

The mission of the Luxembourg Heritage Society of Northwest Iowa is to preserve the contributions of Luxembourg settlers in our area and throughout the United States through genealogy, education, and celebration of their achievements.

The Luxembourg Heritage Society will meet Saturday, August 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Remsen Public Library meeting room. Discussion of the Lux Fest, to be held June 6-7, 2020, will continue.

As the Society continues planning the upcoming festival, they will draw from both U.S. and Luxembourg traditions. Fairs are one tradition common to both the U.S. and Luxembourg.

In the U.S., the county fair with its rides, livestock judging, exhibits and fair foods, is a common celebration during the summer. The first county fair in the United States was held in Pittsfield, MA in 1807, and after 212 years, is still held annually. The Lee County Fair, in Fairfield, IA bills itself as the oldest county fair in Iowa, beginning 178 years ago, in 1841.

In contrast to U.S. fairs that began about 200 years ago, the Schueberfouer, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg's largest fair, began 679 years ago in 1340. John the Blind, Count of Luxembourg and King of Bohemia, founded the fair. The Schueberfouer was originally a market selling cattle, garden and field produce, and the products of local craftsmen.

Today, Schueberfouer's opening day features a procession of musicians wearing the blue smocks of 19th century farmers. They make their way through the streets of Luxembourg city, playing their instruments as they follow a shepherd and a small flock of sheep sporting colorful ribbons.

While animal and produce judging, central to Iowa county fairs, is not part of the Schueberfouer, other features of U.S. county fairs can be found in Luxembourg. The Limpertsberg section of the capital city is home to approximately 180 attractions, including

rides, games, food and sweets stands, and vendors. One food specialty at the Luxembourg fair is "Fouerfesch," whiting (fish) cooked in brewer's yeast, eaten with chips and accompanied by beer or wine.

The 20-day fair, running from Aug. 23 to Sept. 11 will conclude with a huge fireworks display on the night of Sept. 11.

Like county fairs and the Schueberfouer, the Lux Fest in Alton in 2020 will feature food, vendors, and exhibits. Anyone interested in helping with the festival is welcome to attend the August 10 meeting in Remsen. Additional information can be found on the Society's Facebook page at Luxembourg Heritage Society of Northwest Iowa and on their website at [nwialux.org](http://nwialux.org).