

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Lara Hughes • Marketing & Communications Manager • Media Hotline: 651-288-4321 • Media Email: [media@mnstatefair.org](mailto:media@mnstatefair.org) • Media Twitter: @MSFmedia

### Minnesota State Fair Announces “2024 Best Awards”

Aug. 29, 2024

St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota State Fair presented awards to 12 of the very best of the State Fair’s nearly 1,000 commercial exhibitors, concessions, attractions and food and beverage vendors at the 2024 Great Minnesota Get-Together. In a ceremony held at 10 a.m. today on the International Bazaar Stage, State Fair CEO Renee Alexander presented Best Awards to the following:

**Anderson Bros Outdoors** – (“Bros” like pros – not Brothers) This local family-owned and operated business designs and builds outdoor living spaces featuring swimming pools, patios, patio covers, decks and porches. (Located in the Home Improvement Building, east wall)

**Blue Barn** – Blue Barn is known for serving approachable comfort food with a twist, including one of this year’s official news foods – the PB Bacon Cakes. Their iconic building has been one of the anchor businesses of the West End since the redevelopment of that area 10 years ago. (Located at West End Market)

**Caricatures by Cindy** – Cindy started drawing caricatures at the State Fair in 1977. (Located at West End Market)

**Crazy Mouse owned by Wood Entertainment** – This spinning roller coaster ride has been a mainstay at the Minnesota State Fair since 2000. (Located at Mighty Midway)

**Demetri’s Fine Greek Food** – Serves a wide variety of menu items, including chicken in-a-pita, shish kabobs, gyros, Greek salads, baklava, gyro fries and a new item this year - Greek fries. Demetri’s is celebrating 25 years at the fair. (Located on Nelson St. between Dan Patch & Carnes avenues, north of the Giant Slide)

**Homespun Gifts and Décor** – Sells a long list of merchandise including apparel for all ages, Minnesota-themed gifts, jewelry, coffee mugs, kitchenware and more. They work exclusively with Minnesota-based small businesses. (Located at the North End, northwest section)

**Milk Can Game owned by Coy Heatherly Concessions** – This game was designed and constructed especially for the Mighty Midway by the owner who has been part of the fair for 56 years. (Located at Mighty Midway)

**Minnesota Department of Public Safety** – Shares information about driver and vehicle services, traffic safety, hiring and the many services and resources provided by this state agency. (Located in the Education Building)

**Orange Treet** – Serves whipped Julius-style drinks, smoothies and fresh-squeezed lemonade. (Located outside the Food Building, south wall)

**Pria Handmade Accessories** (pronounced Pree-yah) – Sells jewelry, hats and bags hand-woven and hand-beaded by Colombian artisans who are mostly single moms. (Located in Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum)

**Puppy Express owned by Prime Pacific** – This ride has provided joy and fun at the Minnesota State Fair for 14 years. (Located at Kidway)

**Tot Boss** – Serves loaded tater tots in chili, nachos and poutine varieties as well as their multitude of dipping sauces including one of this year’s official new foods - Dill Pickle Tots. (Located on the east side of Underwood Street, just south of Kidway)

These recipients were selected because they exemplify these characteristics:

- Provide exceptional, efficient customer service and an outstanding experience for fair guests;
- Knowledgeable staff with positive attitudes who are courteous, thoughtful and professional;
- An amazing visual presentation and positive image;
- Present a premium quality product/service;
- Offer great value.

The plaques were created by Rum River Workshop. For more information about the Best Awards, visit [mnstatefair.org/competitions/best-awards/](https://mnstatefair.org/competitions/best-awards/)

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 State Fair is financially self-supporting and does not receive government appropriation. Follow along on Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round updates. The 2024 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 22 through Labor Day, Sept. 2. Visit [mnstatefair.org](https://mnstatefair.org) for more information.

-MSF-