

It's fair time again



Kurt Ellison

Teetle Clawson and her husband, Ben, put the final touches on their entry in this year's newly

revived Scarecrow contest at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

^{Fairs} Gates open for six-day event tomorrow

Organizers of the Santa Cruz County Fair are expecting crowds totaling between 50,000 and 60,000 to attend the annual six-day event, which begins tomorrow at the fairgrounds in Watsonville.

The fair, centered on this year's theme, "Cowboy Ways and Happy Days," will include its usual agriculture displays and carnival, along with several new attractions.

Among them are a pizza farm, put on by the Watsonville and Soquel Future Farmers of America. The youths planted the farm to illustrate the growing and grazing that goes into making a pizza.

A Scarecrow contest was revived this year, after being dormant for seven years. Seventeen contestants turned out for the contest yesterday, with entries

Attractions (include) a pizza farm by the Future Farmers of America. The youths planted the farm to illustrate the growing and grazing that goes into making a pizza.

ranging from functional to those fit for an art studio, contest organizer Mary Jack said.

"It's gorgeous. It's actually a work of art," said Jack as she looked over a metal man made of hardware cloth, screening, nuts, bolts, nails and welded iron.

An exhibit describing the history of the scarecrow is on display in the Ag-Hort building,

publicity chairman Steve Stagnaro said.

Scarecrows date back to 2,000 B.C., according to Jack, who will give a daily talk on scarecrow history in the Harvest Building through Friday.

Lions and Bengal tigers are paired together in one act, led by lion trainer Wayne Regan. The animals will be on display in the grandstand area.

This year's entertainment lineup includes Sha Na Na, The Fabulous Drifters and Elvin Bishop.

Opening ceremonies will take place at noon tomorrow at the West Gate. State Sen. Henry Mello, Congressman Sam Farr, Assemblyman Rusty Areias and Republican congressional candidate Bill McCampbell as well as Santa Cruz County supervisors and mayors have been invited, along with Henry Voss, director of agriculture, and Kim Myrman, director of the division of fairs and expositions for the state of California.

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau-sponsored barbecue will follow from 1 to 4 p.m. Members of the Watsonville Firefighters Association will cook the meal, which costs \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

—Debra Brinson