

37th Annual Lanesville Heritage Weekend

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The 37th Annual Lanesville Heritage Weekend left nothing on the table as they say. Careful planning and execution as well as beautiful weather drew large crowds and kept them entertained the whole weekend through. Whether you came for the food, the attractions, or to compete in one of the many events, the 37th Annual Lanesville Heritage Weekend did not disappoint.

Heritage opened at 11:00 am on Friday, September 14th with food being served at the Heritage Food Building and all booths followed shortly thereafter opening at noon. Two main attractions on Friday night are the Heritage Princess and Queen competitions. Several tiny contestants competed to be the Heritage Princess with Allison Campbell taking the title. The 2012 Heritage Queen contest consisted of 7 contestants with Elise Lawson being chosen to wear the crown. Elise is a sophomore at Lanesville High School and when asked in preliminary questioning where she saw herself in 10 years she answered "finishing college and involved in missions, doing work to further God's Kingdom." The 2012 Heritage Queen gave a rousing performance of Little Big Town's song "Pontoon". Several other spectators poured onto the Heritage grounds to watch the many classes of the truck pull as well as the fiddlers contest on Friday.

Saturday's events began with breakfast, booths, and road races – an 8 mile run, 5 mile walk, and a 2 mile run. Midday Saturday boasted another favorite Heritage attraction, the parade down Main Street. There were well over 100 entries with 9 entries receiving best of awards such as: Best Religious float going to St. Mary's Catholic Church, Best Marching Unit going to Floyd Central's ROTC, the Grand Marshall Award going to Hubbard Oxen, and a few others. Judges for this year's parade were Kelsey Starks from WHAS11 news, Scott Reynolds with Wave3 news, and Matt Milosevic of the WLKY weather team. Saturday's festivities went well into the night with crowds enjoying the hot air balloon race and continued tractor and truck pulls at the Heritage Grandstand.

The final day of the 37th Annual Heritage Weekend began with breakfast and a worship service on Sunday. Antique tractor games, a horseshow pitching contest, log sawing contest, pedal tractor pull for the kids, and continued free entertainment at the John R. Richert Memorial Gazebo made for yet another eventful day. Many children turned out with their parents to compete in the pedal tractor pull. All took home ribbons and the winners of each class earned trophies along with farm toys. The serene setting, beautifully designed gazebo, and cool breeze set the scene perfectly for a main event, a concert by The Monarchs, a crowd favorite.

The agricultural theme was displayed everywhere at Heritage. An education into the farming heritage of the Lanesville community was around every corner. Hundreds of tractors as well as other farming equipment, some dating back to the 1800s, covered the grounds some manned by their owner who was glad to give a lesson to anyone who asked. Of his 1921 Keck-Gonnerman steam engine, owner Mr. Thomas of Elizabeth said "You start it with a match, and an hour later, if you're lucky, you might have enough power to move it."

Heritage closed with a few comments from General Chairman Kenny Acton over the loudspeaker. "You couldn't pull out a catalog and order any better weather for this weekend and the weeks of preparation leading up to this weekend. We would like to thank our sponsors, all of our volunteers, and all of you for coming." Other closing remarks added by a Heritage Committee member were "We've been here 37 years and God willing, in another 37 years we'll still be here."