

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED IN 2023

Steele County Free Fair

August 15-20, 2023



VOL. 30 | NO. 2 | July 2023

★ Kozelka's Korner ★

I love our Steele County community! As I'm out and about, I am often asked, "How many days until the fair?" I am proud to be the Manager of the Steele County Free Fair and enjoy promoting the fair anytime and anywhere I can. For an up to the second countdown to the start of the fair, check out the fair website: www.scff.org While you're there, I invite you to purchase tickets for our grandstand shows, enter one or more of the many open class departments and take time to learn about all of the experiences that await you at this year's fair, "Satisfaction Guaranteed in 2023", August 15th – 20th.

*"How many days
until the fair?"*

I was recently honored as the recipient of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and

Tourism's 2023 Travel and Tourism Award during National Travel and Tourism Week. It is humbling to be recognized as I have the privilege to serve as an ambassador of the fair whose success is due to the hard work of so many. During the fair this year,

please thank our dedicated board, staff, and countless volunteers as you see them out and about. They are easy to identify in their SCFF polo shirts and by their fair nametags and give of their time for the love of the fair. I couldn't be prouder of our team!

The countdown is ON!
It's GO TIME!

See you at the fair!

Scott Kozelka
Manager

★ SCFF Office Information ★

PO Box 650
www.scff.org | (507) 451-5305
steelecountyfreefair@scff.org

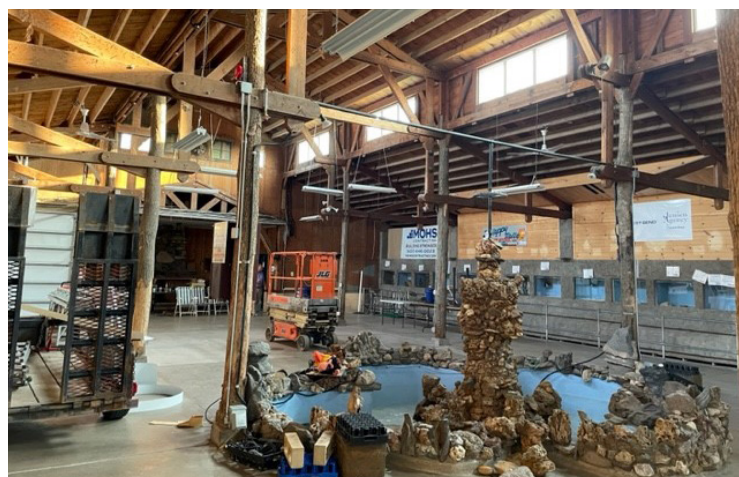
If you would like to receive your Barker Newsletter by e-mail, please contact us and we will be happy to add you to the list.

Steele County Free Fair Barker



★ Great Outdoors Center is Brighter Than Ever! ★

The window installation at the Great Outdoors Center has made quite a difference in how bright the building is. Notice the new windows on the outside and then enjoy the many new taxidermy mounts, generously donated by Dave “Ole” and Nancy Olson, in the bright new inside. Thanks to Dale Benjamin for making the identification plates for the mounts. We appreciate the grant support received from the Owatonna Foundation for this project.



★ Fun Fair Facts ★

- **Burke’s Taffy** will celebrate 100 years at the fair this year! “The Steele County Free Fair is very special to our company as it was at the Steele County Free Fair that Art Burke knew he would be able to make money selling taffy at fairs. And the rest is history!” shared Jane Kirchner of Burke’s Taffy.

- **Jack Ruiter**, son of Dan and Tracy Ruiter of Owatonna, MN chose to complete his Eagle Scout project to benefit the fair. Thanks, Jack, for building 4 new flower planters to help beautify the fairgrounds! The planters are on the West side of the grandstand by the open class exhibits.



- Thanks to members of the **Merry Lane 4-H Club** for volunteering to help with updates in the cattle show arena.

- Thanks to members of the **Owatonna Leadership Academy** for their efforts in scraping and painting the restrooms near the ball diamonds on the fairgrounds. We appreciate your willingness to take on this community project.

- One of the best bargains at the fair is membership in the **Steele County Agricultural Society**! For \$5.00 per person members receive this quarterly fair newsletter, The Barker, and have voting rights at the annual meeting in November. **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY** by stopping in the Steele County Free Fair Office open Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm and from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm during the fair, August 15th – 20th. Memberships for 2023-24 must be purchased by 8:00 pm Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023.

- The **Muckle Museum** will feature **4-H AT THE FAIR** this year. Stop in to enjoy the exhibit and air conditioning, too! Be sure to enjoy all the exhibits in the 4-H building, too.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** The 2024 Steele County Free Fair will be August 13 – 18, 2024! Have an idea for a theme? Submit your idea to steelecountyfreefair@scff.org.

★ It's About Time... to Plan Your 2023 Fair Experience! ★

Save this guide and bring it to the fair with you for "Satisfaction Guaranteed in 2023"!

Indoor Vendors and Exhibits – Four Seasons Centre, Great Outdoors Center & Muckle Museum

Tuesday, Aug. 15	3:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Outdoor Vendors

Tuesday, Aug. 15	3:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	11:00 am – 9:30 pm

Food Vendors - outdoor

Tuesday, Aug. 15	11:00 am – 10:30 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	11:00 am – 10:30 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	11:00 am – 10:30 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	11:00 am – 11:30 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	11:00 am – 11:30 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	11:00 am – 9:30 pm

Ye Old Beer Garden

Tuesday, Aug. 15	Noon – 12:30 am
Wednesday, Aug. 16	Noon – 12:30 am
Thursday, Aug. 17	Noon – 12:30 am
Friday, Aug. 18	Noon – 1:00 am
Saturday, Aug. 19	Noon – 1:00 am
Sunday, Aug. 20	Noon – 10:00 pm

Steele Saloon

Tuesday, Aug. 15	2:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	2:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	2:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	11:00 am – 11:30 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	9:00 am – 11:30 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	11:00 am – 7:00 pm

GoldStar Midway

Tuesday, Aug. 15	5:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	Noon – 11:00 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	Noon – 11:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	Noon – 11:30 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	Noon – 11:30 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	Noon - 9:00 pm

House Auto Group Auto Museum – featuring CORVETTES

Tuesday, Aug. 15	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	Noon – 8:00 pm

Village of Yesteryear

Tuesday, Aug. 15	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 16	11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Thursday, Aug. 17	11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 18	11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Saturday, Aug. 19	11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Sunday, Aug. 20	Noon – 5:00 pm

Johnny Holm Band at 8:30 pm

IV Play at 8:30 pm

Jacuzzi Puma at 8:30 pm

Swerve at 3:00 pm; Shirts & Skins at 8:30 pm

Led Penny at 3:00 pm; Travis Thamert at 8:30 pm

Dan Stursa Band at 1:00 pm; The White Keys at 6:30 pm

Midwest All-Star Wrestling – Steele Showdown 2 at 7:00 pm

Oktoberfest with Concord Singers at 5:30 pm

80's Dress Up Night

Bloody Mary Bar 9 am – 1 pm

Cornhole Tournament starting at 11 am

Bloody Mary Bar 11 am to 1 pm

Euchre Tournament starting at noon



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DAIKIN Grandstand Stage

Tuesday, Aug. 15	6:00 pm	FFA Alumni Antique Tractor Pull – Grandstand Infield – East side
Wednesday, Aug. 16	7:00 pm	LOCASH with special guest Drake Milligan
Thursday, Aug. 17	7:00 pm	Hairball with special guest Strange Daze
Friday, Aug. 18	7:00 pm	Craig Morgan with special guest Ashley Barron
Saturday, Aug. 19	7:30 pm	Bulls-N-Barrels with Mutton Bustin'
Sunday, Aug. 20	2:00 pm	Demolition Derby

Check the Steele County Free Fair website, www.scff.org, for entertainment and times on the United Prairie Bank Fair Square Stage, the KRFO-Townsquare Media Elmer Reseland Stage, the Village of Yesteryear Stage and for family friendly fun throughout the grounds.

Special Services

- Handicap scooters and wheelchair rentals are available starting at 10:30 am daily at the Elm St. entrance through VistaMobility. Please visit www.vistamobility.net or call 262-677-3696 for more information or to reserve.
- Courtesy Carts provide a FREE shuttle on the grounds for those in need from 3:00 – 9:00 pm on Tuesday, Aug. 15 and from Noon – 9:00 pm Wednesday, Aug. 16 – Sunday, Aug. 20.
- Quiet Zone and First Aid are available in the Community Building on the North end of the grounds near the Elm St. entrance.
- ATM machines are available throughout the grounds.

Mega Ride Tickets to Go on Sale

The always popular Mega Ride ticket, good for unlimited rides on the GoldStar Midway throughout the fair, will be on sale exclusively at Owatonna Hy-Vee from July 15 until 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 15, the opening day of the fair.

Mega Ride tickets are \$55.00 and can be purchased from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM daily at the Owatonna Hy-Vee Customer Service counter.

How many Mega Ride tickets will be sold this year? Last year 5826 thrill-seekers enjoyed unlimited rides throughout the fair!

HyVee
EMPLOYEE OWNED

STEELE COUNTY



FREE FAIR

**AUGUST 15-20
OWATONNA, MN**

• RIDE SPECIALS •

- Tue. Power 96 Night ~ 5:00-11:00 PM**
\$2.00 Tuesday- Each Ride is \$2.00
- Wed. Horizon EyeCare Professionals**
Kid's Day ~ 12:00-5:00 PM \$25.00
- Thur. Culver's Moonlight Madness**
5:00-11:00PM \$28.00
(\$25.00 with Culver's Coupon)
- Fri. North Risk Partners/TPS Insurance**
Family Fun Day ~ 12:00-5:00 PM \$25.00
- Sat. Profinium, Inc. Ride Day**
Bike Give Away Day ~ 12:00-5:00PM \$30.00
(Drawing to win 1 of 8 bikes
courtesy of GoldStar Midway)
- Sun. Hy-Vee Family Day ~ Noon-9:00 PM \$30.00**



**Up to 40 Rides To Thrill
You On the
GoldStar Midway!!**



★ Warning: This May Make You Hungry! ★

Do you have a favorite fair food?

It's great showing loyalty to our favorites, but we invite you to try these foods at stands that are new to the 2023 fair:

The Little Blue Elephant located in front of the Fine Arts building featuring Thai spring rolls, potstickers and crab puffs.

Pickle Pizza located on the North end of the grounds featuring pickle pizza and monkey bread.

Just Take the Cake located on the North end of the grounds featuring a coffee bar, beignets, and extreme milkshakes.

Cravin' Asian located in front of the grandstand featuring egg rolls, boba tea, and cream cheese wontons.

Just the Meats located on the North end of the grounds featuring bacon wrapped filet mignon and pork tenderloin.



★ Spotlight on Sponsors ★

We welcome **DAIKIN** Applied as a new fair sponsor and appreciate their generous support as the sponsor of the DAIKIN Grandstand Stage.



DAIKIN Applied designs and manufactures advanced commercial and industrial HVAC systems for customers around the world. The company's technology and services play a vital role in creating comfortable, efficient, and sustainable spaces to work and live – and in delivering quality air to workers, tenants and building owners. DAIKIN Applied solutions are sold through a global network of dedicated sales, service, and parts offices.

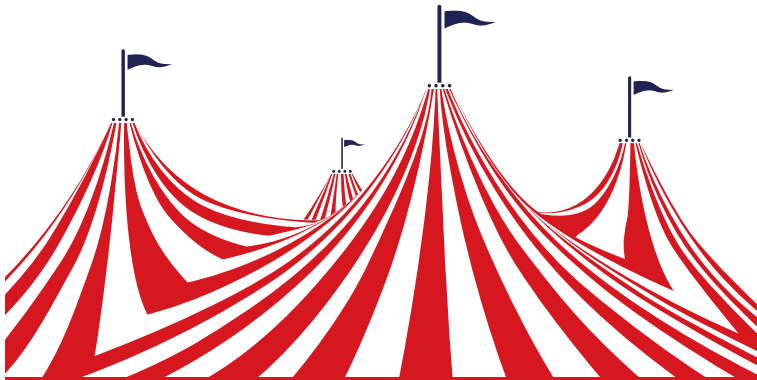
A special welcome to Bulldog Coatings, Courtyard by Marriott, Dean's Towing, Fireplace Connection, Owatonna Country Club, Owatonna Eagles 1791, Owatonna Granite & Monument, Prairie Manor Care Center, Sanson Enterprises, Souba's Greenhouse, Thompson Sanitation, US Foods and Wanous Seeds as new sponsors, too.





Steele County Free Fair
PO Box 650
Owatonna, MN 55060

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Join Us This Year
August 15-20, 2023

★ scff.org ★

★ Memorials ★
and Donations

Donations Received:

Tim & Deb Arlt
Lori DeBruun & Luigi Picariello
Rich Reseland

In memory of Roxy Stordahl-A Beloved “Stella”
Jerome Spindler

In memory of Marlyn “Zack” Zacharias
-Former Fair Board Director

Bruce & Rhonda Bennett
Dan & Vickie Deml
Grant & Denise Duffy
Sandy Jirele
Virginia Zacharias & Family

In memory of Kathy Staska-Friend of the Fair
Dan & Vickie Deml

In memory of Chuck & Linda Mast
Allan & Randee Radel Family

In memory of Richard Hanke
Allan & Randee Radel Family

★ Oktoberfest in August ★
at the Steele Saloon



Why wait until October to celebrate Oktoberfest? The Steele Saloon will celebrate Oktoberfest at the Fair on Wednesday, August 16. There will be music, drinks, games, a costume contest and entertainment by The Concord Singers from New Ulm, MN from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Prost!

Thanks to generous, anonymous donations, this will be the final year under the tent for the Steele Saloon. A permanent building will be in place for the 2024 fair!

*Music!
Drinks!
Games!
And More!*