

THE TEN BEST PERFORMANCES AT FARMBOROUGH 2015



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Dierks Bentley shotguns a beer onstage with a fan at FarmBorough 2015.

Nicole Fara Silver for the Village Voice

There were a couple of unofficial mascots at FarmBorough 2015 who threatened to steal the spotlight from country's brightest headliners: the dude waving a giant American flag throughout the entire festival who gave Mel Gibson in *The Patriot* a run for his money, the guy who basically wound up crushing a beer can with his bare hands and took an impromptu Natty Light shower in an attempt to out-shotgun Dierks Bentley during an onstage challenge, the grade-school girl who knew every single damn word to Luke Bryan's set and watched from her dad's shoulders, etc. That said, the talent at FarmBorough shined, even though Mother Nature did her best to dampen the brim of the various Stetsons parading across the main stage. From the moment Ruthie Collins made her home state proud to the flaming finish of Bryan's set, here are our favorite live-music moments from FarmBorough 2015.

Dierks Bentley

Bentley's been big on FarmBorough since day one, having helped organizers announce the event at a press conference earlier this year and continuously singing the praises of Live Nation and the country festival model itself to the press. His enthusiasm was evident from the start, jumping between hits like "Sideways," "Am I the Only One," and "5-1-5-0" and slowing things down with "Tip It on Back." Tipping it on back himself, Bentley's set solidified him as the artist you most want to have a beer with — or, er, spill your beer with — as the performance included challenging that fan to the shotgun competition, and the banter he shared with his captive audience held that playful tone throughout the night. He got in on the cover-song action with Taylor Swift's "Welcome to New York," shared the wide range of venues his beat-up guitar had seen for "I Hold On," and even bragged on his bluegrass background by showing off the dobro in his band. By the time he launched into goofy hit "Drunk on a Plane" to close the show, it was hard not to be sold on Bentley's boisterousness.