



By Russ Pankonin The Imperial Republican

Award winner Chris Young will headline this year's Chase County Fair country concert Saturday, Aug. 16. Special guest Courtney Cole will open for Young as part of the fair's concert series.

Fair Entertainment Chair Alex McNair said Young comes well recommended and the fair's excited to be able to get him booked here.

He said Young has already created his own star power with five No. 1 hits.

The addition of Cole will add another facet to the fair concert, McNair said. Over the years, the fair has booked many artists on their way up and Cole has that same potential.

Chris Young

Chris Young got a career boost as the 2006 winner of "Nashville Star" program, a singing competition which aired on the USA Network.

He signed with RCA Records Nashville and released his self-titled debut album that year, which was best know for his songs "Drinkin' Me Lonely" and "You're Gonna Love Me."

He followed that up in 2009 with *The Man I Want to Be*. The album included the singles "Voices," "Gettin' You Home" and "The Man I Want to Be," which all went to No. 1.

Young's next album in 2011, *Neon*, produced two more number ones in "Tomorrow" and "You." Last year's album, *A.M.*, produced "Aw Naw" that went to No. 3 and "Who I Am with You."

Young won two American Country Awards in 2011 for Breakthrough Artist of the Year and Single of the Year for his No. 1 smash, "Voices."

With an electrifying live show and more than a dozen awards and nominations collectively from the Academy of Country Music, The Country Music Association and CMT, Young has become one of country's hottest rising stars. For more information on Young, visit his web site at www.chrisyoungcountry.com.

Courtney Cole

Artist and songwriter Courtney Cole hails from Mandeville, La. She made her journey to Music City in 2005.

Shortly after graduating from Belmont University, Cole was cast in the first season of CMT's hit series, "CMT's Next Superstar."

She quickly received her first songwriting deal and began writing with Nashville's biggest hitmakers including Brett James ("Jesus Take The Wheel") and Justin Weaver ("Get Off On The Pain").

She is currently an artist/songwriter for Big Machine Music, the publishing arm of Big Machine Label Group.

She opens for Young, Kip Moore, Stoney LaRue, Granger Smith and Josh Thompson.

Ticket sales begin June 21

McNair said they are finalizing bookings for the fair's rock concert Friday, Aug. 15, and anticipates an announcement of the performers soon.

He said concert tickets for the fair concert series will be available beginning June 21. People can join the Chase County Fair E-mail Club for discounts and contests to win tickets along with a chance to go backstage at one of the two fair concerts. To join, visit www.chasecountyfair.com.