

September 19, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Fall Fest Opens This Weekend without Corn Maze

Fall Fest opens this weekend at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, kicking off six weekends of hayrides, visits to the pumpkin patch and fall family fun.

The festival begins Saturday and Sunday with Harvest Fest by Wells Fargo Advisors, featuring live bluegrass, local craftsmen and more. Fall Fest continues Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 28, with a different theme every weekend. Admission to Fall Fest is free, but some activities have a small fee, and pumpkins are sold by weight. Weekends include:

- Harvest Fest, Saturday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 23, 12-6 p.m.
- Fiber Arts Fest, Saturday, Sept. 29 - Sunday, Sept. 30, 12-6 p.m.
- Fun & Games Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 6 - Sunday, Oct. 7, 12-6 p.m.
- Pumpkin Days, Saturday, Oct. 13 - Sunday, Oct. 14, 12-6 p.m.
- Bluegrass & BBQ, Saturday, Oct. 20 - Sunday, Oct. 21, 12-6 p.m.
- Fall Fun Fest, Saturday, Oct. 27, 5-7 p.m. (\$1 admission includes hay ride)

Fall Fest also includes the Haunted Trail, a spooky evening hay wagon ride and walk through the woods, Fridays and Saturdays throughout October, 6-9 p.m. Admission is \$5, children under 12 must attend with an adult.

Recent wind gusts topping 50 miles per hour have caused extensive damage to the 10-acre corn maze at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, forcing closure just days before it was scheduled to open for Fall Fest.

The maze was poised to be the best ever at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, with cornstalks topping eight feet. But a severe thunderstorm hit Springfield the evening of Friday, Sept. 7, knocking over almost all of the stalks and ruining the maze.

“Silage corn is typically dry and brittle this time of year, and the stalks are particularly susceptible to wind,” said Thomas J. Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. “We’re terribly disappointed, especially after all the work we did to cultivate the corn maze. Sometimes Mother Nature just deals you a bad hand.”

Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park will offer a free hay maze, made from 500 square hay bales, designed for kids 8 and under. Other Farm Fest activities include Cow Train rides, pony rides, inflatables, the kiddie corral, the push-pedal tractor track, fishing pond, crafts, games, bluegrass music and clogging.

For more information, including a brochure detailing each weekend, visit parkboard.org/rutledge_wilson or call Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park at 417-837-5949.

For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.