



## **Corporate Profile**

The Minnesota State Fair is defined by law as a public corporation and a quasi-state agency. The fair receives no financial appropriations of any kind from any government agency and is completely financially self-supporting.

The fair is governed by the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, which is charged exclusively with governance of the State Fair. Society delegates represent all 87 county fairs in Minnesota, along with delegates from 43 regional and statewide agricultural groups. At its annual meeting each January, this group of delegates elects a 10-member board of managers to set policy and provide oversight for the fair. Nine members represent the Agricultural Society's nine regional districts and the 10<sup>th</sup> member (the president) serves at large.

The society has remained dedicated to its original purpose of promoting Minnesota agriculture since its inception in 1854, four years before Minnesota became a state.

In addition to financing the annual production of the fair, the State Agricultural Society is responsible for all capital work and maintenance of the 320-acre fairgrounds, which is classified as state property. Fairgrounds facilities and infrastructure are conservatively valued at more than \$250 million. In a typical year, the Agricultural Society will invest between \$6 million and \$7 million in improvements and maintenance. The state invests nothing. The fair has nearly 80 year-round full-time staff members. During the summer, about 400 seasonal staff are added to complete preparations. There are nearly 3,000 fair-time staff members.