New York State’s recent capital investments have already improved the fairgrounds reputation and helped to attract new, never seen before events to Central New York. In 2017, the Fair will play host to four new Marquee events that will attract thousands of visitors and spur millions of dollars in economic activity.

**Chinese Lantern Festival** - Advance Media New York will debut the New York State Chinese Lantern Festival at the fairgrounds from Friday, April 14 to Sunday, June 25. The event is a festival of light, color and Chinese culture, as up to 80,000 attendees are expected to follow a path lit by thousands of unique lanterns created in the shapes of animals, flowers and Chinese symbols.

Along the path of the event, which will be located in the newly expanded New York Experience section of the fairgrounds, eventgoers will encounter Chinese dancers, acrobats, face changers, musicians and singers. There will be demonstrations of traditional Chinese crafts such as palm weaving, edible sugar dragons and paintings of visitors’ names in Chinese. Food and beverages will be available.

The festival is assembled by Tianyu Arts & Culture from Zigong, China, which produces lantern shows in Asia, Europe, Australia and the United States (need a link here to website).

**Syracuse SnoCross** - Professional and amateur snowmobile racers from all over the Northeast will battle it out for cash prizes on March 4 & 5, 2017, on what will be their largest track of the racing series season. Syracuse SnoCross will be a stop on the East Coast SnoCross Racing Series and will be the first time snocross racing will take place in Syracuse. Racers on highly modified snowmobiles will race around a custom-built track with turns, whoops, and huge jumps sending some racers distances of 80+ feet.

Companies like Polaris, Ski-Doo, and Arctic Cat will have professional factory teams racing and showing off the latest in snowmobile engineering and technology. Amateur racers will also be able to sign up and race on a professional track to test their riding skills and machines.

The series attracts well over 100 racers and thousands of spectators from all over New England and Canada at every stop.
Kawasaki Syracuse StadiumCross - Another first for Syracuse will be the high flying, adrenaline filled action of indoor motocross racing called the OPE Kawasaki Syracuse StadiumCross on March 25 & 26, 2017. Racers and fans from all over the Northeast and Canada will converge on the Coliseum at the New York State Fairgrounds to push themselves and their dirt bikes to the limit. Nearly 500 racers and thousands of race fans are expected to attend the weekend long event.

A custom-built dirt track on the Coliseum floor will take over 550 cubic yards of dirt to build berms, whoops, table tops, and high flying jumps. The 3,500 seat coliseum is where the races will be held, while the adjacent Event Center building will house the pit spaces for racers to work on their motorcycles.

Syracuse Man Show - This brand-new event will take place in the Horticulture Building at the fairgrounds. The show will be a trade show of all things “manly”. Vendors will be displaying and selling items for hunting, golfing, fishing, home entertainment, cars, trucks, motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATV’s, skiing, video games, craft beer, power tools, and much more.

The event will also feature a beanbag toss tournament, live music, adult pinewood derby races to benefit a local charity, and championship arm wrestling. Door prize and contests will also take place during the Friday night and Saturday night event.