

# Big E offers rural flavor

## Key Points

- New England's largest ag fair runs Sept. 11-28.
- More than 6,200 youths from six New England states compete.
- New dairy and sheep shows enter the event lineup.

**N**EW England's Big E opens earlier this year — on Sept. 11 for a 17-day run of fun. New England's largest fair will draw more than 6,200 youths to the Eastern States Expo site at West Springfield, Mass.

The list of national and regional livestock shows with junior and open competition makes it one of the best, contends Elena Hovagimian, ag and education coordinator for Eastern States Exposition. The Big E, she adds, is an extravagant mix of top name entertainment, New England history, agriculture, daily parades and foods from around the world — all with a decided rural flavor.

On Friday, Sept. 12, youth competitors weigh their giant pumpkins and squashes at 6:30 p.m. A week later at the same time, adults roll in their biggest prizes for the weigh-off.

## New for you

A Red and White Dairy Cattle Show is new to the judging lineup, on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 4 p.m. The Big E is designated as host of the Northeast Fall National Holstein Show, and also as host of the



**OLD NEW ENGLAND:** A wood craftsman shares knowledge and skills with onlookers at last year's Big E.

Northeast Fall Junior Holstein Show.

Sheep shows are expanding to accommodate some newly popular wool breeds. And the Sheep Dog Trials are back on Monday, Sept. 15, and Tuesday, Sept. 16.

Check out the accompanying partial list of judging events. For the full schedule, visit the Big E Web site: [www.thebig.com](http://www.thebig.com).



**ON THE LAMB:** Sheep competition expands at this year's Big E.

## Big E livestock events listed

### Thursday, Sept. 11

4 p.m. Red and White Cattle Show

### Friday, Sept. 12

9 a.m. Northeast Fall Holstein Showcase

1 p.m. Montadale Show

6 p.m. Belted Galloway Junior Show

### Saturday, Sept. 13

9 a.m. Oxford Show

9 a.m. Belted Galloway Show

2:30 p.m. Northeast Regional Hampshire Show

### Sunday, Sept. 14

8:30 a.m. Shropshire Show

Noon Market Lamb Show

2 p.m. Southdown Show

### Monday, Sept. 15

8:30 a.m. Suffolk Show

1 p.m. Northeastern National Junior Milking Shorthorn Show

2 p.m. Cheviot Show

### Tuesday, Sept. 16

9 a.m. Northeastern National Milking Shorthorn Show

9 a.m. Pure Horned Dorset Show

12:30 p.m. Polled Dorset Show

4 p.m. Sheep Supreme Champion

### Wednesday, Sept. 17

9 a.m. Jersey Show

3 a.m. All Other Breed Beef Show

6 p.m. Jackpot Heifer Show

7 p.m. Jackpot Steer Show

### Thursday, Sept. 18

10 a.m. Eastern States National Ayrshire Show

### Friday, Sept. 19

9 a.m. Black and White Lincolns Show

12:30 p.m. Junior Hereford Show

2 p.m. Merino Show

### Saturday, Sept. 20

9 a.m. Natural Colored Fine and Medium Show

9 a.m. 4-H Beef Type Show

2:30 p.m. Northeast Regional Tunis Show

4 p.m. Hereford Show

7:15 p.m. 4-H Horse Show

### Sunday, Sept. 21

8:30 a.m. Regional Black and White Border Leicester Show

2 p.m. Regional Cotswold Show

### Monday, Sept. 22

9 a.m. AOB Wool/Hair Sheep Show

10 a.m. Horse Pulling (3,050 pounds)

1 p.m. Rambouillet Show

1:30 p.m. Horse Pulling (3,300 pounds)

4 p.m. Romney Show

6 p.m. 4-H Beef Sale

6 p.m. Horse Pull (3,350 pounds and up)

### Tuesday, Sept. 23

9 a.m. New England Guernsey Classic Show

9 a.m. Columbia Show

Noon Ox Pulling (2,800 pounds)

1 p.m. Corriedale Show

1 p.m. Natural Colored Long Show

1 p.m. Llama Show

1:30 p.m. Ox Pulling (3,200 pounds)

2 p.m. Alpaca Show

2 p.m. Northeast Brown Swiss Show

4 p.m. Sheep Supreme Champion

6 p.m. Ox Pulling (free for all)

### Wednesday, Sept. 24

8 a.m. Alpaca Show

6 p.m. Junior Angus Show

### Thursday, Sept. 25

8 a.m. Alpaca Show

9 a.m. Angus Show

### Friday, Sept. 26

1 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Show

### Saturday, Sept. 27

8 a.m. Llama Show

9 a.m. 4-H Dairy, Goat Type

9 a.m. 4-H Sheep Breed Classes

11 a.m. 4-H Sheep, Market Lamb & Type

1 p.m. 4-H Dairy, Goat Type

### Sunday, Sept. 28

8 a.m. Llama Show

9 a.m. Dairy Goat Show

1 p.m. Swine Open Show

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