



Hi! I am your Miss Hoopeton 2016, Holly Morgeson! I'm very happy to announce that I am the official hostess for the 73rd National Sweetcorn Festival, so I formally invite you to come and bring your friends and family to join in the wonderful festivities there on Labor Day Weekend. Our theme is ***Living the Sweet Life—Sweetcorn & Sweethearts***. The festival kicks off at 5pm on Thursday, September 1st and comes to a close on Monday, September 5th, all in the McFerren Park here in Hoopeton, IL. The weekend is jam packed with so many fun activities for you to watch and take part in; there's something there for everyone to enjoy! Our Festival Chairman, Callie Lankford and the Hoopeton Jaycees have been working very hard to organize the festival and make sure everything is in tip-top shape so you can enjoy all that the festival has to offer and in the best way possible.

Thursday evening, the festivities begin with an array of exciting events. First off, we have bracelet night at the Midway. The Midway is the first thing I think of when someone mentions the festival, because here, the festival comes alive with activity. You can catch a wide variety of games, rides, and some of the best carnival food around; your whole family can come enjoy it together. Then, at 6:30 pm, in the Annex, we have a new event you won't want to miss—the Pro Rodeo! On Friday, come back for another bracelet night and try some more festival food before our Truck and Tractor Pull begins at 6:30 pm. Saturday's activities spread out beyond

the gates of McFerren Park, and they start bright and early with the Bill Orr Memorial 5K. After that, take a seat along Main Street for the festival's Grand Parade at 10:30 am. The parade is one of my favorite parts of the festival, because it's such a long-standing tradition that brings the community together, and numerous people can partake in it. Back at the park, you'll want to take advantage of our free sweetcorn, and just nearby, you can enjoy the many contests and performances at Center Stage or walk through the Car Show. That night, there will be a performance you'll certainly want to see—John Pardi! You can also get tickets to see the sweethearts and me at the National Sweetheart Pageant preliminaries the same night. On Sunday, the fourth day of the festival, be sure to check out the Flea Market, also open on Saturday and Monday. Then, grab more free sweetcorn and sit back and listen to the Groove Catz. Sunday night's Annex event is the Demo Derby, which includes lawn mowers, power wheels, street truck cash pull, and the main feature. Come see who will be crowned our 2016 National Sweetheart at the finals that night as well. Although Monday is the final day of the National Sweetcorn Festival, there is still so much to see and do! You can even see my family and me perform to open up for Back Paiges on Center Stage.

Words cannot describe how excited I am for the 73rd National Sweetcorn Festival, to be the host for it, and be the host for the National Sweetheart Pageant. I am truly thankful for the Hoopeston Jaycees and the Sweetheart Pageant committee for such incredible opportunities and putting in so much hard work. I love representing our wonderful town of Hoopeston in the best way that I can. I hope to see you out at the festival and join us in "living the sweet life"!