

NEWS RELEASE

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Minnesota State Fair Wraps Up Its 2022 Grand Celebration

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St. Paul, Minn. – The 2022 Minnesota State Fair brought people together from everywhere to celebrate agriculture, food, music, education, the arts and, most important, each other – all on a grand scale. Labor Day attendance of 156,985 brought this year’s cumulative total to 1,842,222, making it the fifth best-attended fair ever. Visit mnstatefair.org/about-the-fair/attendance for 2022 attendance numbers.

“Our thanks to everyone who visited the State Fair this year,” said the fair’s General Manager Jerry Hammer. “It was clear from the first moments on opening day that people were more than ready to return home to their State Fair. ‘We really need this’ is what we heard from many very happy people.”

“Thanks also to the tens of thousands of people who worked so very hard to make State Fair magic,” Hammer added. “State Fair staff, vendors, exhibitors, agriculturists, youth groups, volunteers and especially our many partners who stepped up to provide public safety and security for the fair.”

The Minnesota State Fair’s agricultural and creative competitions drew more than 32,000 entries this year, with competitors vying for a share of ribbons, trophies and special awards and more than \$1.7 million in prize money. Competitions included events for livestock, horses, school projects, dog trials, baked and canned goods, fruit, vegetables, crafts, bee and honey products, fine arts, farm crops, flowers, butter, cheese and more.

The State Fair’s Fine Arts Exhibition featured the largest juried art show in Minnesota. The 2022 People’s Choice Award – Adults’ Choice went to “The Grizzly,” a watercolor/archival ink on cold press piece by Erik J Fremstad of Victoria, Minn. Scotty Z of Minnetonka, Minn., won the Kids’ Choice Award for “PesCATarian,” an acrylic on canvas painting.

The Purple Ribbon Auction on Saturday, Aug. 27, set 17 new record prices and raised more than \$1,014,000 for the 115 4-H members who participated in the auction. In addition, the auction awarded \$118,000 in scholarships to 53 4-H youths.

In open class livestock competitions, supreme champion titles were awarded to the best grand champions out of all beef cattle, dairy cattle, boer goats, dairy goats, breeding sheep and swine grand champions and were exhibited by:

- Open Class Supreme Champion Dairy Female: Anthony Kohls, Do-N-Joy Genetics, Arlington, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Beef Female: Benjamin Hawkins, Hawkins Cattle, Lowry, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Beef Bull: Ennis Wallace, Kip Wallace Cattle, Emerald, Wis.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Beef Cow Calf: Aiden Hiniker, Pipestone, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Boar: Mike Patterson, Country Girls Show Pigs, Kenyon, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Gilt: Jackson Roll, Bingham Lake, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Ram, Wool Breeds: Tim and Brenda Lobdell, Lobdell Dorpers, Freeport, Ill.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Ewe, Wool Breeds: Leland Thiesen, Thiesen Columbias, Windom, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Ram, Meat Breeds: Charles Bobendrier, Bobendrier Hampshires, Pipestone, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Ewe, Meat Breeds: Bret Oelke, Riverview Livestock, Barrett, Minn.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Dairy Goat Herd: Mary Adamson, Marran, Milton, Wis.
- Open Class Supreme Champion Boar Goat: Karley Hamilton, Owatonna, Minn.

FFA Supreme Champion honors were also awarded:
Breeding Beef: Jaxon Hilbrands, Morris FFA
Dairy: Garrett Waldenberger, Spring Grove FFA

Breeding Sheep: Rowland Dyhkoff, New York Mills FFA
Market Lamb: Matthew Wiebe, Mountain Lake FFA
Breeding Swine: Payton Winter, Windom FFA
Meat Goat: Anna Ridenour, Triton FFA

Supreme and Signature winners in the Minnesota State Fair Horse Show were:
Supreme Champion Stallion Draft Horse: Glenview Percherons, Glenwood City, Wis.
Supreme Champion Mare Draft Horse: Zubrod's Percherons LLC, Guthrie, Okla.
Supreme Champion Gelding Draft Horse: Welton Ridge Farms, Delmar, Iowa
Draft Horse Supreme Six-Horse Hitch: Ames Percheron Farm Inc., Jordan, Minn.
Draft Horse Supreme Cart Classic Series: Shining Stars Percherons, Altoona, Iowa
Youth Cart Classic Series: McKenna Shaw driving for Ames Percheron Farm Inc., Jordan, Minn.
Signature Tandem Bareback Champion Team: Victoria Mailand, Isanti, Minn., and Lydia Jones, Isanti, Minn.
Signature Mounted Costume: Kylie Jo Lawrance, Monticello, Minn.
Four-In-Line Barrels Champion Team: Minnesota Valley Riders Saddle Club (Jan Deile, Madison Deile, Ginny Olson and Stephanie Wall)

The Douglas K. Baldwin Award for FFA livestock show participation and leadership went to Madison Dahna of Mountain Lake, Minn.

Rachel Rynda of Montgomery, Minn., representing Le Sueur County, was crowned the 69th Princess Kay of the Milky Way and will serve as the official goodwill ambassador for nearly 2,500 Minnesota dairy farm families this year.

The award-winning CHS Miracle of Birth Center welcomed 138 newborn animals, including 104 piglets, 10 calves, 21 lambs and three kids (goats).

Nearly 5,000 fans cheered on the best amateur talent in the state at the 49th Annual MSF Amateur Talent Contest Finals held Sept. 4, at the Grandstand. Contestants were competing for nearly \$20,000 in prize money. Winners were:

Open Division

First place: Aurora Wang of Shoreview, Minn., piano solo, "Paganini Variations"

Second place: Paris Cook of Minneapolis, Minn., spoken word, "Masterpiece"

Third place: Caitlin Stollenwerk of St. Paul, Minn., vocal solo, "Defying Gravity"

Teen Division

First place: Six from Twin Cities area, vocal group, "Ex-Wives"

Second place: Laci Bloss of Victoria, Minn., dance solo, "Vanishing Act"

Third place: Bella and Libby Butters of White Bear Lake, Minn., dance duet, "If I Were A Boy"

Preteen Division

First place: Tahari Conrad of Shoreview, Minn., dance solo, "Ain't That A Kick"

Second place: Elle Boudewyns of Eagan, Minn., dance solo, "Darkness Into Light"

Third place: Clay Bartelt of Oak Park Heights, Minn., vocal/piano solo, "Separate Ways"

Doron Clark of Minneapolis, Minn., and Kenzie Schroeder of Golden Valley, Minn., were the overall male and female 5K Milk Run winners with times of 17:18 and 21:06, respectively. The Milk Run was sponsored by Great River Energy, Midwest Dairy, Minnesota Farmers Union and Giggles' Campfire Grill.

New additions and highlights for 2022 included: Blue Ribbon BINGO with proceeds benefiting the Minnesota State Fair Foundation 501(c)(3); Survival: The Exhibition; Agriculture Horticulture Building's 75th anniversary; open captioning and audio description joining the fair's accessibility offerings; Old Iron Show celebrating 25 years; new creative activities, livestock and agriculture competitions; 75 years of the FFA Show at the State Fair; five new stops for the History Walking Tour; Minnesota State Fair Foundation's 20th Anniversary; updated fair hours; two new rides at Mighty Midway; more than 60 new merchandise vendors; and more.

The State Fair's 2022 Best Awards recognized outstanding vendors, attractions and commercial exhibits. Winners were: Ball Park Cafe; Break-A-Bottle Game by Thornberry Concessions; Fiore Trees; Hansen's Amusement Foods; KMOJ Radio; Minneapple Pie; Puzzle Twist; Rick's Pizza by R&J Concessions; Root'd; Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Soul Bowl; Techno Power; and Tilt-A-Whirl.

The 2022 fair featured 38 new foods: All Quacked Up!; Arepa Bar's Three Arepas – Pulled Pork, The Queen and Vegan; Baba's Two Hummus Bowls – Beauty and the Buffalo and CoCo Nuts; Birthday Cake Paleta; Breakfast Gnocchi; Buzz'n ... Hot Honey Chicken Sausage Kebob; Celebration Cake On-A-Stick; Chick N Swiss Sausage; Chicken Tandoori Rolls; Chilaquiles Breakfast; Concha Bacon Burger; Cotton Candy Float; Deep-Fried Ice Cream; Dej Qab Zib (Sweet Refreshment); French Meadow Vegan Entrees – Earth Sliders™ and “Meat” Balls & Marinara; Gray Duck Sundae; The Herbivorous Butcher's Two Vegan Entree's – Poultrygeist and Steakxorcist; Kulfi: Indian-Style Ice Cream in Three Flavors; Lemon Cookie Tortilla Chips; Minne Hot Hot; Minneblueberry Pie; Molotes; Mov + Nqajj (Rice + Meat); New Mexico Chile Dog Sliders Two Ways; Nordic Waffles – Belly Full Nordic Waffle and Vanilla Custard Dream Nordic Waffle; Pickle Pizza; Pink Guava Slushie; Pork Schnitzel Sandwich; Reuben Rolls; Soulsicle; Sundae Sammie; Sweet Cheese Blintz; Sweet Potato Poutine; Tandoor-Fired Jerk Chicken Mini'zza; Tirokroketes; Tot Dog; Turmeric Ginger Lemon Surprise; and Vegan Corn Dog.

Ten new food vendors included: Arepa Bar, Bridge n' Barrel Root Beer, The Herbivorous Butcher, Nautical Bowls, Pickle Barrel Sirloin Tips, Richie's Cheese Curd Tacos, Rick's Pizza, Soul Bowl, Union Hmong Kitchen and Waffle Chix.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. The 2023 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 24 through Labor Day, Sept. 4. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

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