

ARTS & CULTURE

MUSIC

Sweetwater 905 fest splits into three

Live music this weekend, Farm Days in August, Arts Day in September



Karl Mattson, whose family hosts Sweetwater 905 on their farm north of Dawson Creek, says dividing the festival into three was a new idea this year. **JONNY WAKEFIELD PHOTO**

JONNY WAKEFIELD

Staff Writer

Sweetwater 905 has always been hard to pin down.

For 12 years, the annual event on the Mattson farm has fused music and arts festival with ranching workshops, featuring practical tips on everything from trail riding to loading a pack horse. Now, the festival is splitting into three. For the first time, organizers plan to hold four days worth of events split between three months. The music festival runs June 11 and 12 and features country, folk and rock artists performing around the Mattson farm on Sweetwater Road outside Rolla.

August 20, the Mattsons will host a ranch day with farm tours, horse workshops and agriculture demonstrations. Real life cowboy Malcolm McLean and his band will play a dinner and dance later in the evening.

The series will wrap for the year Sept. 3 with an arts day featuring art installations, studio tours and spoken word performances, as well as a show from Fort St. John's Twin Peaks.

Mattson said holding three days worth of events will help organizers better cater to different audiences. He's hoping the weather for the festival holds after a soggy event last year, which saw torrential rains and power outages.

reporter@dcdn.ca