



Dunn County Fair

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Fair Board

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DATE: September 1, 2012
TO: Dunn County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Debra Gotlibson, President
Dunn County Fair Board

Thank you to the Dunn County Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Dunn County for your support of the Dunn County Fair. We selected as our 2012 fair theme "Out of this World!" This proved to be a fun theme as clubs and exhibitors decorated and prepared exhibits using this theme – use your imagination, I'm sure you can come up with all kinds of scenarios.

The number of youth exhibitors decreased to 411 in 2012, down five exhibitors from 2011. The number of exhibits increased to 4,296, an increase of 36% from 2011. After having a 27.6% decrease in exhibits in 2011, this brings our exhibit numbers back in line with previous exhibit years. If you have not had the opportunity to attend the fair during judging of these exhibits, we encourage you to do so. It is amazing what our young people accomplish during the year. The knowledge and skills they learn as youth is a great investment in the future. The joy and excitement over that first blue ribbon is priceless; and if they do get a pink ribbon, they are encouraged to continue and improve their project – no one goes away feeling like they failed.

In 2012, 92 open class and senior citizen exhibitors entered 841 exhibits at the fair, compared to 2011 when 103 adult exhibitors entered 799 exhibits at the fair. This is a decrease of 10.68% in exhibitors and an increase of 5.26% in exhibits over 2011. This division followed the trend of the junior fair exhibitors – less exhibitors participating, but exhibitors bringing more items to the fair.

Attendance numbers increased this year as approximately 34,321 visitors attended the five day event. Without a secure grounds, the fair board continues to be challenged to have an accurate count; the attendance numbers are based on the number of tickets sold at the gates along with weekly passes sold and daily passes issued.

The grandstand shows this year brought in huge crowds on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. As in the previous year, we parked vehicles wherever we could find a spot. Even with the heat and humidity of the summer, the carnival did extremely well, food stand sales were up, and the commercial building was full. A new Community Stage in the commercial building brought in local talent, speakers and participants show casing even more of our local Dunn County residents, non-profits, and businesses. The free stage and food court area was again a popular gathering place for fair goers as they gathered to watch top-notch entertainment and enjoyed delicious food.

The Fair partners with many service and community organizations and volunteers to assist in running the fair; without their help, our job would be much more difficult. UW-Extension agents are extremely helpful with the educational aspect of the fair and providing training for our superintendents.

Our arrangement with the Facilities Department continues to be a tremendous help in the putting together an educational and entertaining event for the residents of Dunn County and the surrounding area.

Plans are well underway for the next fair – mark your calendars and join us on July 24th – 28th for the 2013 Dunn County Fair, the 128th edition; join us and you will find yourself educated and entertained!

Respectfully submitted,

Debra K. Gotlibson, President
Dunn County Fair Board