



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Fast Facts About the Fair

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### Senator Ritchie's Weekly Column

Although summer is winding down, there's still plenty of fun to be had, including one of the season's biggest events—the Great New York State Fair, which is taking place from August 27<sup>th</sup> through September 7<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse.

For 175 years, the Great New York State Fair has attracted millions of people to Upstate New York; offering rides, food, exhibits that highlight New York agriculture, concerts from big name performers and so much more.

If you're planning on visiting the Great New York State Fair, here's a look at some of the new exhibits, entertainment and food offerings that will help to make this year's the best yet:

***Fresh and healthy food:*** If you're looking for more healthy options, this year, the fair will feature a new vegan and vegetarian stand—including everything from non-dairy milkshakes to vegan wings—located in the International Building. Also new this year, the Horticulture Building will offer \$1 sweet potatoes with all the toppings, including New York-made sour cream and maple syrup.

***Celebrating America:*** Each day of the fair will feature a live rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner,” sung by people from across New York State, including 3 vocalists from St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Oswego Counties who won a special contest to be able to perform.

***Saving cash and having a blast:*** Looking for the least expensive days to visit the fair? On Labor Day—September 7<sup>th</sup>—admission will be just \$1. In addition, on Thursdays, ticket prices will be just \$3. You can also save money by purchasing in advance online at [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org).

***Saluting our troops:*** This year, throughout the grounds, collectors of military equipment will be staffing displays of their wares, including large military vehicles. Take a moment to stop by and learn directly from the experts about how the equipment was used years ago. In addition, Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is Armed Forces Day, a day when the fair thanks our active duty troops and veterans by providing them with free admission, as well as special ceremonies to recognize them for their service.

The Great New York State Fair features endless family-friendly fun, entertainment, food and educational exhibits that only happen once a year. I hope you’ll take advantage of this great event, which showcases the best of everything our great state has to offer!