thickstun. **Live music by:** Joy Factor

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



FRIDAY AUGUST 15TH

4:00 PM – 10:00 PM	<i>Food Trucks: Big T's, Trolley Dogs, Potato Potato</i>
4:00 PM – 10:00 PM	<i>Beer Garden: Fieldcrest Brewing</i>
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Tri-Parish Church baked potato bar
6:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies & Fair Dedication { Flag Pole }
6:15 PM	Lumberjack Contest
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Historical Society Opens { Exhibits }
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Exhibit Halls Open
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Blacksmithing & Pottery Demonstrations
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Timber Framing Demonstration
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Antique Tractor & Implement Exhibit
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Entertainment { The Otters }

PARKING

Parking is available at the field on 32A south of the common and at the Eagle Hill School • 242 Old Petersham Road • Hardwick

FREE Shuttle service will be available between Eagle Hill School and the Fair on Friday and Saturday at frequent intervals provided by EHS. Handicapped parking will be available at the Universalist Church and adjacent to the Police Command Center at Corner of Barre Rd and Rte. 32A.

DONATIONS



Donations help keep the fair going each year.
Please consider making a donation, by scanning the QR code. It is much appreciated!
The fair is a 501(c)3 organization

SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH

7:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Pancake Breakfast
8:00 AM	Running of the Road Race { NEW START TIME! }
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Kids' Adventure Trail { FAIR OFFICE; TOWN HOUSE }
9:00 AM	Mountain Bike Ride/Race
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Exhibit Halls Open
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Friendly Farm Animals Exhibit
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Hardwick Fair-y Villages { PAIGE LIBRARY }
9:30 AM	Cattle Judging
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM	Blacksmithing Demo
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Hay Rides { MAINE-LY DRAFTS }
10:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Timber Framing & Pottery Demonstrations
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Book Sale { PAIGE LIBRARY }
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	<i>Food Trucks: Big T's, Trolley Dogs, Potato Potato</i>
10:45 AM	Stone Cutting
11:00 AM	Dance Demo { GET UP AND DANCE }
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Tri-Parish Church baked potato bar
11:00 AM – 7:30 PM	<i>Beer Garden: Fieldcrest Brewing</i>
12:00 PM	Children's Parade
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Entertainment { THE OTTERS }
12:30 PM	Antique Tractor & Implement Parade
1:00 PM	Central Mass Rabbit Breeders Display & Demo
1:00 PM	Frog Jumping Contest { NO TOADS }
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Historical Society Opens { EXHIBITS }
1:30 PM	Horseshoe Contest
2:00 PM	Children's Games
2:45 PM	Tractor Pulls
3:30 PM	Auction of Exhibits
4:30 PM	Hardwick Adult Bingo { IN THE BEER GARDEN }
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Hardwick Farmers Guild Buger Bash
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Contra Dancing { TOWN HOUSE, SECOND FLOOR }



Kindly recycle your beverage containers in the labeled recycling bins located around the Common. The Hardwick Boy Scouts and our town will benefit from your care.

VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are essential to the running of the Fair.
To volunteer, please fill out the form at:
<https://www.hardwickfair.com/call-for-volunteers>

