

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED IN 2023



STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR

VOL. 29 | NO. 4 | December 2022

★ Kozelka's Korner ★

Celebrating the Red, White & Blue in 2022!

All I can say is **“WOW”!** Steele County is amazing when we ALL come together to put an **AWESOME** event together for ALL of our guests. Thank you to **All** our GREAT sponsors and organizations that made the 2022 SCFF one of the best in our fair history.

Thank you to the cities and townships of Steele County for showing all our guests our flavor of Steele County **“NICE”**. Thank you to **ALL** departments of Steele County, especially our commissioners and the staff at the Highway Department, for your continued support. Thank you to the City of Owatonna, Owatonna Park & Recreation and the Owatonna Street Department for everything your teams do to make our event top notch.

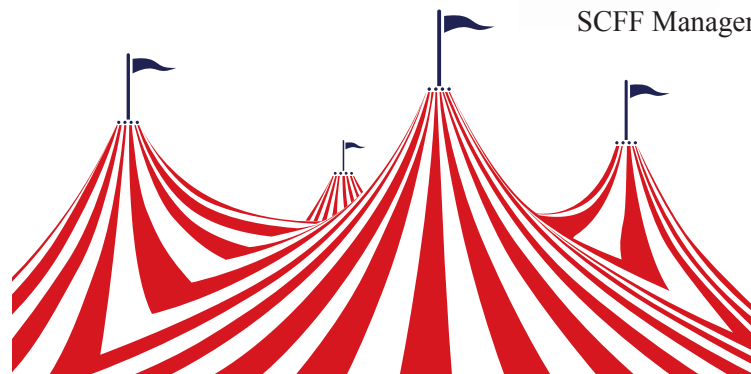
As always, please help me in thanking the amazing spouses and families of our staff, grounds crew and our SCFF Board of Directors. Having their help and support throughout the year and especially during the month of August is the **BIGGEST** reason we all do what we do here at the Steele County Free Fair.

Each year when the fair ends and I sit down and think about how everything went, I always seem to come up with things and departments I missed getting a chance to see during the busy fair week. With that I want to send a special **THANK YOU** to **ALL** of our **GREAT** superintendents and volunteers for being the biggest reason our fair is successful year after year.

If I missed anyone, please know it was not intentional.
THANK YOU to all of our fantastic fair partners!

We are already working hard on the 2023 edition of the SCFF. Please know that I welcome ideas that you have to share as we prepare for “Satisfaction Guaranteed in 2023”. Have a great winter, Happy Holidays and I will see everyone at the fair, August 15-20, 2023.

Scott Kozelka
SCFF 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

★ Steele County Agricultural Society Annual Meeting ★



The Annual Meeting of the Steele County Agricultural Society was held November 3, 2022 at the Steele County Community Center. Steele County Free Fair Manager Scott Kozelka presented his annual report as did treasurer Tim Arlt.

The following incumbents were elected to each serve a 3-year term as Director: Bruce Busho, Gene Fisher, Josh Prokopec and Wayne Steele. Jim Linder did not seek re-election and was thanked for his years of service to the board with a standing ovation. Linder was first elected to the board in 1998 and served on the following committees during his time on the board: Audit, Beer Garden, By-Laws, Carnival, Historian/Museum, Hospitality, Landscape/Grounds, Memorials, Nominating, Salary Review, Personnel, Sanitation, Traffic Control, Signage and Utilities.



Jon DeMars

Jon DeMars, who became an Associate Director in 2022 and who began his involvement with the fair as the Social Media Superintendent in 2013, was elected to serve a 3-year term as Director.

At the November Steele County Free Fair Board Meeting, which followed the annual meeting, Dan Deml was re-elected as President, Wayne Steele as Vice-President, and Tim Arlt as Treasurer of the Board. Tracy Ignaszewski was appointed the Extension Service Member on the Board and Jim Linder was named Director Emeritus in recognition for his many years of service and leadership on the board.



Jim Linder

★ Steele County Free Fair Museum Features for 2023 ★

- ★ The SCFF Muckle Museum will highlight 4-H in 2023.
- ★ The SCFF/Wells Fargo Auto Museum display Will Be

CORVETTES

Are you a proud owner of a Corvette you would like to display in the SCFF Auto Museum?

Contact: Terry Hansen 507-456-9457

Charlie Kaplan * Jon Simon
Les Abraham * Terry Hansen
Car Museum Superintendents

★ News, Notes and Fair Fun Facts From the 2022 Fair ★

- ★ 1580 visitors enjoyed the Muckle Museum during fair week.
- ★ 8904 people visited the Fine Arts display during fair week.
- ★ 13,303 people visited the Wells Fargo Auto Museum which featured Convertibles from 1978 or before.
- ★ 795 exhibitors entered 3501 open class entries; 1800 of these entries were made online.
- ★ 2093 4-H projects, including animals, were exhibited at the fair.
- ★ The Courtesy Shuttles assisted fairgoers by providing 1454 rides.

★ Steele County Free Fair Evaluations Food Winners ★

Most Unique Product: Creampuff Kabobs - Creative Cakes by Mindy

Best Lit Stand: Pickle Palace

Best Bargain: Chicken Fried Rice - Golden Chinese

Best Appearance Stand: Ormic Concessions Turkey Leg & Kabobs

Best New Product: Donut Dog - DeAnna's Diner

Best Service: Godfather's Pizza



★ Kids Pedal Pull Winners ★

Age 4: Dayria from Owatonna, MN

Age 5: Weston from Blooming Prairie, MN

Age 6: Axel from Kasson, MN

Age 7: Andrew from Northfield, MN

Age 8: Bailey from Hanlontown, IA

Age 9: Cayden from St. Charles, MN

Age 10: Noah from Kenyon, MN

Age 11: Maya from Savage, MN

133 youth participated in the pedal pull this year



★ Open Class Photography Results ★

*Gladys Wavrin Award
for Best Photo:*
Amy Grabau



People's Choice Award:
Mary Schroeder

★ Bike Winners ★

8 bikes were given away as part of the Profinium, Inc. Saturday Ride Special during the fair. This year's winners were:

Jabin from Meriden, MN

Liam from Janesville, MN

Ava from Apple Valley, MN

Harlynn from Crystal River, FL

Laura from Mason City, IA

Ellen from Austin, MN

Brian from Owatonna, MN

Lesley from Minnetonka, MN

★ Church Service Collections ★

A total of \$2397 was collected during the church services held in the Village of Yesteryear and in Fair Square Park on Sunday of the Fair. This donation was divided evenly to support Rachel's Light and the Hospitality House.

★ More Details from 2022 ★



All-Star Stunt Dogs, A to Z Exotic Petting Zoo, Moogician, Ready, Set, Grow, Southwest Mobile Dairy Classroom, Robinson Carving Company, Jurassic Kingdom, Otter Adventure, and Hot Glass Academy were many of the free attractions fair goers enjoyed.



★ Grandstand Entertainment ★

Grandstand entertainment included: Antique Tractor Pull, Maddie & Tae Concert, Hairball Concert, Joe Nichols Concert, Bulls N Barrels and Demolition Derby.



★ Mega Ride Tickets ★



5826 Gold Star Amusements Mega Ride Tickets were sold. This is a new record for the highest amount of tickets sold. There were over 35 rides on the SCFF midway. Thanks to Owatonna Hy-Vee for being the exclusive Mega Ride ticket seller.

★ Major Improvements in 2022 ★



Major improvements in 2022 included the Radel Addition next to the Four Seasons Centre, Fair Square sidewalk area outside of Mother's Rest, a new VIP/Stage Pit entrance to the grandstand, new garage doors on the Beer Garden, new drainage for campers, and the addition of the Tin Roof Tavern on the infield.

★ Long Range Plans ★

- Underground electrical project
- Restroom updates
- Grandstand/infield updates
- Great Outdoors Center windows
- New roof on the swine barn and shop

★ Off-Season Events ★

The fairgrounds are busy year-round! Events in 2022 were Relay for Life, Safety Camp, 4th of July Fireworks, Cutting Horse Show, ALC Graduation, OHS Float Building and many private events and weddings.

★ Steele County Sheriff's Office ★

Thank you to the Steele County Sheriff's Office: During the 2022 Steele County Free Fair, the Sheriff's Office provided 1,390 hours of security. As you can see from the numbers below, this year was busy, but resulted in a successful Free Fair.

Property Inquiries	233
Child ID Tags	42
Lost Persons	27
First Aid	14
Medicals	19
Trespass Notices	31
Event Inquiries/Information	17
Law Enforcement Calls	74

If you believe you may have lost something at the Steele County Free Fair please call the Sheriff's Office. Reach us at 507-444-3800.



John Dvorak, Les Anderson, Warren Formo

★ KDHL Ag Ambassador of the Year ★

Anderson Named Steele County Free Fair KDHL Southern MN Ag. Ambassador of the Year

Les Anderson, corn and soybean farmer from Cannon Falls, MN, was named the Steele County Free Fair KDHL Southern MN Ag. Ambassador of the Year during the MN Holstein Show at the Steele County Free Fair. Anderson is Past President of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and continues to be a strong advocate for corn farmers at the local, state and national levels.

John Dvorak, Executive Secretary of the Rice County Fair, from northern Rice County and Warren Formo, Executive Director of the MN Agriculture Water Resources Center, from Cannon Falls, MN, were the other finalists for this award.

★ Love of the Fair ★

Thank you to Karla Zufall who shared this poem and to Amy Vincelli who penned the poem for sharing it with the Barker.

What a wonderful reflection of all that makes the Steele County Free Fair the great event that it is.

*Goodnight Ferris wheel
Goodnight county of Steele*

*Goodnight busy barns
Goodnight projects and yarns*

*Goodnight award winning cow
Goodnight old time plow*

*Goodnight deep fried food
That was happily chewed*

*Goodnight smiles
That go on for miles*

*Goodnight to many a vendor
Goodnight Steele Saloon bartender*

*Goodnight late nights
Goodnight bright lights*

*Goodnight ticket booth
Goodnight sweet tooth*

*Goodnight busy grandstand
Goodnight ride wristband*

*Goodnight music making band
All so incredibly grand*

*Goodnight excited kids
Close those eyelids*

*Goodnight 4-H submissions
Goodnight magicians*

*Goodnight grand champion ribbons
Goodnight clucking chickens*

*Goodnight Village of Yesteryear
Goodnight many a volunteer*

*Goodnight Steely, Goodnight Stella
Goodnight announcement making fella*

*Goodnight beautiful carousel
We bid you farewell*

*Goodnight to each amazing parent
Your exhaustion is apparent*

*Goodnight Steele Country Free Fair
Goodnight air
Goodnight midways everywhere*

*Goodnight Beer Garden brew
Goodnight petting zoo*

Amy Vincelli
Owatonna, MN
2022

★ Memorials and Donations ★

Donations Received:

Marshall Ahrens-Culinary Arts Department
Bruce & Rhonda Bennett
Jim Hermel
Mike & Karen Klein-In Honor of Sharon Klein
Ormic Concessions
Joe & Ev Stransky

Memorials Received:

In Memory of Harriet Harne-Mother of Rhonda Bennett
Bruce & BJ Busho
Dan & Vickie Deml
Sharon Klein

In Memory of Mary Hale-Wife of Todd Hale
Richard & Karen Reseland

In Memory of Howard Lohmann-Friend of the Fair
Shirley Ann & Tammy Lohmann

In Memory of Laura Osterwyk-Mother of BJ Busho
Dan & Vickie Deml
Todd, Tracy, Karlie, & Bently Jerzak
Larry & Colleen McGraw
Roland & Ann Truelson
Jonathan & Angela Truleson

In Memory of Don Loveless-Father-in-law of Brent Svenby
Bruce & BJ Busho

In Memory of Molly Clarke-Granddaughter of Mark & Carol Rypka
Bruce & BJ Busho

In Memory of Gary Ridge-ATM Superintendent
Bruce & Rhonda Bennett

In Memory of Myron Wolters-Father of Dan Wolters
Dan & Vickie Deml

In Memory of Robert (Bob) Nelson-Friend of the Fair
Francis & Patricia Deml

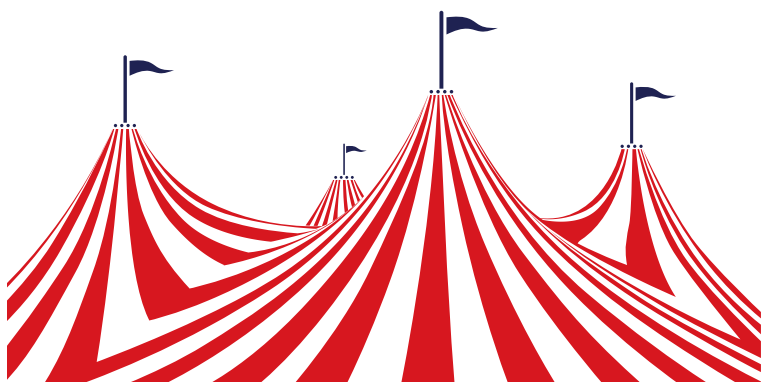
Benches:

In memory of Terry Wiese-Evaluations Superintendent
Barb Wiese and family



Steele County Free Fair
PO Box 650
Owatonna, MN 55060

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Join Us This Year
August 15-20, 2023

★ scff.org ★



HAPPY Holidays
From the Steele County Free Fair
Board of Directors & Staff