

Around Moab

World-Famous Melons 120 Years of Small-Town Tradition: Green River Melon Days

Get ready for a flavor packed weekend in the desert. The City of Green River is hosting the 120th Annual Green River Melon Days Festival, taking place on Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, 2026.

This landmark anniversary honors over a century of agricultural legacy, celebrating the hardworking multigenerational farming families who have made Green River world famous for their delicious watermelons, cantaloupes, crenshaw’s and more.

Every year on the third weekend of September, this quiet rural community of 800 people turns into a celebration of 4,000 to 5,000 visitors. Under this year’s festive theme, “Melon Days & Country Ways,” put on your boots and head on over to the O.K. Anderson Park for vendors, music, games & of course, the watermelon.



Weekend Event Highlights:

- The Famous Melon Munchin’: Following Saturday’s parade, local legacy farming families will slice up and distribute truckloads of free, watermelons to festival-goers.
- The 120th Annual Melon Days Parade: Kicking off at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 19, the parade features marching bands, local floats, and a special appearance by the iconic, 20-foot motorized watermelon slice on wheels built back in 1960.



- Family Fun & Competitions: The weekend features a 5K Melon Run, a Future Farmers of America (FFA) breakfast, a melon-carving contest, Softball Tournament, Golf Tournament, live musical performances and more.
- Artisan & Food Vendors: Over a hundred food and craft vendors will line the park, including a dedicated “Jr. Entrepreneur” section showcasing local business-minded youth aged 17 and under.

Whether you are a lifelong regular taking a trip down memory lane or a traveler stopping by, Melon Days promises a slice of authentic, timeless community charm.



Event Details:

- Dates: Friday, September 18 (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM) & Saturday, September 19, 2026 (10:00 AM – 8:00 PM)
- Location: O.K. Anderson Park, 100 Solomon St., Green River, UT 84525 • Admission: Free to the public

For a full schedule of events, vendor applications, or parade details, please visit the official festival page at www.melon-days.com or follow Melon Days on Facebook and Instagram.



Fruita Fall Festival offers Free Live Music, Baking Contest, Races, Beer Garden, and More

By Sharon Sullivan

Photos courtesy of Fruita Chamber of Commerce

“Roots and Revelry” is the theme of this year’s Fruita Fall Festival – an annual event that has celebrated Fruita’s small-town, agricultural community in some form for the past 110 years.

The gathering was first known as a “Cowpuncher’s Reunion,” and later “Hunters Roundup,” before it eventually evolved into the Fruita Fall Festival, with a parade, various competitions, live music, and more.

This year’s free festival takes place Friday and Saturday, September 25-26, at Fruita Civic Center Park, 326 E. Aspen Ave., beginning Friday at 3 p.m. with 90 vendors, 13 food trucks and a beer garden. Live music kicks off in the park at 5 p.m. with Jerry Shaeffer. Shortly after, at 5:30 p.m. the hilarious “Outhouse Race” will take place.

“The winner receives a trophy and bragging rights,” said Allie Daniel, Senior Vice-President of the Fruita Chamber of Commerce.

More live music happens Saturday with the Violet Pines, starting at 7 p.m., followed by the Oxymorons at 8:30 p.m.

The festival continues Saturday morning with the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast in front of the Fruita Thrift

store at 7:30 a.m., followed by an array of activities and events throughout the day, including a parade, local history fair at Cavalcade, pet show, and more.

Judging for the baking and canning competition starts at noon –a popular event that has happened for “probably 110 years,” Daniel said. People love to show off their creations using locally-grown fruits and vegetables, she said.

“All our judges (who sample the entries!) love this contest,” Daniel said.

On Saturday, the live music starts at 1 p.m. with Pickin’ Peggy Malone, at the Civic Center Stage, followed by a new artist performing every hour.

The day’s musical acts include Rocky Mountain Ramblers, Slim Pickings, High Country Hustle, The Lip, Farmer in the Sky, and A Band Called Alexis.

The festival closes both days at 10 p.m.

The Fruita Farmers and Makers Market will happen as usual Saturday morning, but will be moved to a cordoned-off area of Aspen Street, in front of the Fruita Chamber office, 432 E. Aspen Ave. The farmers market is from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. See more information at www.fruitachamber.org/events/fruita-fall-festival



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