

New Homestead Fair Holidays Begin Thanksgiving Weekend

***36th Annual Heritage Festival will span 3 Weekends with
Crafts, Food, Live Music, Hands-on Activities, Shopping and Family Fun***

Thanksgiving Weekend: November 24-26

Friday and Saturday: December 1-2 & December 8-9

Homestead Fair has announced a new schedule to celebrate the upcoming 2023 holiday season. Homestead Fair will offer their traditional annual activities including craft skills demonstrations, horse-drawn hayrides, agricultural exhibits and educational seminars as well as a wide variety of multicultural food, live music, fun activities for kids and much more.

"We are extremely excited to open the Fair two additional weekends this year!" said Fair Coordinator Josiah Wheeler. "Ever since the Fair began in Texas years ago, people have commented that our annual Homestead Craft Fair often conflicted with their Thanksgiving holiday plans. Now everyone has the option of attending in December too!"

Young and old alike can try their hand at the make-your-own activities in each craft area at the Fair. Live demonstrations abound. Watch a cow being milked, lend a hand at an old-fashioned timber frame barn raising or watch the age-old craft of spinning cotton on a traditional wheel.

Food courts and kiosks offer dozens of delicious food, dessert and beverage selections from multicultural menus in the open-air food courts.

When asked what's new in 2023, Wheeler responded, "Our guests will enjoy our new Heritage Center where we will present the music for this year's Fair! We can seat 2,000 in this brand new building. It will also serve several purposes throughout the year including a Farmers Market next spring. So now we can accommodate all our guests with a much larger, more comfortable climatized environment all year round. Also, a brand new Homestead Craft Village shop for leatherwork and glass blowing will open for the first time during the Fair!"

Favorite "Must See" Events

- Sheepdog Herding Demonstration
- Hands-on Timber-frame Barn Raising
- Horse Training Demonstration

Favorite Fair Activities

- Freshly prepared foods at the Food Courts, Booths and Kiosks
- Make-Your-Own Handcrafts

- Horse-drawn Hayrides
- Kid's Petting Zoo

Farm Experiences – Back by Popular Demand

- Small group tours of the community's working farm in the Brazos River Valley

Outdoor homesteading skills will be presented daily throughout the Fairgrounds from cheese making and soap making to horse farming, sheep shearing, horse training, goat milking and more.

The Craft Pavilion booths and craft village shops will present live craft demonstrations including hand tool woodworking, blacksmithing, casting, pottery, quilting, spinning, weaving, basketry, broom making and more. Shoppers will find hundreds of hand-crafted items as well as specialty foods for sale in the pavilion, The Barn gift shop, the Homestead Farms Barn and the restored 1760's Gristmill.

A wide variety of educational seminars are presented throughout all areas of the Fair daily. These seminars offer instruction on practical topics ranging from whole grain bread making and sustainable home gardening, to beekeeping and water collection, as well as thought provoking topics such as the impact of digital technology, unplugging from the matrix of consumerism and cultivating hope in an age of upheaval.

Music presentations include children and youth choirs along with a youth orchestra midday each day, and the Heritage Choir and Orchestra during the evenings.

To better plan your visit ahead of time, view the activities, schedules and map available at: www.homesteadfair.com

What: Homestead Fair

When: Friday & Saturday, Nov 24 & 25 – 9 am to 9 pm • 1 Sunday, Nov 26 - 12 am to 5 pm
 Friday, Dec 1 - noon to 6 pm • Saturday, Dec 2 - 9 am to 9-pm
 Friday, Dec 8 - noon to 6 pm • Saturday, Dec 9 - 9 am to 9-pm

Where: Homestead Craft Village
 608 Dry Creek Road, Waco, TX 76705

Contact: www.HomesteadFair.com • 254.754.9600

Parking: Free

Tickets:

- Adults: Season Pass, \$35 – Day Pass, \$15
 - Children: Season Pass, \$12 – Day Pass, \$5
 - Kid's General Admission – ages 4 and under are FREE
- All passes and tickets can be purchased online at HomesteadFair.com

Fairgrounds are easily accessible just off Interstate 35 in central Texas just north of Waco. The event is hosted by Homestead Heritage and The Ploughshare Institute for Sustainable Culture.



Enjoy a close-up look of animals in the petting zoo and kid-sized barnyard.



Lend a hand and help raise the beams of a historic timber frame barn.



Choose from a wide selection of make-your-own projects for kids of all ages!



Take the family on a hayride to our scenic river valley overlook and watch a panoramic view of our farm unfold!



Visit Heritage Forge and watch our blacksmiths form wrought iron tools, hardware and more from red hot iron.



Sample of our specialty foods: beef burgers & fries, tamales, tacos, desserts, munchables, kettle corn and more!