ABBEVILLE
This year on Oct. 7, 8, 9, and 10 Abbeville will host its third annual Louisiana Cattle Festival and Fair.

According to State Representative Sam Theriot, president of the Louisiana Cattle Festival and Fair Association, the festival will actually be the 35th festival of its kind in the city of Abbeville.

What used to be the Dairy Festival has been changed, in name, to the Cattle Festival to promote and honor cattle as well as the dairy products of Vermilion Parish.

Dairy history
The first dairies were established in Vermilion Parish in 1905 and in 1945 there were approximately 40 dairies in the parish. The Vermilion Creamery was established in 1947.

In 1949 the dairy industry reached its peak; there were about 150 dairies in the parish at the time. Due to the prosperity of the dairy industry, the late Roy Theriot established the Dairy Festival in 1949 in order to promote the dairy industry and recognize outstanding individuals.

Between 1949 and 1970, Vermilion Parish experienced a definite decline in the dairy industry. In 1970 only ten of the 150 dairies existed in the parish. The number of dairies continued to drop in the next ten years. The total number of dairies in the 1980 dropped to two in the whole parish.

According to J. Cecil McCrory, assistant county agent of Vermilion Parish, the decline was due to economics and the topography in the area.

Presently, dairies are concentrated in the Florida Parishes and northwest Louisiana. It was not only the decline in the dairy industry that prompted a name change to the Louisiana Cattle Festival and Fair, but the fact that Vermilion Parish is the largest beef producing parish in Louisiana. The parish presently has an $11.5 million cattle industry.

Schedule of Events

Oct. 7 Thursday
6:30 pm Opening & Blessing of Products
7-12 pm Fair Do-Do—Downtown

Selection of King & Queen of Fair Do-Do:
Stage 1: 7-9 Ridge Runners
9-12 Atchafalaya
Stage 2: 7-9 Patent Leather
10-12 Delta Breeze

Oct. 8 Friday
7 pm Cattle Festival Football *Verm. Cath vs N. Verm. at Erath Hi Stadium
9 am Cookoff—Cooking Contest—County Agent Office
9 am Baby Show—Boat Club Building
11 am Social Hour—American Legion Home
12 Noon Luncheon—American Legion Home
2 pm Dairy Show—County Agent Barn
3 pm Children’s Parade—Downtown
7 pm Pageant & Coronation—Abbeville High School
9 pm Ball—American Legion Home—Music by Lee Janes
7 pm Rough Riders Barn Dance—Festival Barn

Oct. 9 Sat.
8 am Cattle Show—County Agent Barn
9 am Rough Riders Trail Ride
11:30-12 Noon French Singers—Downtown
12-6 pm Abbeville High Band Concert—Downtown
1-2 pm Music by Fatras—Downtown front of Courthouse
2 pm Grand Parade
5 pm Rough Riders Horse Show—Festival Grounds
7 pm Rough Riders Barn Dance—Festival Grounds

Oct. 10 Sun.
9 am Rough Riders Trail Ride—Festival Grounds
2-3 pm Rough Riders Dance—Festival Barn

Concessions will be opened throughout the Festival downtown on Concord St. The street fair will be opened throughout the Festival. The fair will be in Comeaux Park.