



FOOD/BEVERAGE SAMPLING AT EVENTS ON THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

The Minnesota State Fair retains complete and exclusive rights to all food and beverage sales, service, concession and catering operations that take place on the State Fairgrounds, including any/all sampling of food and/or beverage products at events. Event licensees are not permitted to make any arrangements for food and/or beverage sales, service, concessions, catering or sampling at their event without the prior written approval of the Minnesota State Fair and any/all arrangements for food and beverage sales, service, concessions, catering and/or sampling at events must be made through the Minnesota State Fair Events Department.

If you wish to offer the opportunity to sample food and/or beverage products at your event, the Minnesota State Fair has developed the following sampling requirements and application to complete and return with the required supporting documents in order to have sampling considered for your event on the State Fairgrounds.

Sampling Food and/or Beverage at Events

Requirements (if sampling is approved):

1. All food and/or beverage samples must be distributed free of charge to event attendees.
2. No sampler may offer samples of more than three (3) items at one time.
3. Food and/or beverage samples dispensed must be limited to products manufactured, processed or distributed by the sampling entity.
4. Alcoholic beverages may not be offered as samples.
5. Sample size is limited to a maximum of five (5) ounces for beverages; one (1) to three (3) ounces for food. The Minnesota State reserves the right to initiate other additional portion control measures it may deem appropriate.

Required Support Documents:

Insurance Certificate: Each sampling entity must provide a certificate of insurance giving evidence of coverage as follows:

1. General Liability Coverage: A minimum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limits per occurrence, two million (\$2,000,000) annual aggregate, insuring against claims for:
 - bodily injury
 - property damage
 - food products liability
2. The insurance certificate must name the Minnesota State Fair as an “additional insured” with respect to sampler operations/activities on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.
3. The certificate must be provided by a company licensed to do business in the state of Minnesota and approved by the Minnesota State Fair.

Health or Agriculture Department License: Each sampling entity must have a license issued by the Minnesota Department of Health or Minnesota Department of Agriculture issued specifically to operate on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. ***County or municipal licenses are not valid on the State Fairgrounds and will not be accepted.*** To secure the proper license contact Mindy Lang at the Minnesota Department of Health (651-201-3987) or Kip Fondrick at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (651-263-9841).

Note: If you are sampling pre-packaged food and/or beverages or bakery items, a license from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be required. All other food or beverage items are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Application: Please complete the application on the following page and submit it with your insurance certificate and Health or Agriculture Department license.

Information on Cooking Demonstrations and Food Warming Device Usage

(The following rules have been developed by the Minnesota State Fair in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota State Fair Fire Marshal. Events at which cooking and/or food warming devices will be used must comply with the following regulations. No exceptions.)

Rules (if a cooking demonstration and/or use of food warming devices is approved):

1. All booths handling food/beverages for public consumption must be licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health and maintain full compliance with their codes.
2. Domestic slow cookers and crock pots are prohibited per MDH Code 4626.1855 sub. Part D. (i.e. slow cookers that do not have numeric temperature specific settings)
3. A three (3) compartment wash system is required per MDH Code 4626.1860 Sub-part L.
4. Cooking and food warming devices must be:
 - placed on a surface of non-combustible material
 - kept at least two (2) feet away from combustible materials
 - isolated from the public by a four (4) foot space
 - limited to three hundred (300) square inches of cooking area
5. Table cloths, drapery materials and decorations used near cooking equipment must be treated with flame retardant and proof of treatment must be furnished for the State Fair Fire Marshal.
6. Open flames are prohibited inside Minnesota State Fair Buildings.
7. Use of propane, butane and other combustible fuels is prohibited inside Minnesota State Fair Buildings.
8. All booths containing cooking or food warming devices must have an approved 2AB 10BC fire extinguisher readily available for use. Fire extinguishers must be fully charged and operable.

Deadline for Submission: An application and all required supporting documents must be received by the Minnesota State Fair Events Department no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the event at which you wish to offer samples.

Send to: Minnesota State Fair
Attn: Events Department/Nikki Hines
1265 Snelling Avenue North
Saint Paul, MN 55108
Fax: 651-642-2440
Email: nikki.hines@mnstatefair.org

If you have questions, please contact Nikki Hines at (651) 288-4473 or nikki.hines@mnstatefair.org.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR EVENTS
Application to Sample Food and/or Beverage Products

Event Name: _____ Event Dates: _____

Name of Sampling Entity: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Description of Product(s) to be sampled:

Product #1:

Product #1 Sample Size (e.g. 5 ounces of apple juice or 1 ounce of cheese):

Product #1 Packaging and Serving Container:

Product #2:

Product #2 Sample Size:

Product #2 Packaging and Serving Container:

Product #3:

Product #3 Sample Size:

Product #3 Packaging and Serving Container:
