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CAPE COD CELEBRATIONS

Barnstable County Fair

A free field guide from the people who actually live here.



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Every July, a small fairground tucked off Route 151 in East Falmouth becomes the most authentically Cape Cod place on the peninsula — and it has nothing to do with the beach.

The **Barnstable County Fair** is one of the oldest agricultural fairs in New England. It predates the Cape Cod Canal, the Sagamore Bridge, and the tourist economy that now defines this region. For locals, it marks high summer as reliably as the tide.

What You’ll Find Inside the Gates

Livestock Shows and 4-H Competitions

The agricultural heart of the fair is the livestock barn circuit. Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, and poultry are all exhibited and judged, with 4-H youth competitors from across Barnstable County bringing animals they’ve raised themselves.

The Midway

Carnival rides range from classic thrill options — a full-size Ferris wheel, spinning rides, and drop towers — to a dedicated junior midway area for young children.

Harness Racing

One of the Barnstable County Fair’s most distinctive features is its **harness racing program** — Standardbred horses racing in front of a low grandstand on a half-mile oval track that has been in continuous use for well over a century.

Nightly Concerts and the Demolition Derby

Each evening during the fair, the grandstand hosts a live music performance. The demolition derby is one of the fair’s highest-demand events — **book demolition derby tickets as early as possible.**

Admission, Parking, and What a Day Costs

Item	Estimated Cost
General admission (2 adults, 2 kids)	\$50–\$65
Parking	\$5–\$10
Food and drinks	\$60–\$100
Midway rides and games	\$40–\$80
Grandstand concert (optional)	\$80–\$160
Total (without concert)	\$155–\$255

Getting There

Address: 1220 Nathan Ellis Highway (Route 151), East Falmouth, MA 02536

Route 151 connects to Route 28 and Route 6, making the fairgrounds accessible from both the Upper and Lower Cape.

Pro Tips

- Bring cash — many midway vendors run cash only
- Arrive before 10am on weekends
- Book grandstand tickets in advance
- Wear closed-toe shoes

◆ THINGS TO DO

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