

2007 State Fair Trivia

1. At the first Minnesota State Fair, held in 1859, what was the premium for “best horse”? (\$4)
2. What two State Fair buildings are 100 years old in 2007? (The Fine Arts and Progress Centers, both built in 1907.)
3. What unusual attraction debuted at the 1898 State Fair? (“Daylight Fireworks”)
4. 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 that there was “more to be learned in a single day at the fair than in double the time at school or college.”)
5. What year did legendary pacer horse Dan Patch make his Minnesota State Fair debut? (1903)
6. What machine revolutionized the animal agriculture process and was first exhibited at the 1908 fair? (A dairy cattle milking machine.)
7. The first 12-day State Fair was held in what year? (1975)
8. What attraction on the Mighty Midway is referred to as a “10 in one” by carnival workers? (World of Wonders Palace of Illusions Amusement Show, where 10 or more acts are showcased under one sideshow tent.)
9. Why did the State Fair’s Hippodrome (now the Warner Coliseum) need to be rebuilt? (At the beginning of World War II, the A.O. Smith Company of Milwaukee took over the building, making it a propeller factory for four years. After the propeller factory was demolished, the Hippodrome was deemed “economically unfit for restoration” and was torn down.)
10. What attraction, created in Pine Island, Minn., was the Dairy Building’s feature at the 1911 State Fair? (A 6,000 pound block of cheese.)
11. In 1912, who became the first female delegate at the Minnesota State Agricultural Society annual meetings? (Miss Jessie Walkup, secretary of the Pipestone County Fair.)
12. 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.)
13. What animals shown at the State Fair are unlike other livestock because they have no proper breed names? (Llamas)
14. Breed names including Cinnamon, Hotot, Crème D’Argent, and Mini Rex belong to what State Fair livestock? (Rabbits)
15. What permanent State Fair amusement was built of wood in 1914 and torn down in 1935 to make way for extended Grandstand bleachers? (Cannon Ball Roller Coaster)
16. In 1920, this was introduced to fairgoers as the future of dining. What was it? (Reverend J.M. Batinger’s Automatic Eater, an all-you-can-eat buffet served on a rotating conveyor belt. Price: 50¢)
17. How many baby animals were born at the new CHS Miracle of Birth Center during the 2006 State Fair? (A combined 203 calves, lambs and piglets, not to mention dozens of ducks, chicks and bunnies.)
18. What is the length of the wind turbine blade outside the Eco Experience? (Standing 123 tall, the wind blade is one of three that make up a wind turbine. This permanent piece of sculpture is the only blade to ever be installed vertically.)
19. How are State Fair mascots Fairchild and Fairborne related? (Fairchild is Fairborne’s uncle.)

20. 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.)
21. At the 1906 State Fair, the St. Paul Growers Association built a model of the new State Capitol out of what vegetable? (Onions)
22. 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 for the future.)
23. 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? (3-4 years)
24. How many fair visitors took the bus to the fair in 2006? (1,279,933)
25. When was the all-time Labor Day attendance record set? (2006; 160,209 guests attended the fair on Labor Day 2006, beating the old record set in 1999.)
26. How fast does the Space Needle carry passengers into skies above the State Fairgrounds? (The Space Needle rises at a rate of 295 feet per minute.)
27. What year was the St. Paul Winter Carnival Medallion found underneath eight inches of ice on the State Fairgrounds? (1967—The only time it’s been hidden on the fairgrounds in its 55-year history.)
28. At peak times, where on the fairgrounds are as many as 400 cows milked daily? (The State Fair Milking Parlor’s Moo Booth in the Cattle Barn)
29. What new food did fairgoers devour 30,000 servings of at the 2006 State Fair? (Hot Dish On-A-Stick at Ole and Lena’s)
30. How many food concessions are located throughout the fairgrounds? (About 300 food concessions dish up delectable delights for over 1.6 million fair guests.)
31. Before the former 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)
32. How many acres is the State Fairgrounds? (320 acres)
33. What year was the first Minnesota State Fair held? (1859)
34. What year was the Minnesota State Fair first held on the current fairgrounds? (1885)
35. Which United States President gave one of his most famous speeches at the State Fair? (Teddy Roosevelt gave his “Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick” speech in 1901.)
36. Where can you find 100 State Fair coupons offering more than \$500 in savings on food, merchandise and attractions? (In the Blue Ribbon Bargain Book available at Minnesota State FairWear Gift Shops.)
37. What special on-line feature lets you search for any band, stage, event or attraction? (Fairchild’s Fantastic Fair Fun Finder at www.mnstatefair.org)
38. Where can you find a listing of this year’s State Fair foods at your fingertips? (Fairborne’s Fabulous Fair Food Finder, an on-line food search engine at www.mnstatefair.org)
39. When was the Pronto Pup introduced at the State Fair? (1947)
40. During a typical year, how many gallons of milk are served at the Midwest Dairy Association’s All-You-Can-Drink Milk concession? (More than 25,000 gallons)
41. On average, what’s the total number of corndogs typically consumed by fair visitors each year? (500,000)
42. What is the most popular flavor of pies entered in the creative activities baked goods category? (apple)

43. On average, how many individual cheese curds are battered, deep-fried and gobbled up by fairgoers? (over 2.6 million)
44. How many dozens of mini donuts were downed each year? (nearly 338,000)
45. What were the fairgrounds before they were the Minnesota State Fairgrounds? (Ramsey County Poor Farm)
46. What special event took place at the fairgrounds on June 20, 1910? (The first flight in Minnesota history.)
47. When did the State Fair attendance first top the one million mark? (Over 50 years ago! September 5, 1955. Robert Karklin received a wristwatch and silver trophy for being the fair's millionth guest.)
48. What is the Minnesota State Fair's all-time attendance record and when was it set? (1,762,976 people attended the fair in 2001.)
49. Who broke the all-time record for the most tickets sold to a single Grandstand show? (Christina Aguilera in 2000)
50. What famous composer appeared at the fair in 1927? (John Phillip Sousa)
51. How much did famous racehorse, Dan Patch, sell for in 1902? (\$60,000)
52. What year was the first nighttime Grandstand show? (1899; It consisted of an hour of harness racing followed by a massive fireworks show)
53. When was the Minnesota State Fair Foundation founded? (2001)
54. Approximately how many rolls of toilet paper are used during the fair? (22,000 rolls)
55. When did the first carousel appear at the fair? (1892)
56. Why wasn't there a fair in 1946? (Polio epidemic)
57. How much butter is used to sculpt the likeness of Princess Kay of the Milky Way? (85-90 lbs.)
58. In what year was the first Princess Kay of the Milky Way crowned? (1953)
59. What year was the world's most productive cow exhibited at the fair? (1932; Lady Pride produced 35,625 pounds of milk and 1,483 pounds of butter in a year. The average production per cow in the US was 4,000 pounds of milk and 170 pounds of butter)
60. Which fair food contains the most calories? (The fried candy bars)