



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR ANNOUNCES 2011 TALENT LINE-UP

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 2, 2011 – Once again, the Oklahoma State Fair is pleased to announce its multitude of musical performers. This year's talent includes a wide range of musical styles from country to disco. Performances at the Chesapeake Energy Stage are free with outside gate admission. Performances held after the Xtreme Bulls Tour, held in State Fair Arena, are included with the purchase of an admission ticket to the bull riding.

"We're very proud to offer high caliber free concerts that add an unprecedented entertainment value to this year's State Fair," said Tim O'Toole, President and CEO, Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. "We're offering a diverse variety of talent; there is definitely something for everyone."

For the 2011 State Fair, attendees to the fair will be treated with a variety of acts from local bands to radio mainstays. In addition to these acts, the Oklahoma State Fair will also be holding an Elvis Extravaganza as well as the Texaco Country Showdown.

"The Oklahoma State Fair is a culturally diverse and well anticipated event for Oklahomans," said Scott Munz, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations. "We are pleased to be able to offer many free concerts this year thanks to our sponsor— Chesapeake Energy".

The Academy of Country Music nominated Eli Young Band out of Denton, Texas will take the Chesapeake Energy Stage on Opening Night –Thursday, September 15. They released their 2005 debut album *Level* on Carnival Records and opened shows for Miranda Lambert. National exposure on CMT and GAC helped the Eli Young Band begin to build a following well outside of their touring base. They have sold as many as 2,000 tickets a night in multiple markets. In late 2006, the band released *Eli Young Band Live at the Jolly Fox* located in Huntsville, Texas. After signing a booking deal with Monterey Peninsula Artists/Paradigm last fall, the band has continued expanding their reach on the road. Their third album, *Jet Black & Jealous*, was released in 2008. Its lead single, "When It Rains", spent more than thirty weeks on the country charts and peaked at #34. The second chart single, "Always the Love Songs," followed later in the same year, reaching a peak of #11.

Outside gate admission to the State Fair, on this day (Opening Day), is only \$2.

On Friday, September 16, the Chesapeake Energy Stage will be taken over by a music legend Leon Russell. An Oklahoma native and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame member, Russell built his career performing at Oklahoma nightclubs and venues. With more than 40 albums, Russell has become a force in country and rock music. In addition to his singing talent, Russell is also an accomplished song writer. Russell's hit single, "A Song For You", has been covered by more than 40 other bands. On March 14, 2011, Russell was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame—an honor reserved for only the most distinguished artists.

On Saturday afternoon, September 17, country newcomer Candy Coburn will take the stage. Candy Coburn, appearing at 2:00 p.m., will liven things up with her signature green guitar playing hits from her latest album *Rev It Up*. She recently signed with major Nashville Producer Joe Scaife who has also produced artists such as Montgomery Gentry and Gretchen Wilson. Fans will enjoy Candy's true-to-life lyrics in new songs including "Rev It Up" and "Hall Of Fame" as well as popular hits such as "Enjoy the Ride" and "It's Good to Be a Girl".

Lee Brice will take over the Chesapeake Energy Stage at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17. Brice is well known to country music fans for his 2009 radio hit, "Love Like Crazy". Brice holds the record for the single spending longest time on the music charts—surpassing a record set in 1948. Brice has co-written songs for many country music superstars including Tim McGraw and Garth Brooks. Brice's current single, "Beautiful Every Time," is currently at #30 on the charts. Candy Coburn will be performing prior to Lee Brice taking the stage on Saturday night.

On Sunday, September 18, the Chesapeake Energy State will be graced by up and coming pop rock sensation Allstar Weekend. The band rose to popularity while being featured on "Disney Channel's Next Big Thing." In October of 2010, the Allstar Weekend released their first full-length album titled *Suddenly Yours*. The band was originally known by the names Outerspace Politicians and Allstar before being known by their current name, Allstar Weekend.

Monday, September 19, Grammy award nominated Christian rock band Sanctus Real will perform for fairgoers. Debuting in 1996, the band has released 5 studio albums, including their newest "Pieces of Real Heart". To date, the band has released 18 singles including their 2010 hit "Take Over Me". Sanctus Real has recently been featured on "ABC's World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer" and has been very active on the touring circuit. Members of the band are Matt Hammitt, Chris Rohman, Mark Graalman, Dan Gartley, and Pete Prevost. This concert is sponsored by Cox Communications.

In addition, Elvis fans will be all shook up when the Oklahoma State Fair plays host to the National Elvis Extravaganza. What usually happens in Vegas will take the Chesapeake Energy Stage with this national Elvis impersonator contest on Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 21. This is a regional qualifier for the national "Elvis Idol" contest that will be held later this year in Florida.

On Thursday, September 22, patrons will enjoy the Texaco Country Showdown. The event is an annual talent contest to find undiscovered country music singers. As many as 50,000 acts compete in the Texaco Country Showdown, which is considered to be the largest country music talent competition in America. The annual event was first started in 1982. At that time Wrangler had sponsored the event. Wrangler continued sponsorship for four years, before giving up sponsorship rights. Various companies co-sponsored the event, including GMC, Dodge, Coca-Cola, Jimmy Dean, and long running sponsor True Value. Each year, the Showdown is held and acts from all over the nation compete in various levels of competition, including local, state, and national contests, in hopes of becoming the winner for a chance to further their musical careers in the country music business. The Showdown at the State Fair this year will be full of great unsigned talent to discover.

Fairgoers are in for a treat on Friday, September 23 when multi-award winning R&B group En Vogue comes to the Chesapeake Energy Stage. The group rose to popularity with their 1990 debut album *Born to Sing* which spawned hits such as “Hold On”, “Lies”, and “You Don’t Have To Worry”. Since 1990, the group has released 19 singles, four guest singles, and five albums. In 2005, the group reunited and is expecting to put out a new album in the near future.

The spirit of disco will be alive and well on Saturday, September 24 as the Village People take the Chesapeake Energy Stage. With energetic hits such as “In the Navy”, “YMCA”, and “Macho Man”, the group has gone on to become a pop culture phenomenon. The group first rose to fame in New York’s 1970’s disco craze, but the group has gone on to be successful in the years following disco’s popularity. One of their most notable contributions is their iconic dance that accompanies their hit single, “YMCA”.

The Centennial Rodeo Opry will perform Sunday, September 25. This myriad of local talent includes such favorites as Stephanie Short, Dustin Jones, Howard Barnard, Eric Dysart and many others. Their special blend of classic music will no doubt delight fans on the Chesapeake Energy Stage. This showcase will continue the Opry’s educational mission of enriching Oklahoma’s legacy of country and western music, while cultivating and developing the performance skills of local talent.

Academy of Country Music award nominee Easton Corbin will be performing on Friday, September 23 following the PRCA Xtreme Bulls Tour Stop. Corbin released his self-titled debut album in 2010 which spawned hits such as “A Little More Country Than That”, “Roll With It”, and “I Can’t Love You Back”. Corbin’s vocals are frequently compared to the King of Country—George Strait. In June of 2011, Corbin will join the Flatts Fest 2011 featuring Rascal Flatts, Sara Evans, and Justin Moore.

The Oak Ridge Boys will wrap up the bull riding festivities giving an unforgettable performance at State Fair Arena on September 24. These crossover country legends’ career spans seven decades. With 27 studio albums and 17 number one singles, the Oak Ridge Boys are sure to offer something for every music fan. This year, they will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of their award winning single “Elvira”. Other hits include “Sail Away”, “Bobbie Sue”, and “Dream On”. The Oak Ride Boys were founded in the fall of 1945 and were originally known as The Oak Ridge Quartet.

“We are excited about our entire talent line-up for 2011” said O’Toole. “This year’s Chesapeake Energy Stage and Rodeo Stage will provide excellent concerts for every type of musical taste.”

FREE Concerts on the Chesapeake Energy Stage

Thursday, September 15 • Eli Young Band

Friday, September 16 • Leon Russell

**Saturday, September 17 • Candy Coburn (2:00 p.m.) & Lee Brice w/Candy
Coburn (8:00 p.m.)**

Sunday, September 18 • Allstar Weekend

Monday, September 19 • Sanctus Real

Tuesday, September 20 • National Elvis Extravaganza

Wednesday, September 21 • National Elvis Extravaganza

Thursday, September 22 • Texaco Country Showdown

Friday, September 23 • En Vogue

Saturday, September 24 • Village People

Sunday, September 25 • Centennial Rodeo Opry

XTREME Bulls Rodeo Stage

Friday, September 23 • Easton Corbin

Saturday, September 24 • The Oak Ridge Boys

The State Fair of Oklahoma runs Thursday, September 15 through Sunday, September 25. Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, visit us at okstatefair.com or, read about us on fairslice.net – the official blog of State Fair Park.

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