

# Swine time! County fair under way today

Fairs  
111th edition kicks off with Senior Day

By **DANIEL LOPEZ**  
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## If You Go

**WHAT:** 111th Santa Cruz County Fair.

**WHEN:** Noon to 11 p.m. today. Today is Senior Day.

**WHERE:** Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 2601 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville.

**COST:** Adult admission \$8, kids 11 to 5 \$5, seniors 62 and older \$3. Parking is \$3. For advance and discount tickets and more information, visit [www.santacruzcountyfair.com](http://www.santacruzcountyfair.com).

"Let's face it, (visitors to the fair) all come to see the goats and cows and pigs," said Dave Martone, co-

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WATSONVILLE — For Chris Mora of Watsonville, the Santa Cruz County Fair won't ever be the same.

This year's fair, which opens today, is the 19-year-old from Watsonville's last chance to show what hard work and dedication can earn you when it comes to raising livestock and showing them at the local fair.

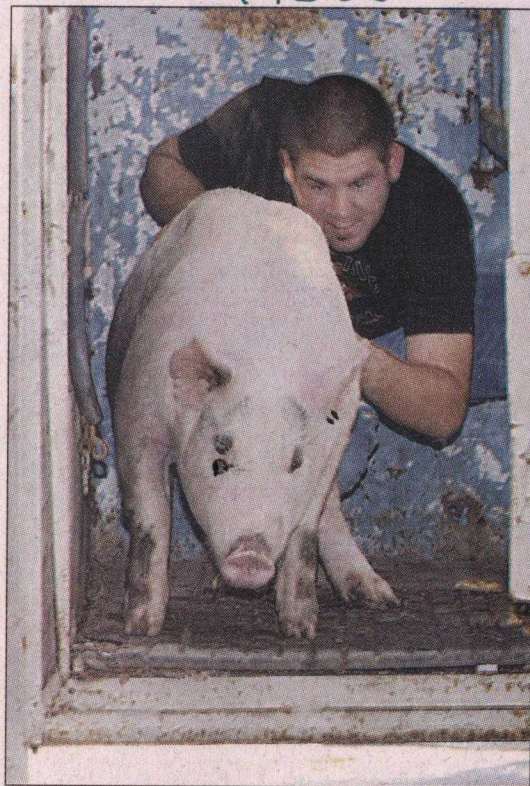
"I've been doing it my whole life, and I'm so used to it that it's going to be hard to stop," said Mora, a member of the Corralitos 4-H.

More won't be eligible to show next year because of age requirements.

But even as the more seasoned livestock exhibitors move on, interest in the animal shows doesn't seem to wane.

Chris Mora of Watsonville struggles to push his pig Billy Bob out of a trailer and into his pen at the Santa Cruz County Fair Monday.

Kate Falconer/Sentinel



## Fair

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chairman of the livestock department. "I think it's tradition."

At this year's fair, the 111th annual, more than 700 animals, from rabbits and chickens to hogs and cattle, will be shown.

Joyce Albright, Martone's co-chair, said the number of cattle has increased as exhibitors have chosen beef over dairy goats this year, filling the barns with about 80 head of cattle.

"It's a trend with the kids," she said.

One young exhibitor though has chosen to go in the opposite direction.

John Woodcock, 12, of King

City, has shown steers in the past. This year he's bringing a goat he has named Boo Boo.

"Steers are a lot easier, although when they step on you it hurts a lot worse than a goat," he said.

John hopes to repeat with his goat the success he's had previous years.

His steer was selected the weight champion last year, tipping the scale at a 1,240 pounds.

Though several livestock showmanship events will be held throughout the fair, the featured event is always Saturday's auction, Martone said.

For many families that make their livelihood raising animals, the auction is what matters most.

"This is their life," Albright

said. "These kids have worked hard, some every day to show their work here."

In his final run at the fair, Mora will show a 4-month-old blue butt pig named Billy Bob and a market lamb.

Just as Mora's days at the fair are numbered, so are Billy Bob's.

The 240-pound pig, who after being unloaded from a trailer, was resting comfortably in a pen on Monday, will end up on Mora's dinner plate.

"You can't really get attached to the pigs because then when it goes away you get sad," he said. "You do it for so many years you get used to it."

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