



## Festivals and Events



The big event for Swisher County Residents is “Picnic”. Based on the annual celebration of the county’s organization, the name harkens back to the days when everyone gathered on the courthouse square with a picnic lunch brought from home.

The event has expanded, however, to include Music on the Square, a Rodeo, a couple of dances, a cook-off, food and fun booths, school and family reunions, and as for the “picnic” itself, it has become a barbecue, with proceeds benefiting the local 4-H programs.



“Picnic” was formerly planned around July 17, the date of the county’s founding, but has since been locked in to the third Saturday in July for the main events (parade, barbecue, and rodeo), with events around the square on the preceding days. Those with a desire to volunteer may participate with a club-sponsored booth, or perform on the stage.

Lake Mackenzie Bass Tournament – June, dates vary. A cooperative effort between the Tulia and Silverton Chambers of Commerce.

Tri-State Fair and Rodeo, Amarillo – Covering two weekends in mid-September, features livestock, art, and culinary contests, plus exhibits, carnival rides, a parade, first-class entertainers, and a rodeo.

South Plains Fair, Lubbock – Late September and early October. Livestock, art, and culinary contests, plus exhibits, carnival rides, and first-class entertainers.

Nearby communities also offer local celebrations:

Turkey – “Bob Wills Day” – Fourth Saturday in April – Honors the memory and music of the creator and “King of Western Swing” who was born in Turkey, Texas.

Nazareth – “Germanfest” – Second Saturday in July -- live entertainment, German sausage lunch, living history demonstrations. “Suds N Sounds” dance and concert with live music concludes the evening.

Floydada – “Punkin Days” – Second Saturday in October. Floydada is known for its pumpkins, so why not celebrate them? If you can do it (legally) with a pumpkin, it’s probably an event at “Punkin Days”—carve ‘em, paint ‘em, haul ‘em in a wheelbarrow, bowl ‘em, roll ‘em, bake ‘em in a pie and race with ‘em. Even spit their seeds.

Friona – “Texas Cheeseburger Cook-Off and Festival” – Third Saturday in July. The Friona area is home to cattle feedyards, packing plants, wheat fields, and dairies. Put all that together and you get—cheeseburgers! Friona is the official “Cheeseburger Capital of Texas” and it’s never more obvious than the day of the cook-off. Teams from a wide area compete to win the “Best Cheeseburger” title!

“87 on 87” – Regional Garage Sale along US Highway 87, including Tulia, Plainview, and other communities. Second Saturday in August. Several area communities have city-wide garage sales during the summer.

Fourth of July – Many communities have July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks displays (Tulia included, if dry weather doesn’t force their cancellation), but Canyon goes all out with a parade, picnics and fireworks.



Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show – Late November, early December -- over 500 companies showcasing the latest agricultural products and services ranging from animal health and financial to tractors, irrigation and much more.

World Championship Ranch Rodeo – Amarillo – Early- to mid-November –Sponsored by the Working Ranch Cowboys Association.

Other rodeos are held throughout the area, as well.

## Sports at all Levels

There are a multitude of sporting events in the area to enjoy and several sporting events to participate in.

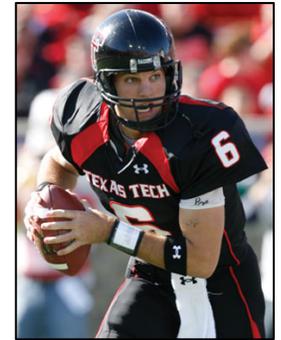
Locally, residents can enjoy school sports which include football, basketball, baseball, cross country, track, golf, and volleyball.

Six-man football can be enjoyed at other small communities in the area.

Golf enthusiasts can enjoy the local golf course as well as several other courses within easy driving distances.

At the college level, Big 12 sports can be enjoyed by following Texas Tech University sports which include football, basketball, baseball, golf, cross country, track, tennis, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Also within easy driving distance is West Texas A & M University which offers the same plate of sporting events plus women's equestrian events.

Professional sporting events in Amarillo include the Dillas minor league baseball franchise, the Dusters Arena Football team, and the Gorillas Ice Hockey team. In Lubbock, it's the Renegades for Arena Football, and the Cotton Kings for hockey.



Also available for racing enthusiasts is the Route 66 Motor Speedway in Amarillo.

Rodeo fans can enjoy the World Championship Ranch Rodeo finals held in Amarillo. Cutting horse and team roping enthusiasts can attend several events in Amarillo and the area, either to watch or participate.