

Dia De Los Puercos – A Vibrant and Traditional Celebration

Many stars and moons ago in the beautiful county of La Salle, a tradition started that would change La Salle County forever. This tradition, better known as the La Salle County Wild Hog Cook Off, is a HUGE and exciting festival! Every year the festival is the highlight of the year and this year would be the best one yet – Dia De Los Puercos!

Every year there are many people and pigs that attend this themed event but this year would be a little different. This year at this festival you would see lots of pigs that had vibrant and bright colors on their faces that looked like paint splatters! They had beautiful red roses on their head and wore big colorful dresses and suits. They also had big guitars and played soft music. Although all the pigs enjoyed going to this festival, there was a group of 4 pig friends who took pride in this festival each year. Sprinkles, Oinkers, Shelby, and Bacon were their names. Three of the pigs were red and yellow and one pig was green and blue. These friends enjoyed going to the festival each year and talking to new pigs from all over the United States who would come to visit. Everyone knows about this event all over the world!

The pig friends were really excited because this was the first year they were going to perform at the Wild Hog Cook Off. Not only were the pigs colorful and full of talent, but they also did amazing tricks. They juggled chicken legs in the air and could balance on one leg! Everyone was waiting in line to see the “Spectacular” pigs! “At 5:00pm, the gates will open” the owner announced. Finally, the owner opened the gates and everyone rushed in. Once they arrived at the “Piggie” legion, they started taking pictures of the pigs doing their unbelievable tricks. An hour later, their performance was over

and was closing for the day. “These pigs are too cute, I don’t want to leave” a little cowgirl said to her daddy. Everyone eventually left and the pigs were sobbing because they didn’t want the fun to end.

The group of friends, also known as, the “Porkies” decided to not get down and continue the fun. They grew hungry as they smelled the most delicious foods of chicken, BBQ, cheeseburgers, and funnel cakes! They walked the grounds and feasted on some AMAZING BBQ. Oinkers even had 3 servings! Sprinkles told his friends that they should end their night with going to the dance at the Pavillion. The friends agreed and left to go get ready at the pig pens. They ironed their cowboy shirts and shined up their boots. Shelby couldn’t forget her pink sparkly cowboy hat! As the night fell, the “Porkies” headed to the Pavillion. While they were there, they danced and socialized with their friends and family. They laughed and shared stories and had the BEST time.

The night ended with colorful fireworks as everyone sat on the picnic tables to enjoy. While the night was coming to an end, Bacon started to feel tired due to his age and decided to go lay down. He was weak and didn’t have much energy. He then went to sleep and later that night he went to Puerco heaven. His friends were so sad. They sang his favorite songs and hugged him. They decided they were going to build a beautiful altar to honor their friend, Bacon. His friends knew how much he loved the Wild Hog Cook Off and what it meant to him. They wanted to find a way to keep his memory alive. They invited family and friends to share stories about him and pay their respects. Mariachi music filled the air and the tribute was perfect. That night it was announced that the La Salle County Fair – Dia De Los Puercos would be dedicated to Bacon. He loved the festival and was proud of his roots.

Luis Ayala – 3rd Grade – Reserve Grand Champion

So you see, the Wild Hog Cook Off is much more than just food, animals, and the carnival. It's about community, love, friendships and family, a tradition that will live forever.