

FAIR & RODEO

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING THE BOUNTY OF OUR COUNTY

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What a bounty to celebrate! Thank you for your support and participation in the 2025 Garfield County Fair & Rodeo. Whether you are a sponsor, vendor, exhibitor, performer, or a member of our great community attending the fair; the successes of the Garfield County Fair & Rodeo are specifically both because of and for you! This year's fair dates in early August assisted our exhibitors in 4-H and Open Exhibits to have a longer production cycle. Fun, excitement, and pride in our western heritage were on bountiful display at the 2025 Garfield County Fair and Rodeo.

The 4-H and the FFA kids and families are center stage of the fair. Hard-working and dedicated kids display their talents with their livestock in the arenas, showcase their efforts in performance presentations and produce outstanding displays on their general exhibits.



The 2025 fair year yielded tremendous support from the community for the youth, with an incredible record payout to the 4-H and FFA



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participants of nearly a million dollars! We cannot thank you enough for this investment in the youth who will lead our community one day.



It takes a community. From sponsors who offer financial support and investment, to kids and adults who learn and work hard to present their best of fair, to the gazillion volunteer hours the fair board commits, to long hours for county staff, to the policy objective for the fair set by the Board of County Commissioners, and to those who come cheer us all on, thank you for amazing Garfield County fairs!

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Garfield County Fair and Rodeo got back to its roots in 2025, with a renewed focus on Western values, 4-H projects, and family fun. Over 1,570 entries and exhibits were featured in 4-H, and more than 750 submissions were made in Open Class.

The 4-H Junior Livestock show was a hit, with 247 animals sold, and nearly \$1 million in revenues raised (\$743,258.50 in total sales and \$252,815.18 in add-ons donated to the kids). Few things are as rewarding as watching their hard work come to fruition in the arena. From the presentation, to seeing the astute analysis of the judge, and finally the proud smiles on their family's faces when the awards are announced, the livestock sale is the ultimate culmination of their impressive efforts. Our sponsors were again very generous in 2025, to the tune of \$167,120.

This year's fair and rodeo saw very strong



sales for our ticketed events, with thousands of attendees enjoying the PRCA ProRodeo (1,809 tickets - \$21,041), Xtreme Bulls (1,464 tickets - \$14,982), demolition derby (2,253 tickets - \$44,475), and the Friday night concert (3,120 tickets - \$97,685) featuring the legendary Nitty Gritty Dirt Band with special guest David Nail. This amazing show represented the first time a band has brought its farewell tour to the fair and rodeo, and the "Dirt Band" didn't disappoint the energetic audience.

Delicious chow was being served up in the Midway all week long with many festival goers' favorites returning. From scrumptious tacos to mouthwatering crazy fries, tasty hot dogs and brats, smooth iced coffees and more, nobody was hungry on the Midway in 2025. Vendors offered up a wide range of wares to ensure fairgoers were dressed to the nines.

Great food mixed with fun activities and live music provided something for all ages. The little ones showed their might in the kid's tractor pulls and the laughter echoed across the Cowboy Cove, where people could splish and splash to their heart's delight. ShenaniGuns brought its raucous, high-caliber comedy act to Rifle, and kids got to get up close with dozens of critters at the petting zoo and saddle up with the pony rides. The older kids showed their skills off at line dancing in preparation for the array of incredible live music at this year's fair.

Top notch bands and musicians including Hannah Haupt, the Tyler Rust Band, The Mixx, A Band Called Alexis, and Stone Kitchen got the people up and dancing at this free showcase of local talent.

Even in the face of a large wildfire to the northwest of town, operations went off without a hitch. Even when it was snowing ash during the demolition derby, fairgoers were attentive, smiling, and happy throughout. We want to thank everyone who contributed to our success this year. We couldn't do it without you!



MAIN EVENTS

Garfield County Fair Parade

The Garfield County Fair Parade had 50 entrants this year that included multiple horse entries, honoring our Western Heritage. The streets were packed from 3rd Street to 16th Street on Railroad Avenue in Rifle for over an hour!

Summer of Thunder car show

The 2026 Summer of Thunder car show took place at the Garfield County Fairgrounds directly after the parade. This year the car show had a great turnout with 76 registered entries.

Kick-off BBQ

The Kick-off BBQ kicks off on Tuesday night and celebrates the hard work of 4-H and FFA livestock show participants, families, and leaders. Sponsors and volunteers are also invited to the Kick-Off BBQ to show our appreciation.

Family and Kidz Rodeo

This fun-filled event brings in all the local cowboys and cowgirls for the Family and Kidz Rodeo. Anyone can compete in front of the entire community in this free Tuesday night showcase of local talent.

MAIN EVENTS CONTINUED

PRCA Xtreme Bulls - 1464 tickets sold - \$14,982

Xtreme Bulls was a success despite the closure of highway 13 between Meeker and Rifle from the Lee Fire. The fair board is considering coordinating with another local PRCA Rodeo to optimize dates for better contestant and rider participation in 2026.

PRCA & WPRA Rodeos - 1809 tickets sold - \$21,041

Overall participation affected by the closure of Highway 13 between Meeker and Rifle. The fair board is considering offering more contestant hospitality next year.

Friday night concert - 3120 tickets sold - \$97,685

The three-time GRAMMY Award-winning Nitty Gritty Dirt Band brought the All the Good Times: The Farewell Tour to the Garfield County Fair and Rodeo. Country music star David Nail got things warmed up at the Garfield County Fairgrounds for an unforgettable night of music. It was a family friendly affair with a large turnout by the community due to the affordable ticket options.

Demolition Derby - 2253 tickets sold - \$44,475

It was a smokey night in Rifle as the contestants still came out to crash under the lights. This year's demolition derby had a great turnout despite the extremely smokey conditions and road closure from the Lee Fire.

COMMITTEES, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

The Livestock Marketing Committee

The Livestock Shows and Auction were a huge success again in 2025. The backbone of this success comes from the hard work, dedication, and discipline of 4-H and FFA youth, leaders, families, and CSU Extension staff. The Garfield County Junior Livestock Auction is known for its success throughout Colorado. Garfield County is indebted to all who step up to make this event happen.

2025 4H Youth livestock

Entries included:

136 beef (48 youth)
270 poultry (66 youth)
69 goat (24 youth)
182 swine (65 youth)
97 sheep (28 youth)
116 rabbits (31 youth)
Total of all livestock entered: 365

4-H General Projects

Entries included:

General projects – 144 entries
Dog show – 26 entries
Cake decorating – 8 entries
Creative cooks contest – 1 entry
Fashion revue contest – 3 entries
Rocketry contest – 2 entries
Shooting sports contest – 217 entries
Horse show – 113 entries
Cloverbud – 7 entries



COMMITTEES, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

Jr Livestock sale results

Year	Buyers	Sales
2025	247	\$743,258
2024	238	\$679,074
2023	216	\$634,758
2022	240	\$767,865
2021	216	\$742,578
2020	171	\$300,809
2019	176	\$473,583



OPEN CLASS EXHIBIT PROGRAM

The Open Class exhibits continues to be a big draw from the local community. We continue to see growth in the number of exhibitors and entries with 751 entries. The Open Exhibits program of the Garfield County Fair gives residents the opportunity to brag and say, "See what I can do!". Adults, seniors, children, and professionals have the opportunity to enter exhibits in a range of categories.

RODEO ROYALTY

Garfield County Fair & Rodeo Royalty Program

The Garfield County Fair & Rodeo royalty program is dedicated to provide an opportunity for young women to be spokespersons for the Garfield County Fair & Rodeo, the sport of rodeo, the western way of life, and their community of Garfield County. The royalty program utilizes teamwork, organizational skills, public speaking, community service, and relationships to prepare participants in becoming future community leaders.

2025 royalty team

Elle Garcia – Queen

Elizabeth Holmes- Jr. Queen



If you would like to support the Royalty Scholarship Fund, please contact the Fairgrounds Manager at 970-445-0977. Your tax-deductible contribution may be used to fund royalty expenses and academic scholarships for the royalty participants. Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE 2025 FAIR A SUCCESS!

2025 Fair & Rodeo Board

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Oliviya Daugherty; Secretary

Donna Marye.

Dean Perkins; Vice President

Brackett Pollard

Kaitlyn Snyder

County Fair and Events Manager

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County Fair and Events Administrative Assistant

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2025 Royalty Coordinator

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Carla Farrand

Open Class Chair

Carla Farrand

Deputy County Manager

Bentley Henderson

County Commissioners

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County Manager

Fred Jarman

2026 Fair

August 1 parade

August 4-8 events