

persons as to the application of the law to specific conduct, and investigating and prosecuting alleged violations of the Act.

FAIR, IOWA STATE

Marion Lucas, secretary/manager
Statehouse, Des Moines 50319
515/262-3111
www.iowastatefair.org

Officers

LEONA ASHMAN, president; Oskaloosa; BILL NEUBRAND, vice-president; LeMars
 MARION LUCAS, secretary/manager; Des Moines; J. MEL SHANDA, treasurer; Perry

District Directors

ROBERT SCHLUTZ, Columbus Junction; ROBERT MILLER, Riverside; 1st District
 PAUL VAASSEN, Dubuque; DAVE HUINKER, Decorah; 2nd District
 LEONA ASHMAN, Oskaloosa; MAX BISHOP, Indianola; 3rd District
 ED AHRENSEN, Audubon; BILL PARTLOW, Des Moines; 4th District
 BILL NEUBRAND, LeMars; DON GRIEMAN, Garner; 5th District

Ex-Officio Members of Fair Board

THOMAS VILSACK, governor, Des Moines; PATTY JUDGE, secretary of agriculture, Des Moines; MARTIN JISCHKE, president, Iowa State University, Ames

Information on the Iowa State Fair

Every August nearly a million people from all over the Midwest flock to the Iowa State Fair, the state's great celebration, a salute to Iowa's best in agriculture, industry, entertainment, and achievement.

The Fair is the home of a 20-acre farm machinery show and the largest arts show in the state. More than 600 exhibitors and concessionaires offer modern merchandise and quality foods. Large 4-H and FFA shows provide excellent educational opportunity for youngsters. More than \$350,000 worth of entertainment is offered free with gate admission. The Grandstand offers superstar stage shows and track events. History comes alive in Heritage Village, a tribute to Iowa's hardy pioneers. The 10-acre midway offers 100 rides, shows and games.

The Iowa State Fair is one of the oldest agricultural and industrial expositions in the nation. The first was held in Fairfield, Iowa in 1854, on a six-acre tract. The next year's Fair was also held in Fairfield. From 1856 to 1879, the Fair moved from city to city: Muscatine, 1856-1857; Oskaloosa, 1858-1859; Iowa City, 1860-1861; Dubuque, 1862-1863; Burlington, 1864-1866; Clinton 1867-1868; Keokuk, 1869-1870 and 1874-1875; Cedar Rapids 1871-1873 and 1876-1878.

In 1879, the Fair moved to Des Moines to stay. In 1884 the Iowa Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the purchase of grounds in Des Moines on condition that the city raise an equal sum for site improvements. The 270-acre site was dedicated two years later. It continued to grow to its present size of 400 acres. The Iowa Fair was the inspiration for the original novel, three motion pictures and the Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway Musical, all titled "State Fair."

A separate Fair Board was created in 1923, consisting of the governor, the secretary of agriculture, the president of Iowa State University, one director from each congressional district and three directors at-large. Reflecting redistricting, make-up of the Board was changed to two directors from each of five Congressional districts, plus the three ex-officio members, in 1992. Official delegates, representing Iowa's 103 county fairs and other agricultural associations, elect these directors at the annual State Agricultural Convention in December. The president and vice-president of the Fair Board are elected by the Board from elected directors. The board also selects the secretary and the treasurer.

The Legislature may appropriate funds for major capital improvements and repairs; all other operating expenses are paid from revenue generated by the Fair. The Fairgrounds are used year-round as a meeting and exposition center, featuring such events as large trade and machinery shows; sports events; national livestock, horse, and dog shows; arts and crafts exhibitions; private gatherings; auto races; concerts; and a wide variety of other activities.