



Trivia

FOOD

- How long would it take the average cow to produce all the milk served during the fair's 12-day run at the All You Can Drink Milk booth? (8-9 years)
- During a typical year, how many gallons of milk are served at the All You Can Drink Milk booth? (About 26,000 gallons)
- If measured by laying them end to end, how many miles of foot-long hot dogs are sold at the State Fair? (35 miles of hot dogs)
- How many tons of potatoes do the three largest French fry vendors [Fresh French Fries' two locations and World's Greatest French Fries] use each year? (About 145 tons of potatoes or the weight of 290 cows)
- How many pounds of ketchup do the Fresh French Fries stands go through each year? (25,000 pounds)
- Fresh French Fries made its debut at the fair in what year? (1973)
- How many acres of corn are sold at the Corn Roast booth each year? (25 acres)
- How many pounds of butter does the Corn Roast booth go through each year? (400 pounds of butter)
- The Corn Roast grows all of its corn at a farm in which Minnesota town? (Waverly, Minn.)
- On average, how many cookies does Sweet Martha's Cookie Jar produce each minute? (2,000 cookies each minute or 24,000 in 12 minutes)
- How many food concessions are located throughout the fairgrounds? (About 300 food concessions dish up nearly 500 different delectable delights.)
- When was the Pronto Pup introduced at the State Fair? (1947)
- How many tons of batter do Pronto Pups go through each year? (Approximately 70 tons of batter)
- On average, what's the total number of corndogs typically consumed by fair guests each year? (365,000 corndogs)
- Tom Thumb Donuts were invented and introduced at the Minnesota State Fair in what year? (1949)
- How many dozens of mini donuts are eaten each year? (Nearly 338,000 dozen - that's more than 4 million individual mini donuts)
- What is the oldest food concession at the fairgrounds? (Hamline Church Dining Hall, since 1897)

COMPETITION & LIVESTOCK

- Throughout the year, how many animals are housed in the livestock barns on the fairgrounds? (Nearly 20,000 animals)
- When was the first llama show held at the State Fair? (1988)
- Which largest boar was the largest of them all? (In 2010, crossbred swine Reggie weighed in at 1,450 lbs.)
- How much manure is hauled out of the livestock barns each year during the 12 days of the State Fair? (More than 3,000 tons of manure is hauled to Hastings, Minn., where it is composted, mixed with dirt and used as fertilizer on more than 1,000 acres of farm field.)
- What animals shown at the State Fair are unlike other livestock because they have no proper breed names? (Llamas)
- Breed names of Cinnamon, Hotot, Crème D'Argent and Mini Rex belong to what State Fair livestock? (Rabbits)
- How many baby animals are born at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center during the State Fair? (Nearly 200 animals including calves, lambs and piglets)
- In what year was the current CHS Miracle of Birth Center built? (2006)
- At peak times, where on the fairgrounds are as many as 400 cows milked daily? (The State Fair Milking Parlor in the Cattle Barn)
- What is the most popular flavor of pies entered in the creative activities baked goods category? (Apple pie)
- What color are sweepstakes or grand champion best-of-show ribbons? (Purple)
- How many cattle does the historic Cattle Barn house? (About 1,000)
- In what year did the “vegan main dish” category in the creative activities competition debut? (2011)
- How many items are entered into the creative activities competition each year? (More than 8,000 entries)
- What happens to the giant pumpkins and vegetables in the agriculture horticulture competition after the fair? (The giant pumpkins and other vegetables are composted.)

HISTORY

- Before the Ramsey County Poor Farm in St. Paul became the State Fair's permanent home, what other Minnesota cities hosted the time-honored event? (Minneapolis, Rochester, Red Wing, Winona and Owatonna)
- What year was the first Minnesota State Fair held? (1859)
- What year was the Minnesota State Fair first held on the current fairgrounds? (1885)
- When did the Streetcar Arch, now currently residing at the West End Gate, make its first appearance at the State Fair? (1934)
- What year was electricity first used at the State Fair, allowing the fair to operate after sunset? (1899)
- What unusual attraction debuted at the 1898 State Fair? (“Daylight Fireworks”)
- In 1902, the St. Paul and Minneapolis school boards pushed the opening day of school back to the Monday after the State Fair. What was their reason for doing this? (Education authorities stated there was “more to be learned in a single day at the fair than in double the time at school or college.”)

- What year did legendary pacer horse Dan Patch make his Minnesota State Fair debut? (1903)
- What machine revolutionized the animal agriculture process and was first exhibited at the 1908 fair? (A dairy cattle milking machine)
- The first 12-day State Fair was held in what year? (1975. Prior to this, the fair lasted anywhere between three and 11 days.)
- Why did the State Fair's Hippodrome (now the Warner Coliseum) need to be rebuilt? (During the 1940s, the A.O. Smith Corporation of Milwaukee took over the building, making it a World War II military aircraft factory for two years. After the propeller factory was removed, the Hippodrome was deemed "economically unfit for restoration" and was torn down.)
- Why was Theodore Roosevelt only able to attend one of his two planned speaking engagements at the 1912 State Fair? (After giving his first speech at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4, Mr. Roosevelt suffered a severe case of laryngitis.)
- In 1920, what was introduced to fair guests as the future of dining? (Reverend J.M. Batinger's Automatic Eater, an all-you-can-eat buffet served on a rotating conveyor belt. Price: 50¢)
- Why has the State Fair Grandstand been called "the house that Dan Patch built?" (The current Grandstand was constructed in 1909 to accommodate the enormous crowds attracted to harness racing by world-famous pacer horse Dan Patch.)
- How did most of the streets on the fairgrounds get their names? (Most streets on the fairgrounds are named in recognition of past State Agricultural Society leaders and individuals who shaped the State Fair between 1854 and 1940.)
- Has the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Medallion ever been hidden on the fairgrounds? (The Winter Carnival Medallion has been hidden on the fairgrounds twice: First in 1953, near the Poultry Building by the base of a tree; and in 1967, between the Judging Arena and the KTCA-Channel 2 booth, lodged in a horseshoe under 8 inches of ice.)
- Which United States president gave one of his most famous speeches at the State Fair? (Theodore Roosevelt gave his "Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick" speech in 1901 when he was serving as vice president.)
- What special event took place at the fairgrounds on June 22, 1910? (The first airplane flight in Minnesota history)
- When did State Fair attendance first top the 1 million mark? (On Sept. 5, 1955. Robert Karklin received a wristwatch and silver trophy for being the fair's millionth guest.)
- Which famous composer appeared at the fair in 1927? (John Philip Sousa)
- Why wasn't there a fair in 1946? (Polio epidemic)
- In the late 1980s, world-famous aerialist Jay Cochran walked a high-wire stretched between the tops of which two State Fair structures? (The 4-H Building and the Space Tower)
- What insect was blamed for reducing attendance at the 1875 fair? (Grasshoppers)
- In what year was the first statewide Princess Kay of the Milky Way Contest held? (1954)
- In what year was the Bandshell constructed? (1971)

- Were there fairs in the area before Minnesota became a state? (Yes. The governing body of the State Fair is older than the state. Founded in 1854, the Minnesota Agricultural Society held its first Territorial Fair in 1855. Minnesota was granted statehood in 1858.)
- What is the oldest amusement at the fairgrounds? (Ye Old Mill, which began operating in 1915)
- In what year was the Space Tower built? (1965)
- The 330-foot Space Tower was built in Germany and shipped to which Minnesota city before being loaded onto 20 trucks to finally arrive at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds? (Duluth)

EXHIBITS

- How many Little Farm Hands walk through the exhibit each year? (40,000)
- What is the length of the wind turbine blade outside Eco Experience? (Standing 123 feet tall, the wind blade is one of three that make up a wind turbine.)
- How much butter is used to sculpt the likeness of Princess Kay of the Milky Way? (85-90 lbs.)
- In what year did the Agriculture Horticulture Building open? (1947)
- What is the temperature of the cooler where the Princess Kay of the Milky Way butter heads are sculpted? (40 degrees)
- How many steps does it take to get to the top of the DNR Fire Tower? (84)

RECORDS

- Which State Fair day in history holds the record for total rainfall? (On Aug. 30, 1977, it rained 7.35 inches.)
- What is the Minnesota State Fair's all-time attendance record, and when was it set? (1,997,320 guests attended the fair in 2017.)
- Who broke the all-time record for the most tickets sold to a single Grandstand show? (In 2000, Christina Aguilera sold 22,117 tickets.)
- What are the record high and low temperatures during the fair? (High: 104 degrees in 1931; Record low: 33 degrees in 1890)
- Which artist/band has made more Grandstand appearances than any other performer? (Alabama)

OTHER

- How tall is the Great Big Wheel? (156 feet tall or 15 stories)
- How many miles of electrical wiring are used for the Great Big Wheel? (6 miles of electrical wiring)
- How many trailers are used to transport the 200-ton Great Big Wheel? (12 trailers)
- How many gallons of water does the Ye Old Mill attraction hold? (About 60,000 gallons)
- How are State Fair mascots Fairchild and Fairborne related? (Fairchild is Fairborne's uncle.)
- What percentage of fair guests came to the State Fair by some type of public, charter or mass transit bus operation in 2017? (Approximately 50%)
- How many acres make up the State Fairgrounds? (320 acres)

- What was the 2016 State Fair's average daily attendance? (166,443 visitors)
- When was the Minnesota State Fair Foundation established? (2002)
- How many tons of organic waste, such as corn cobs, lemon peels, pineapples, pickles, banana peels and more, are recycled each year? (68 tons)
- How many tons of glass, plastic and aluminum were collected and recycled during the 2016 fair? (46 tons)
- How many recycling receptacles, collecting plastic bottles and cups, glass and aluminum, are placed throughout the fairgrounds during the State Fair? (Nearly 800 recycling receptacles)
- How many LED lights make up the Grandstand marquee? (5,500 individual lights)
- How fast does the Space Tower carry passengers into the skies above the State Fairgrounds? (The Space Tower rises at a rate of 295 feet per minute.)
- How much government funding or what sum of taxpayer dollars does the State Fair receive? (The State Fair does not receive government funding or taxpayer dollars of any kind. It is completely financially self-supporting.)
- How many employees make up the Great Minnesota Get-Together's fair-time staff? (Nearly 3,000, plus another 10,000 hired by State Fair vendors)
- What architectural styles can be seen among the State Fair's historic buildings? (Art Deco, Beaux Arts, Classical, Early Colonial and modern)
- How many blocks is the parade route? (14 blocks)
- How many events take place on the fairgrounds during the non-fair time? (130 events)
- How many benches sit in front of the Leinie Lodge Bandshell? (Nearly 300)
- How many cannas are planted around the fairgrounds? (7,900)
- Who is the longest-running entertainer at the State Fair? (Sean Emery, who has performed each day of the fair since 1991)