

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Awards of Excellence Honor New State Fair Exhibits

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Minnesota State Fairgrounds - The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) honored the Minnesota State Fair with two Awards of Excellence at its 116th Annual Convention held in Las Vegas earlier this month.

The CHS Miracle of Birth Center won the Award of Excellence for Special Agricultural Education Exhibit. The most popular free exhibit at the 2006 State Fair, the CHS Miracle of Birth Center attracted over 840,000 visitors during the fair's 12-day run, and was the birthplace of a combined 203 piglets, lambs and calves.

"Agriculture and education are at the very heart of the Minnesota State Fair," said Michelle Fickett, the fair's agricultural education manager. "The award of excellence recognizes the fair for sticking to its agricultural roots, while educating an increasingly urban audience."

The Eco Experience, a new partnership between the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, won the Award of Excellence for a Fair and Partner Joint Exhibit Program. The first exhibit of its kind, the Eco Experience showcased renewable energy, organic foods, green technologies and alternative fuels. It drew more than 350,000 guests during the 2006 State Fair.

"We are honored and encouraged by the IAFE award," said Pam Simon, concessions & exhibits supervisor and Eco Experience organizer. "The Eco Experience will continue to grow and exemplify the State Fair's mission to educate and involve guests by showcasing innovation and industry."

The IAFE represents more than 1,300 fairs around the world. Since 1885, the IAFE has promoted and encouraged the development and improvement of fairs, shows, and expositions. The international convention was held Dec. 4 - 7 in Las Vegas.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best attended expositions in the country, attracting more than 1.6 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Visit [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org) for more information.

The 2007 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3.

***MSF***