

Iowa State Fair
(Ex-Officio Members of Fair Board)

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Information on the Iowa State Fair

For over 100 years, the Iowa State Fair has been gaining steadily in size, prestige and public service. Today, it is nationally recognized as America's greatest agricultural and livestock fair. Situated in the heart of the world's wealthiest agricultural empire, it is the focal point each year for exhibitors of the finest livestock and farm products. In attendance, too, it stands in the front rank of the great educational and entertainment expositions on the North American continent.

The Iowa State Fair, the original "State Fair" of a best-selling novel and of two hit motion pictures, is held in Des Moines each year. It runs 11 days in late August.

The livestock show, largest of its kind in America, attracts over 13,000 of the finest farm animals from leading agricultural states. The 4-H and Vo Ag-FFA shows add to the fame of the Fair.

Emphasis on the meatier strains of livestock, more suitable for consumer wants and needs, is being increased at the Iowa State Fair. The Fair continues to pioneer in the most advanced pork, lamb and beef carcass shows in the nation.

Over 300 Iowa companies and industries display in the giant machinery and farm implement show. More specialized space is being added each year, such as International Place, Heritage Village, Affordable Housing, etc.

People are not forgotten at the Iowa State Fair- in fact, people make the Fair. The Fair is planned so everyone can become involved in an educational or worthwhile activity. Individuals may express themselves by exhibiting photographs, works of art, culinary displays, gardening, needlework, flowers, pigeons, rabbits, poultry, participating in school science shows, church exhibits, outdoor cooking contests, and in many other ways.

From the huge State Fair grandstand, one of the finest amphitheatres in the nation, Fairgoers witness a varied series of spectacles and events, including national championship auto races, horse races, thrill shows, musical extravaganzas, fireworks and circus acts.

The first and second Iowa State Fairs were held in Fairfield, Iowa in 1854 and 1855. From 1856 to 1879, the State Fair moved from city to city. It was held in Muscatine in 1856 and 1857; Oskaloosa, 1858 and 1859; Iowa City, 1860 and 1861; Dubuque, 1862 and 1863; Burlington, 1864-1866; Clinton, 1867 and 1868; Keokuk, 1869, 1870, 1874 and 1875; and Cedar Rapids, 1871-1873, and 1876-1878.

In 1879 the State Fair moved to Des Moines to stay. In 1884 the Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to purchase a state fairgrounds on condition that the City of Des Moines raise an equal amount for buildings and facilities. The City concurred, and

Iowa thus became the second state in the midwest to acquire a permanent site for its fair.

In 1923 the General Assembly changed the former method of Fair administration by providing for an Iowa Department of Agriculture and a State Fair Board, and giving this board the duty of managing the Fair and the Fairgrounds. The Fair Board is composed of one director from each Congressional district and three directors at large elected at the Annual meeting in December of the State Agricultural Convention. Official delegates to the convention represent each of the 103 fairs in Iowa. There are three ex-officio directors on the Fair Board, including the Governor, Secretary of Agriculture and President of Iowa State University. The president and vice president of the Fair are elected by the Board from the elected directors. The Fair Board also selects the secretary and the treasurer of the Fair.

All operating expense, maintenance and other costs of the Fair are also paid out of Fair receipts, except where the Legislature may deem it advisable to make a special appropriation for such purposes.

Department of General Services

Hoover Building, Des Moines 50319

STANLEY L. McCAUSLAND, Des Moines, Director

The Department of General Services, created by the 64th General assembly of Iowa, 1971, is responsible for services formerly performed by the executive council of Iowa, printing board, car dispatcher, communications director, and buildings and grounds department. Under the general direction, supervision, and control of the Governor, the Department of General Services is headed by a director who is appointed by the Governor with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate.

The following divisions have been established with the Department of General Services: Director's Office, General Administration Unit, Division of Buildings and Grounds, Vehicle Dispatcher Division, Division of Centralized Purchasing, Division of Centralized Printing, Division of Communications, Division of Educational Radio and Television, Office of Records Management, Iowa Mail Room Division and the Federal and State Surplus Property Division. The 67th General Assembly established a Risk Management Division.

The director's office is staffed by the director, a financial officer, a design technician and a secretary. The director is responsible for construction of new buildings, assignment of space in state buildings located at the seat of government, providing a central mail unit for use of state offices, first-aid facilities and capitol tours. Additionally, the director's duties include the proper coordination of all projects related to the functions of the division of buildings and grounds.

The Records Management Division is responsible for coordinating the selection and utilization of all equipment and supplies associated with the creation, maintenance, and disposition of state agency records, including filing equipment and microfilming installations. The division also conducts systems studies within individual state agencies to ascertain more efficient and economical records handling procedures.

Through the Vehicle Dispatcher Division the director is responsible for the assignment of all state-owned vehicles.

In November of 1972 the Centralized Purchasing Division became fully operative. In cooperation with various state agencies a system of uniform standards and specifications for centralized purchasing was established. Commodities purchased now exceed the sum of \$30 million per year.

With the establishment of the Division of Communications the director assists state agencies and institutions with their needs in the field of communications. During the latter part of 1972 the director was given administrative responsibility for the division of educational radio and television.

The creation of the Department of General Services established a more efficient coordination of services provided to the various state departments. The majority of services provided- printing, purchasing, automobiles etc.-are charged back to the various using agencies.