



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Wragg & Casas Strategic Relations, 305-372-1234
Melissa Lichtenheld 786-693-0089 / mlichtenheld@wraggcasas.com
Tania Longest / tlongest@wraggcasas.com

Thousands of exciting exhibits await families at the 2015 Youth Fair

- *What's new? Digi-Con, horse shows, feed the butterflies, ecology lab, more*

MIAMI, Fla. – March 3, 2015 – Now in its 64th year, The Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition's longstanding tradition of impressive exhibits continues from March 12-April 5 at the fairgrounds at Coral Way (SW 24th Street) and SW 107th Avenue.

****Editors Note:** The Youth Fair will be closed on two Mondays and two Tuesdays, March 16-17 and March 30-31, to give patrons an extra weekend of fair fun.

The Youth Fair's goal is to expose families to South Florida agriculture, offer different ways of interacting with nature and science, and showcase youth achievement in the fine arts, crafts, education, agriculture, and science and technology. Fairgoers will be able to enjoy more than 40,000 exhibits.

"The competitive student exhibits, agricultural exhibits and educational components of the 2015 Youth Fair are absolutely jam-packed with events, shows and displays that make learning fun for fairgoers of any age," said Robert Hohenstein, president and CEO. "Agriculture in Miami-Dade County is a \$2.7 billion economic engine that employs more than 20,000 people. We all should never lose sight of this."

New Exhibits in 2015:

- **Digi-Con** – Appealing to the geek in all of us, the tech exhibit is located at the Mary E. Reilly Coliseum and includes:
 - **Hewlett Packard's "Sprout" Room** – Youth Fair guests can try out their creativity on 20 high-tech "Sprout" computers with advanced touch technology. The desktop computer contains a 3-camera system, built-in projector, 20-point touch mat and a touch screen, all run with an Intel i7 processor.

- **Cody the NAO Humanoid Robot – noon to 5 p.m. March 14 only**
Interact with the cute robot in action. As Miami-Dade County Public School's first robotic teaching tool, he moves, recognizes you, hears you and even talks to you. The robot is designed to inspire students in careers in technology, programming, computer science, mathematics and state-of-the-art innovations.
 - **FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotic Tournament** – FIRST LEGO robots will compete at The Youth Fair. Teams of students will be evaluated for robot design, robot game, research project and teamwork. Each team builds its competition robot under the international guidelines of the annual FLL Mission. A different mission is announced each year. The ultimate goal of the FLL competition is to promote teamwork and interest in science, technology and engineering in youth ages 10-16.
 - **Robotics BattleBot Challenge** – High school teams will bring their engineered robots, that weigh up to 15 pounds with the ability to defeat their opponent in a 3-minute match. The top three teams will be awarded first, second and third place trophies. Best-engineered and most creative will receive Judge's trophies.
 - **SimSpray Virtual Painting Simulation** – SimSpray is a state-of-the-art virtual reality spray instructional tool. Test out the system by wearing virtual reality head goggles and simulate the experience of painting and coating automotive, industrial and military parts.
- **WaterVentures** – The unique water laboratory on wheels is housed in an aqua colored 53-foot semi-trailer parked near the Main Gate and is open March 20-21 and March 23-25. Interactive exhibits invite students to learn about Florida's waterways by exploring an aquifer cave and looking through the eye of a microscope. A staff of trained educators will guide visitors in their explorations. (<http://science.dadeschools.net/mobilelabs/wvMovieMobile.html>)
 - **CowtownUSA** – Bigger and better, CowtownUSA returns with double the activities and learning opportunities in the World of Agriculture tent all 21 days of The Youth Fair. This popular interactive exhibit allows visitors to experience milking cows and goats, watch demonstrations on how to make cheese, soap, butter, ice cream, and for the first time, shelling and grounding corn, as well as grinding sugar cane to make syrup.
 - Demonstration schedule: 4, 6 and 8 p.m. daily when the fair is open, except March 14 when demonstrations begin at 2, 4 and 6 p.m.

Arnold Hall

On display inside Arnold Hall are exhibits from students attending pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. Every entry receives an award; each student earns a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th place ribbon.

More than 40 divisions ranging from Crafts to Fine Arts, Posters to Popsicle sticks, Robotics to "Renew, Reuse and Recycle."

Culinary Competitions at the Sedano's Supermarkets Kitchen: The Youth Fair created a kitchen in partnership with Sedano's Supermarkets to offer hands-on

instruction about the importance of nutrition and the joy of cooking.

March 12	Culinary Division 4 Semi-Finals
March 13	Cupcake Wars Semi-Finals
March 15	Culinary Division 4 Finals
March 18, 6:30 p.m.	Food Decoration Demonstration
March 19	Sedano's Brand Cook-off
March 20, 7:30 p.m.	Nutrition Education in Spanish for Adults with Sandra Canales
March 21, 4:30 p.m.	Youth Nutrition Education Demo
March 27, 7:00 p.m.	Nutrition Education in English for Adults with Jackie Gibson

Community Stage at Mary E. Reilly Coliseum

Both school and community groups will take the Community Stage to perform. Every day will bring something different and exciting to center-stage.

- Dance Performances
- Magic Shows
- Award Ceremonies
- Fantasy Theatre Performances
- Gospel Showcases
- Derby Race
- Fashion Shows
- Jazz Showcase
- Variety of Entertainment

Competitions in Mary E. Reilly Coliseum

- Robotics - VEX
- BattleBots
- Metric 500 Race
- Bridge Design Competition
- First Lego League Robotic Competition

Performing Arts at FIU Concert Hall & Theatre

There will be a variety of competitions and other exciting presentations taking place March 12 through April 1. Except March 16 and 17 and March 30 and 31.

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Piano
- Dance
- World Language Drama

The World of Agriculture Tent

- Landscaping Displays
- Cattle
- Poultry
- Cavies
- Rabbits

- Hogs
- Horses

Hen House – The popular hatching chick exhibit boasts an incubator where visitors can watch the miracle of hatching chicks peck their way out of an egg every day of The Youth Fair.

Landscape Competition

- March 12, 5 to 6:45 p.m. Landscape Judging & Awards

Youth & Open Cattle Competitions: The Youth Fair is a premium competition show for cattle in Florida. Purebred cattle are professionally shown. Some weigh in at more than 2,000 pounds. Agriculture exhibit programs help to promote our local agriculture community and educate students on the principles of developing, implementing, and managing agricultural based businesses.

March 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Market Steer Fitting & Grooming
March 12, 7 to 9 p.m.	Market Steer Show and Showmanship
March 13, 7 to 9 p.m.	Santa Gertrudis Show
March 14, 5:30 to 10 p.m.	Market Sale & Reception
March 18, 7 to 9 p.m.	Angus Open Show
March 21, 7 to 9 p.m.	Brangus Show
March 22, 1 to 6 p.m.	Ranch Sorting - Jackpot Championship
March 25, 7 to 9 p.m.	Limousin Show
March 28, 7 to 9 p.m.	Brahman Show
April 1, 7 to 9 p.m.	Simmental Show
April 4, 5 to 9 p.m.	Dairy Show

Swine, Lamb, Rabbit and Cavy Competitions:

March 13, 12:30 to 4 p.m.	Market Swine Show, Showmanship, Fitting & Grooming
March 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Market Lamb Show, Showmanship, Fitting & Grooming
March 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Rabbit & Cavy Breed ID
March 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship

Equestrian Events – Ten events open to the public are scheduled to take place in the arena at the World of Agriculture:

March 21, Saturday

- 12:30 p.m. – South Florida Trail Riders parade
- 1 p.m. – “How to show and win with your horse in-hand” clinic for the Halter Show Class with Samantha Raulerson
- 2 p.m. – “Reining without a bridle” demonstration with Juan “Tato” Rodriguez
- 2:15 to 4 p.m. – “Another Perfect Horse” clinic with Ginger Krenz

March 22, Sunday

- 1 p.m. – **Ranch Sorting 2015 Jackpot Championship**

Ranch sorting is the No. 1 sport in horseback riding that evolved from the common ranch work of separating cattle into pens for branding, doctoring, or transport. Ranch

Sorting is an event that pits a team of two riders on horseback against the clock. The sport is sanctioned by the Ranch Sorting National Championships (RSNC) and is guided by the rules and judges from the RSN, which has 19,000 members strong. Its goal is to preserve the heritage and integrity of the ranching lifestyle while providing a family oriented, competitive riding experience at the grassroots level.

March 29, Sunday

- 1:30 p.m. – Meet-and-greet with Kelley Murphy, 2015 Homestead Rodeo Queen
- 2 p.m. – Homestead Everglades Posse Mounted Drill Team
- 4 p.m. – Paso Fino Equestrian Art and Theatre presentation
- 6 p.m. – South Florida Paso Fino Association presentation

April 5, Sunday

- 3 to 5 p.m. – Hipico Nicaragua Folkloric Dancing and Parade of Horses

Howdy Program Tours – March 16, 17 and 31 - 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 a.m. each day

- When gates are closed to the public in the morning, The Youth Fair invites third-graders to learn about the basics of agriculture and how it affects them – from the food they eat to the clothing they wear. With the assistance of volunteer Miami-Dade county high school Ag Ambassadors and the cooperation of our agri-community, youngsters experience all the ‘World of Agriculture’ has to offer, including horticulture projects, cows, hogs, lambs, cavies, poultry and rabbits that students have entered for exhibition and are judged for awards. Their tour includes a visit to CowtownUSA. Each year, approximately 500 third graders participate in the special tours.

Fair Facts

- The Youth Fair runs from March 12 to April 5, 2015, except March 16-17 and 30-31, at its 43-year home at Tamiami Park at Coral Way (SW 24th Street) & SW 107th Avenue.
- Gates open at 3 p.m. March 12, 13, 18, 19, April 1 & 2. Gates open at noon all other operating days.
- Admission is \$12 with free admission all day, every operating day for guests 5 years and younger and 65 years and better. Admission is also free all day for active duty and retired military personnel (with valid military ID) on Opening Day, March 12, and each Wednesday.
- New in 2015 is The Youth Fair Fun Card, which allows guests to pay \$25 for one admission each operating day and includes one free Souvenir Cup. Additional discount offers and coupons are available at www.FairExpo.com.
- The Pay One Price (POP) Unlimited Ride Card is \$28 weekdays, \$35 on weekends.
- Parking is free every day, all day.

The Youth Fair offers many amenities for families including stroller and wheelchair rental, lost and found, paved walkways, convenient sitting areas, lush landscaping, restroom and diaper changing facilities and more. Sponsors include Coca-Cola, KIA and Sedano’s Supermarkets. For more information, visit www.FairExpo.com or call (305) 223-7060.

About the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition

The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, known for generations as The Youth Fair, is a private, not-for-profit organization that has donated more than \$10 million in scholarships, awards and cash premiums to Miami-Dade students and is dedicated to supporting education and South Florida agriculture. Now in its 64th year, The Youth Fair runs from March 12 – April 5, 2015, except for March 16-17 and 30-31. The 2015 Youth Fair will take place at Tamiami Park, which has been its home for 43 years. For more information, please visit www.fairexpo.com or call (305) 223-7060.

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