Swine festival events ‘very popular’

BASILE

The Louisiana Swine Festival was initiated by a group of citizens from Basile and the outlying areas of Acadia and Evangeline Parishes in 1966. Memberships to the first festival were sold to finance the festival. Each year thereafter the festival has been self-supporting.

The purpose of the festival was to support and advertise the Feeder Pig Sales. These were sales from a sale barn of 50 to 100 pound young pigs to feed out for market. Basile was such a sales center.

The events of the festival have been very popular with the area people. Hog calling, boudin eating and greasy pig contests along with a pork cooking contest, an arts and crafts show and an amateur talent contest are all features of the annual Swine Festival.

Also, every year a King and Queen of the Swine Festival is chosen along with junior royalty, King Porky and Queen Petunia (five to eight years old).

The parade features many area bands and professional floats. The king chosen each year usually has an interest in the production or marketing of pigs or in the working of the festival itself. A parade marshal is also chosen from the group that works throughout the year to produce the festival.

The carnival, another feature at the festival, is a great attraction for everyone, especially for the children. Friday is “School Day”.

Although the festival is always held on the first weekend in November, this year’s festival will fall on Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1.

The Boudin Eating Contest is one of the popular events featured at the Louisiana Swine Festival in Basile.

Harold Aymond of Lake Charles and Jennifer Douglas of Destrehan reigned as the 1980 Swine Festival King and Queen.