



Julianna Curtis
 Sponsorship Director

AT THE HEART OF IT *All*

W

hat is your favorite part about the Iowa State Fair – the food, the animals, the rides, the concerts? As one of the most common questions I receive, my honest answer is, “every bit of it.” Because that is typically not a satisfactory response, I will narrow it down. The answer? It’s resounding and clear: “the people.” The people are at the heart of it all.

The Iowa State Fair would not be one of the most prestigious and well-loved events in the country without the people who attend, enjoy, compete, support, serve, and bring it all to life. And this August, there were quite a few people at that. Attendance totaled 1,133,958, the second highest in the Fair’s 169-year history. Sunday, August 13 saw 114,937 Fairgoers, a first Sunday record. The Grandstand entertained 112,258 concertgoers, including 9,294 who worshipped with For King + Country on Opening Day – the Fair’s largest contemporary Christian concert ever. Other records include 107 Fairtime sponsors who contributed more than \$2.83 million, 668 Blue Ribbon Foundation volunteers who served 5,150 hours, and thousands of donors who helped surpass the Foundation’s 30-year total of \$200 million raised for capital improvements – the list could go on. Suffice it to say, we are grateful to the dedicated patrons who made the 2023 Fair such a success.

Numbers aside, the true joy of the Fair resides in everyone coming together to celebrate all that is good about Iowa. No matter their background, people from all over the state, country, and world can unite and enjoy a slice of heaven – of Iowa – at the Fair. It’s where tradition meets innovation, rural meets urban, and past generations meet future generations. It’s one big family reunion. Bringing people together, physically and figuratively, is at the heart of the Iowa State Fair, whether it’s through a shared love of corndogs, equal amazement at the hatching baby chicks, or synchronized “cheers” at the Iowa Craft Beer Tent. During these 11 days, the best of our state’s people, character, and culture certainly comes to light.

Though the Fair is just 11 days long, it takes countless more days (and people) to create such a meaningful event. In my role as Sponsorship Director, I get to partner with the 100+ Fairtime sponsors who showcase their leading work in agriculture, industry, technology, and entertainment. It’s wonderful to see everyone’s hard work come to fruition in August, as well as their commitment to the prosperity of both our Fair and the communities we serve. To serve them in return, bring people joy, and work together to provide the best possible experience for Fairgoers is a real blessing.

So now I must ask you: what is your favorite part about the Iowa State Fair? Maybe it’s testing your vocal cords in the husband calling contest or cheering on one of the 104 county queens competing for the Fair Queen title. Maybe it’s feeling like a kid again while “riding” a John Deere tractor or watching grandchildren exhibit prize livestock as you once did. Each individual has a unique, personal connection to the Fair, so whatever your answer is to that quite difficult question, one thing remains at the heart of it all: the people. And truly, nothing compares to the people of the Iowa State Fair.

THE IOWA STATE FAIR WOULD NOT BE ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND WELL-LOVED EVENTS IN THE COUNTRY WITHOUT THE PEOPLE WHO ATTEND.

Index

- 2 **Noted, Corndog Kickoff Recap**
- 3 **Fair Highlights**
- 4-5 **Fair Merchandise**
- 6-7 **2023 ISF Volunteers**
- 8 **Iowans of the Day**
- 9 **Internships**
- 10 **Online Auction**
- 11 **Back the Barns**
- 12 **Mailbox, Donor Profile**

NOTED!

SAVE THE DATES

Corndog Kickoff:
Saturday, July 13, 2024

Iowa State Fair:
August 8-18, 2024

The Blue Ribbon Foundation will host an online Iowa State Fair souvenir auction November 9-12, 2023. Select lapel pins, ornaments and plaques will be available for bid.

Do you receive our monthly ENews? If not, please send your email address to Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org and we'll add you to the list.

NEED TO CONTACT US?

CALL
515-262-3111 Ext. 371

EMAIL
Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org

MAIL
P.O. Box 57130
Des Moines, IA 50317

www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org

STAFF

The Blue Ribbon Foundation staff consists of five full-time employees.

Peter Cownie, Executive Director, oversees the entire operation.

Robin Taylor, Assistant Director, tracks all accounting records, orders Fair merchandise and directs the auction portion of the Corndog Kickoff.

Julianna Curtis, Sponsorship Director, coordinates all sponsorships for the Iowa State Fair.

Meg Courter, Development Manager, organizes volunteers, manages the database and coordinates the Corndog Checkoff.

Drew Sniezek, Communications Manager, organizes giving programs and oversees all communications and event planning.



2023 CORNDOG KICKOFF BENEFIT AUCTION AND FAIR FOOD GRAZING PARTY



The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation's 2023 Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction and Fair Food Grazing Party on Saturday, July 8 was a true celebration of Iowans' favorite days in August. The event raised a record total \$1,006,590 for the renovation and preservation of the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds!

More than 2,500 Iowa State Fair supporters gathered for a night of fun, food and fundraising. The Blue Ribbon Foundation auctioned off 34 live and 273 silent auction packages. Attendees won prizes on the spin wheel and took their photo with a special backdrop. Some guests also chose to participate in the Rags to Riches, Mystery Prize and Dining Delights games.

"The Corndog Kickoff set a tremendous record this year in terms of attendance and dollars raised," said Peter Cownie, Blue Ribbon Foundation Executive Director. "The Blue Ribbon Foundation is grateful for the Fair-lovers who came out to support the grand tradition that we all hold near and dear to our hearts. Thank you on behalf of the Blue Ribbon Foundation and the Iowa State Fair for a remarkable evening."



A special thank you to Corndog Kickoff patrons, concessionaires, auction donors, volunteers and guests for helping make this year's event a success. Mark your calendars to attend the 2024 Corndog Kickoff on Saturday, July 13.



IOWA STATE FAIR

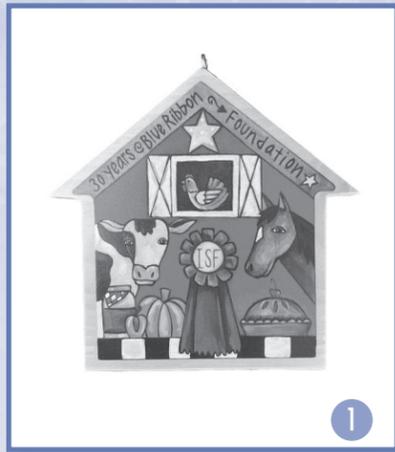
Highlights

- The Blue Ribbon Foundation hopes you noticed several new improvements to the Fairgrounds. The Public Safety building expanded with a 2-story addition and renovation of the existing space will start this fall. The Fairview Tap's fresh landscape and extended seating was enjoyed by Fairgoers, and the Elwell Family Park's permanent restrooms were a much-needed enhancement to the event space.
- The Blue Ribbon Foundation sold \$503,000 worth of merchandise during the Iowa State Fair. Top selling items were t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, charms and the Butter Cow stuffed animal. In addition, more than 105,000 bottles of water were sold! Both of these fundraisers wouldn't be possible without the help of our outstanding volunteers.
- In 2022, the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation received a generous \$1 million contribution from Alliant Energy to build a new shelter house called the Alliant Energy Landing, which hosted different events throughout the year. For 2023, Alliant Energy sponsored a mural painted on the Landing's retaining wall that was created by local artist, James Navarro. Focusing on agriculture education, several panels line the wall with different Iowa-themed vignettes. Thank you so much to James Navarro for bringing his creativity to the Fairgrounds and to Alliant Energy for supporting the improvements.
- Thank you to the Iowa Auctioneers Association for graciously donating the profits from their auctioneer showcase during the Fair. Auctioneers from across the Midwest showed off their selling skills resulting in a \$3,000 donation to the Blue Ribbon Foundation.
- Tracy Forbes volunteers in the Blue Ribbon Foundation office every day during the Iowa State Fair (and weekly throughout the year). She always goes the extra step to help everyone she can. From answering questions to helping with whatever our staff needs, Tracy deserves all of the praise! She was one of the 2023 Iowa State Fair Everyday Impact Award winners.
- Thank you to the late Tim Mallicoat – Concrete Supply Inc., Sonny Hall – Absolute Group, and the Iowa Concrete Paving Association for their generosity in donating and facilitating the paved surface at the Iowa Craft Beer Tent. Fairgoers appreciated the update, especially after the rainy day.
- The Blue Ribbon Foundation held the annual all-day BINGO fundraiser on the Grand Concourse. A total of 3,838 people played in 84 games of BINGO, helping the Blue Ribbon Foundation raise \$3,497.
- The Woodcarvers' Auction raised \$66,609. All proceeds from the auction are dedicated to Our Fair's Future, the Blue Ribbon Foundation's endowment fund. A special thank you to Chainsaw Artists – Gary Keenan, T.J. Jenkins and Clint Henk for producing such outstanding pieces of art.



IOWA STATE FAIR STORE

The Blue Ribbon Foundation manages the merchandise sold in the online State Fair Store. Profits directly benefit the Foundation's goal of raising funds to preserve and improve the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Check out these highlighted items or look online at www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org for a full list of available merchandise. Thank you for shopping and supporting the Blue Ribbon Foundation.



1



2



3



4



5



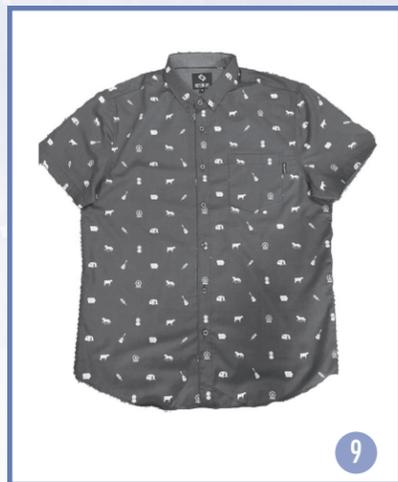
6



7



8



9

Qty.	Item	Description	Price	Total
	1. Anniversary Ornament	Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Blue Ribbon Foundation, this ornament, created by Sticks, is part of the "Sincerely, Sticks" collection.	\$25	
	2. Butter Cow Pants	Navy lounge pants featuring the Butter Cow and "Iowa State Fair". They are a specialized polyester blend that mimics the temperature of your body. Adult Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2XL (Circle Size)	\$28	
	3. Butter Cow Ornament	The famous Iowa State Fair Butter Cow as an ornament.	\$25	
	4. Draft Horse Ornament	Whether it's the Cowgirl Queen contest, miniatures or the supreme six horse hitch - commemorate all Iowa State Fair equine with this draft horse ornament.	\$25	
	5. Iowa State Fair Plaque	The Iowa State Fair offers a wide variety of contests, livestock competitions, and talent shows. This 7"x7" limited edition wood plaque, created by Sticks, celebrates the ribbons won during those beloved contests.	\$135	
	6. Isabel Bloom Sculpture	With seven divisions and 42 specific classes for pie, contest entries are judged on flavor, consistency and appearance. You can't go wrong with Isabel Bloom's blue ribbon pie sculpture.	\$30	
	7. Pickleball Paddles	Pickleball is an extremely popular sport for all ages. Combine two of your favorite activities with official Iowa State Fair Pickleball Paddles.	\$50	
	8. Pottery: Serving Tray	The Central Academy Potters of the Des Moines Public Schools produced the 28th piece in the Iowa State Fair's pottery series. The 10" diameter by 2" deep serving tray has a repeating cobalt blue shell pattern embellishment, creamy clay body and an embossed "Iowa State Fair" stamp.	\$45	
	9. Shirt	Navy blue button down shirt with light blue icons - camper, guitar, horse, Ferris wheel, ribbon, butter cow, etc. Please note this shirt runs slightly small. Adult Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL (Circle Size)	\$50	

Please send with payment to:

Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation

P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 • or call: 1-800-450-3732

Under \$25 = \$9; \$26 - \$50 = \$10
\$51 - \$75 = \$11; Over \$76 = \$12

Shipping	
Total	

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

MasterCard Visa Check Card # _____ Exp. _____

Security Code _____ Signature _____

THANK YOU *Volunteers!*



While the Iowa State Fair has ended, our appreciation for all 668 Blue Ribbon Foundation volunteers never will. Please accept our gratitude for your time and talent as we – together – made the 2023 Iowa State Fair a resounding success.

Volunteers worked 5,150 hours during 1,320 shifts to fundraise for the renovation and preservation of the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds. Thank you for selling merchandise and bottled water. Thank you for helping with Jake's Club and BINGO. Most of all, thank you for promoting the Blue Ribbon Foundation's mission.

WE ARE CONTINUALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Paige Abshire	Christy Berkenbosch	Mike Carter	Debra Dell
Sonya Ackerson	Jane Berry	Darla Carver	Natalee Dermer
Patti Adamovicz	Amit Bhatt	Mark Carver	Steve Despotovich
Sherree Adams	Adeline Birchmier	Kathy Casey	Barb Detrick
JoAnn Adamson	Arlene Blue	Meredith Caster	Julie DeVries
Terry Adamson	Mindy Blue	Joyce Chamberlain	Phyllis DeVries
George Akes	Melinda Blythe	Dan Chambers	John DeVries
Savanna Akes	Kim Blythe	Pam Chambers	Mary Dial
Mallory Albright	Benjamin Bobier	Sandy Cheney	Emily Digman
Amanda Alderson	Crystal Bobier	Jaci Chiovaro	Laura Digman
Lori Alderson	Molly Bock	Zosh Choda	Laura Digman
Juli Aldrich	Scott Bogue	Diane Claeys	Judy Dillenburg
Karen Alessio	Hank Bohling	Melissa Clines	Richi Dorr
Brad Allen	Elaine Bohling	Peggy Cokeley	Jan Dougherty
Robin Allen	Lynn Bohling	Sherri Cooney	Cindy Dougherty
Tony Alt	Jo Bond	Tammy Cooney	Jennifer Duke
Grace Amadeo	Diane Borchart	Susan Corbett	Kristy Dullard
Hannah Anderson	Patrice Bork	Don Corrigan	Roxanne Dunn
Brenda Andrew	Jean Bowden	Theresa Cory	Natalie Dunn
Dave Arens	Jeff Bowen	Linda Cosner	Christine Edmunson Long
Linda Arkema	Connie Bowen	Deborah Cossolotto	Sheri Edwards
Ervin Arkema	Cheryl Bowman	Kate Courter	LeRoy Edwards
Jerry Arthur	Pam Bradford	Brenda Cox	Vicki Edwards
Florida Arthur	Chris Branstad	Jeff Crise	Gary Edwards
Lynnette Austin	Shelby Brewer	Christina Crise	Jennifer Eginore
Lorene Austin-Bennett	Denise Bridenstine	Janice Crouch	Becky Ekstrand
Andrea Barry	Laura Brown	Ann Cutts	Joy Elder
David Barry	Hailey Brown	Doug Cutts	Adam Elmore
Kate Bason	Kieran Brown	Jodi Daggett	Jenny Elmore
Teresa Bazzocco	Diana Burch	Ryann Daggett	Karen Elrod
Nicole Beary	Eric Busch	Jackson Dahl	Lily Enano
Patrick Beckerdite	Anne Butler	Linda Daniels	Marilyn Erlandson
Kim Behrend	Jill Byerly	Connie Darr	Rene Erlandson
Penny Bellnap	John Byerly	Kristin Davenport	Ann Erlandson-Brown
David Bellnap	Tom Cameron	Savanna Davenport	Logan Fairchild
Heather Benjamin	Randy Campbell	Livia Davenport	Kris Fairchild
Becky Bennett	Bonnie Campbell	Erik Davis	Allison Feldhacker
Deanna Bennigsdorf	Becky Campbell	Carla Davis	Samara Feldhacker
Darin Bennigsdorf	Darlene Cangas	Carol Davis	Lisa Felice
Lance Bergeson	LuAnn Carlson	Sharon Dawley	Shaun Finnegan
Sylvia Bergeson	Joyce Carpenter	Donna Decker	Katie Fischer
Ron Bergfeld	Joyce Carr	Marty DeDecker	Sue Fisher
Marilyn Bergman	Christine Carroll	Deb DeDecker	Niki Fisher
			Dawn Fitzgerald

Sharon Foddrill	Julie Haefner
Debra Foster	Julie Hagerty
Randy Foster	Brett Halley
Shawn Foster-Tait	Charlene Haluska
Margo Fox	John Haluska
Chris Fox	Debbie Hamblin
Sara Francy	Norma Hanke
Joe French	Henry Hanson
Linda Fyfe	Jenny Hanson
Karen Fynaardt	Carolyn Hanson
Kathleen Garlisch	Maureen Hanson
Jan Gaudian	Kathy Harms
Jeff George	Nola Harper
Karen Gideon	Stephanie Harris
Sara Gillum	Dave Harrison
Gina Glass	Mark King
Susan A Glick	Myrna King
Nikki Goodell	Sharon Kingsbury
LaVon Goodrich	Gene Klein
Dane Gorham	Danyell Klein
Audrey Gorham	Travis Klohs
Clara Gorham	Lori Klug
Linda Grabau	Dianne Knapp
Melissa Graeve	Beth Knautz
Janet Grant	Laura Knedler
Abby Henry	Valerie Knedler
Kim Henson	Grace Knedler
Steph Herold	Violet Knedler
Sheryl Herrold	Deanna Knowles
Robert Hartley	Mark Knowles
Gabi Hawkins	Jason Koepnick
Abby Hawkins	Joy Koepnick
Christine Healy	Kyndra Koepnick
Steven Heinle	Lydia Koepnick
Abby Henry	Susan Kruckenber
Kim Henson	Karla Kruger
Steph Herold	Tisha Lack
Sheryl Herrold	Aylissa Lacy
Robert Hersom	Sheila Laing
Christopher Higdon	John Laing
Angela Hilbert	Elaine Larsen
Emerson Hilbert	Nikki Lasko
Kala Hill	Joy Latcham
Joe Hintzsche	
Alma Hodzic	
Sandy Hoenig	
Rick Hoenig	
Becky Hoffman	
Carol Holland	
Shirley Holm	
Breelyn Holst	
Jan Hoodjer	
Rhonda Huegerich	

Tony Latcham	Jessi Myers
DeEtta Lee	Melissa Myers
Ashlie Lee	Lisa Naaktgeboren
Casey Lee	Kevin Nabity
April Leeper	Tena Nelson
Karen Leonetti	Stacey Nelson
Jia Li	Carolyn Nelson
Amy Lindgren	Tammy Newton
Linda Link	Kristi Neyens
Mary Beth Lint	Jordan Nihart
Shujing Liu	Pam Nims
Kris Livingston	Katie Nims
Lori Lockard Randleman	Laura Noehren
Rose Lonsdale	Todd Nordquist
Riley Lonsdale	Kim Nordquist
Teresa Loops	Marshall Norfleet
Amanda Lucero	Suzanne Nuehring
LeAnn Lund	Brian Nuehring
Mary Lynn	Mark Oehlerking
Frank Lyons	Lyndee Ohmstede
Shannon Maddy	Tim Ohrt
Jennifer Mallon	Diane Olson-Sanders
Millie Malone	Teresa Osborn
Kaci Marshall	Diann Osterloh
Nancy Martin	Marsha Schultz
Mark Martin	Ronald Schulz
Traci McBee	Tara Schulz
Robbin McClelland	Justin Schulz
Linda McClure	Margo Shandri
Loni McCollum	Ashley Shafer
Linda McConnell	Kristina Sheaffer
Kathy McCoy	Shannon Shepherd
Gaby McCoy	Veloria Shields
Larry McCreery	Josh Shields
Miles McCubbin	Dixie Shipley
Debbie McDaniel	Traci Shipley
Connie McDonald	Angel Siems
Mary Lou McDowell	Linda Simonton
Julie McKibben	Bruce Simonton
Rita McMullen	Amanda Skidmore
Jill Mead	Norma Smalley
Rhonda Mechaelsen	Jayanna Smith
Maddi Megonigle	Tracy Smith
Patrick Messerly	Mike Smith
Jane Messerly	Carol Smith
Laurie Meyer	Jeana Smith
Matthew Meyer	Craig Smith
Sharon Mikulan	Derek Smith
Catherine Miller	Suzi Sobaski
Donnella Miller	Steve Sommer
Carolyn Miller	Shirley Sorenson
Theresa Miller	Carol Sperry
Amy Miller	Cindy Spiker
Pierce Miller	Jo Sprague
Angie Milligan	Ed Sprague
Janice Mineart	Paris Springer-Schnepf
Lisa Modlin	Cindy Spurr
Gary Modlin	Randy Spurr
Lisa Monahan	Theresa Staats
Genea Moore	Leah Stalcup
Vicky Morgan	Alan Stalcup
Joan Morris	Cindy Starr
Molan Mosell	Steve Starr
Lindsey Mulhall	Joe Steele
	Ryan Steenblock

Jenni Rope-Smith	Joyce Steinkamp
Rachel Rouse	Kristina Stephenson
Cheri Rozendaal	Lori Stephenson
Pete Rozendaal	Abby Stephenson
Nancy Rude	Beth Steven
Sue Runyan	Jill Stevenson
Lauren Rusher	Dan Stevenson
Maureen Ryan	Suzi Stewart
Shirley Ryan	Deborah Stewart
Terry Sabol	Virginia Stone
Matthew Sabol	Sherry Stuart
Emma Sackville	Jordan Su
Frances Sales	Allison Su
Sherry Sallow	Wei Su
Don Sandy	Shelley Swartzendruber
Melissa Savits	Valinh Swore
Gary Schad	April Talbot
Jessica Schaffer	Joshua Tarbell
Michael Schermerhorn	Robin Tarbell-Thomas
Stephanie Schermerhorn	Dianne Taylor
Jody Schmaltz	Cindy Taylor
Donna Schmidt	Teresa Taylor
JoAnn Schroder	Gary Taylor
Marsha Schultz	Terri Taylor
Ronald Schulz	Lindsey Tedrow
Tara Schulz	Lisa Terranova
Justin Schulz	Cindy Testroet
Margo Shandri	Lisa Tharpe
Ashley Shafer	Joseph Tharpe
Kristina Sheaffer	Amy Theuambounmy
Shannon Shepherd	Curtis Thienes
Veloria Shields	Connie Thienes
Josh Shields	Molly Thomas
Dixie Shipley	Denny Thompson
Traci Shipley	Emrah Topcu
Angel Siems	Jennifer Trepanier
Linda Simonton	Courtney Turner
Bruce Simonton	Teresa Van De Boe
Amanda Skidmore	Bonnie Van Den Broek
Norma Smalley	Brenda Van Der Kamp
Jayanna Smith	Jana Van Der Kamp
Tracy Smith	Lois Van Heukelom
Mike Smith	Lawrence Van Heukelom
Carol Smith	Susan Van Hill
Jeana Smith	Pat Van Lent
Craig Smith	Chrissy Van Pelt
Derek Smith	Mary Lou Van Roekel
Suzi Sobaski	Wes Van Wyk
Steve Sommer	Connie Van Wyk
Shirley Sorenson	Sheryl Vander Linden
Carol Sperry	Alan Vander Linden
Cindy Spiker	Kathy Vander Meiden
Jo Sprague	Ronald Vander Meyden
Ed Sprague	Margaret VanderWeerdt
Paris Springer-Schnepf	Leon VanderWeerdt
Cindy Spurr	Marla Veenstra
Randy Spurr	Jim Viggers
Theresa Staats	Teresa Viggers
Leah Stalcup	Emily Voeller
Alan Stalcup	Mike Voigt
Cindy Starr	Connie Vos
Steve Starr	Norm Vos
Joe Steele	Julie Wagner
Ryan Steenblock	Kira Wagner

Terri Walker
DeeAnn Walker-King
Angie Walker-Springer
Anne Walter
Michelle Walz
Jenn Walz
Cheryl Wandell
Jeff Wangsness
Shelley Wangsness
Andrea Warburton
Kelsey Warfield
Robert Waters
Pam Waters
Karen Watkins
Carole Weaver
Randi Webb
Jennifer Webb
Chad Webb
Alan Wedemeyer
Annette Wedemeyer
Amelia Weiny
Dan Werner
Carol Werner
Matthew West
Christy Westover
Kim Wetzel
Mike Wetzel
Michael White
Kris White
LaCie White
Laury Whitham
Deb Wickham
Angie Widmer
Deb Wilkins
Cydney Willard
Gene Willis
Mary Beth Willis
Michelle Willis
Martha Wilson
Juliana Wilson
Mallory Wilson
Dave Windiusch
Marcia Wing
Shelley Wirth
Doug Wirth
Nancy Witt
Kris Wolf
Tina Woods
Brittany Woods
Mary Woods
Linda Wright
Abrah Wright
Jason Wright
Linda Wunn
Lonny Wunn
Crystal Young
Jenna Zarate
Fred Zeitler
Danice Zern
Jack Zern
Josh Ziegler



IOWANS OF THE DAY



Many people run on coffee, but like most non-profit organizations, the Blue Ribbon Foundation runs on volunteers. Volunteering is an integral part of Iowans' lives. Volunteers have the ideas, knowledge and expertise needed to keep our communities moving forward. The Blue Ribbon Foundation proudly honors outstanding state-wide volunteers with the "Iowan of the Day" award during the Iowa State Fair.

With the help of Cookies Food Products, the Foundation honored 10 Iowans with a special day of recognition. The winners were celebrated during a presentation on the Anne & Bill Riley Stage and received \$200 cash, use of a golf cart for the day, VIP parking, gate admission for four, hotel accommodations at the Des Moines Downtown Marriott, and four tickets to the evening Grandstand show.

Arilyan Steenblock - Panora As a junior in high school, Arilyan did her part to help with an issue many young women encounter at some point, finding themselves in need of a feminine hygiene product but not having one on hand. To help solve this issue, she started "Blessing Boxes". These boxes are stocked with needed products in the girl's bathroom at her school. Between using some of her own money to keep these boxes filled, and soliciting donations, Arilyan is determined to help with this on-going issue.

LaVerne Quass - Ankeny LaVerne is committed to giving back to his community. This is evident from his 20 years of volunteering for Life Serve Blood Center. LaVerne has transported blood to hospitals all over Iowa and into Nebraska as a volunteer driver. He continues to volunteer 25 hours a week at the age of 86. He is also highly involved in his church. LaVerne is a loyal and helpful friend, graciously aiding his friends with their appointments and outings.

Nelda Bartels - Lytton Nelda is known as the "energizer bunny". She leads the designing of the face of her town, including the welcome signs as well as the plants she maintains each summer. Nelda continually volunteers to take photos for the annual Lytton Gala Days Celebration. She can be found attending local sporting events as one of the biggest fans. Nelda coordinates activities each year for the Sunday school kids. It's safe to say that she loves her small town and the great state of Iowa.



Speed Herring of Cookies Food Products and Peter Cownie, Blue Ribbon Foundation Executive Director present Emma Miller of Goodell with her Iowan of the Day award.

John Keeney - Carlisle John has been the treasurer for the Warren County Agricultural Association for 15 years as well as a member of the Board of Directors. He has also served as the vice president on the Warren County Fair Association for 15 years. John is a member of the VFW and American Legion. He was a 4-H leader for 16 years along with his 18 years of serving on the Extension Council and Youth Committee. John is an inspiration for his service and dedication to many different organizations in his community.

De Heaton - Corning De averages more than 30 hours a week serving her community through her work at the Corning Opera House as the Executive Director. She oversees maintenance of the building, writes grants and makes sure that entertainment is family friendly. De is a strong advocate for music education and experience. She facilitates many youth activities such as the children's musical, "Tea Parties", the annual Polar Express Celebration as well as planning educational activities for students on "early out" days.

Emma Miller - Goodell At ten years old, Emma was with her grandmother at the local cemetery paying their respects to family and close friends by decorating headstones. Emma noticed there was a large tree limb on one of the gravestones. She called her grandpa and he brought tools to help her clean up and make repairs to the area. Emma took initiative and decided to continue this as a community service project. Throughout the last two years she can be found decorating, repairing or cleaning old grave sites in the cemetery.

Ron Stutsman - Riverside Ron is the face of his community. He has served as Chairman of the Board for the Sharon Center United Methodist Church, President of the Iowa 4-H Foundation, and President of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa. Ron makes himself (as well as his resources) available whenever needed to his community. He has served on the Hills Bank and Trust Board of Directors, President of Goodwill Industries of SE Iowa and is a member of the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce Board.



Speed Herring and Peter Cownie celebrate Ron Stutsman's Iowan of the Day award.

Arleen Starman - Burlington After losing her husband when he was in hospice care, Arleen was called to help others going through the same thing. She understood what the families were feeling allowing her to help them in a way nobody else could. Arleen healed others as she healed herself through her 3,247 hours of volunteering with hospice over 15 years. Arleen is well known and loved around her community because of her 27 years of being the middle school secretary. She makes it a point in her life to make everyone feel special.

Bev Michael - Cedar Falls Since 1994, the Sartori Memorial Hospital has recorded 6,250 volunteer hours that Bev has contributed. She has managed the gift shop, coordinated blood drives and chaired the teen volunteer committee. Bev has served as the president of the Hospital Auxiliary, held a seat on the Iowa Hospital Auxiliary Board and co-chaired the Sartori Festival of Trees fundraiser for a number of years. She volunteers with the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Cedar Falls Visitors and Tourism Bureau, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Waterloo Center of the Arts, and Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Elsie Van Beek - Maurice As a 15 year old, Elsie has a strong passion for recognizing and thanking veterans. She successfully raised \$85,000 through selling cupcakes and soliciting donations to sponsor 83 veterans on an Honor Flight. The veterans had the opportunity to see Arlington National Cemetery along with other special memorials: a day they will never forget. Elsie volunteers with Wreaths across America, Midwest Honor Flight, Key Club (community service organization), Maurice Youth Group and is a junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

BLUE RIBBON FOUNDATION

Internships

The Blue Ribbon Foundation works year round to plan and prepare for the Iowa State Fair. Each summer, our office grows from a five-person to eight-person staff with the addition of three interns. We couldn't have a successful Corndog Kickoff or Fair without their help.

The Foundation's internship program gives a hands-on opportunity to exercise organizational and administrative skills while obtaining significant experience in business, communication, event management, marketing and public relations. This is not your typical internship. Each intern will be a true member of the Blue Ribbon Foundation team, working directly with staff, coordinating select projects, and making sure committed donors have a strong and lasting relationship with the Iowa State Fair.

A special thank you to the 2023 interns – Regan Frelund, Faith Kuehl and Macy Loecke. From coordinating the Iowan of the Day program to planning donor hospitality events and engaging sponsors, each intern was a key member of the Blue Ribbon Foundation's staff.



If you know a hard-working, motivated college student who loves the Iowa State Fair, make sure they are aware of the Foundation's internship opportunities for 2024. Visit our website at www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org to learn more about this program. Applications will be accepted until November 30.

IOWA STATE FAIR SOUVENIR ONLINE AUCTION

The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation has sold limited edition Iowa State Fair souvenirs as a fundraiser since our organization started 30 years ago. The lapel pin collection started in 1993, while the ornaments and plaques started in 2010.

Check out the lists below to see if your collection is complete. If not, now is your chance!

A selection of these souvenirs, and many others, will be featured in an online auction. Bidding will open on Thursday, November 9 at 10 AM and close on Sunday, November 12 at 8 PM.

Starting November 2, check the website for updated photos and descriptions of each souvenir. To bid, you must register as a bidder and provide the required information on the form, including a valid credit card number. Winning bidders will receive details on how to pick up their item(s).



Lapel Pins:

- 2023: Elwell Family Park
- 2022: Cattle Barn
- 2021: Giant Slide
- 2020: Cup of Cookies
- 2019: Admission Gate
- 2018: Fair Food
- 2017: Blue Ribbon
- 2016: Grandfather's Farm
- 2015: Sheep Barn Terra Cotta
- 2014: Youth Inn
- 2013: Tree, Bench, and Lamp Post
- 2012: Cultural Center
- 2011: Butter Cow (head shot)
- 2010: Jacobson Exhibition Center
- 2009: Elwell Family Food Center
- 2008: Administration Building

2007: Horse Barn

- 2006: Museum
- 2005: Agriculture Building
- 2004: Grand Gates
- 2003: Livestock Pavilion
- 2002: 4-H Building
- 2001: Varied Industries Building
- 2000: Pioneer Hall
- 1999: Double Ferris Wheel
- 1998: Grandstand
- 1997: Camper
- 1996: Ye Old Mill
- 1995: Brick Pad
- 1994: Butter Cow
- 1993: Carousel
- Undated: Rebuilding the Dream Pin

Ornaments:

- 2023: Draft Horse
- 2022: Fairfield Mascot
- 2021: Quilt
- 2020: Bucket of Cookies
- 2019: Camper
- 2018: Corndog
- 2017: Blue Ribbon
- 2016: Riley Stage
- 2015: Giant Slide
- 2014: Sky Glider
- 2013: Campgrounds Shuttle
- 2012: Pepsi Clock
- 2011: Ye Old Mill
- 2010: Butter Cow

Plaques:

- 2023: Collect 'Em All
- 2022: Iowa State Fair Peeps
- 2021: Butter Believe It
- 2020: Always in my Heart
- 2019: Have A Grand Ole Time!
- 2018: The Gang's All Here!
- 2017: Midway – Family Time
- 2016: Giant Slide - Enjoy the Ride
- 2015: People Watcher
- 2014: Fair Family Fun and Show Your Pride
- 2013: Happiness Is and Sky Glider
- 2012: Little Squeakers and Fairlicious
- 2011: Love a Fair and Home Grown
- 2010: Riley Talent Show, Food on a Stick, Ride a Ride, Shear Fun, New Arena



BACK THE BARNS PROJECT

Updates



In early 2023, the Iowa State Fair broke ground on the first phase of an exciting \$25 million livestock barns renovation project.

Specifically in the Sheep Barn, we hope you enjoyed the new air conditioned restrooms, family rooms and office. Underground sanitary water upgrades were also completed. The second phase, starting this fall, includes restoration of the beautiful terra cotta architectural accents, brick work, improvements to the east restrooms and roof replacement.

All four livestock buildings will receive attention with projects specifically tailored to each barn over the next few years. Renovations of the historic, early 20th century animal barns will give generations of Fairgoers the opportunity to continue the time-honored tradition of showing their livestock at the Iowa State Fair.



Yes! I want to join the "Back the Barns" Campaign!

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$3,000 Membership

One-time \$3,000 gift

Annual gift of \$1,000 for a 3-year term

Quarterly gifts of \$250 for a 3-year term

Check Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Sec. Code: _____

Signature: _____

Please consider joining the **Back the Barns fundraising campaign**. As a thank you for joining the campaign, you will receive a commemorative belt buckle and your name will be listed on a plaque recognizing donors when the project is complete. Thank you to the following donors who have contributed \$297,000 to the fundraising campaign so far:

- Greg & Andrea Abel
- A-O-K Family Farms Inc.
- Jerry & Florida Arthur
- Ernie & Paula Barnes
- Darrell & Lynda Bauman
- Richard & Sharon Bender
- Joel & Kjrsten Bobb
- Dean & Jill Borgman
- In Memory of Gary "Yogi" Braet
- Terry & Chris Branstad
- Alan & Deb Brown
- Gene & Betty Burgett
- In Memory of Roger Caltrider
- Jeff Chelesvig
- Bill & Ange Clark
- Phil & Caren Clevenger
- Tom & Sonya Colvin
- Peter & Mary Cownie
- Matt & Brandy Crawford
- Paul & Kiki Curtis
- Joel & Sandy Dieleman
- Justin & Cara Dix
- Peter & Nancy Dyson
- EPS

- David & Irene Kasal
- Julianna Kasper
- Bill & Sarah Keel
- Kenneth Kessler
- Kollmorgen, Schlue & Zahradnik, P.C.
- Jim Kopel
- Gary & Diane Laabs
- Mike & Carri Lauterbach
- A.J. & Kim Lewis
- Brian Machan
- Larry McConnell
- Rollie & Patty McCubbin
- Marty & Angelina McDonald
- Doug McKechnie
- Douglas & Regina Milroy
- Andy & Kerri Minor
- Patrick Nepereny
- Plum Creek Angus
- Ronald & Mary Esther Pullin
- Martin & Jo Reynolds
- Bob & Mary Ritz
- In Memory of Wilber & Coleen Robson

- Dennis & Christy Fagle
- Falvey Family
- Jeff & Vickie Farver
- Richard & Mary Feldpausch
- Randy & Vikki Fischer
- Larry & Sandra Fleck
- Tracy Forbes
- Randy & Bonnie Forburger
- Mike Gaul
- Eric & Tara Gerdes
- Michael & Ann Gersie
- Bill & Marilyn Grochala Gorham
- Adam & Katie Goshorn
- Beth Grabau
- Kathryn Griffin
- John & Barb Hagie
- Silas & Michelle Harland
- Danny Hartgers
- Robert & Martha Hawk
- Brent Highfill
- David & Kathy Houston
- John & Shirleen Huber
- Dean Hunziker
- Iowa Mold & Engineering, Inc.
- James & Ashley Johnson
- Tom & Robin Jurgens
- Doug & Jessemynn Kanis

- Bob & Lynne Schueler
- Russ & Christy Schwartz
- Jon & Laura Scoles
- Sherry Sears
- Keith & Barb Sexton
- James & Vista Smid
- Glenn & JoAnn Smith
- Ray & Jan Smothers
- David & Mary Steele
- Glenn & Ginger Sterk
- Adam & Aundrea Suntken
- John & Teri Sweeney
- C.W. & Kay Thomas
- Kent & Marcy Thomas
- Travis Thomas
- Jerry & Sandy Urfer
- Ronald Van Genderen
- Gary & Judy VanAernam
- Dennis Walker
- Jason & Melissa Wehrle
- Bonnie Wetzel
- James & Carolyn Wilkins
- Winkels Red Angus
- Edward Wollner
- Norman & Marjorie Wonderlich
- Yedlik Family

MAILBOX

"We donated to the Back the Barns campaign to fix up the livestock facilities at the Iowa State Fair, in particularly the Sheep Barn. The Pullin Family has been exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair since 1926. Five generations of Pullins have exhibited sheep at this great event and we are happy to be involved in this endeavor. Thank you to the Blue Ribbon Foundation for providing the opportunity to help with the project."

Ron Pullin

WATERLOO, IA

"I enjoyed myself tremendously volunteering for Blue Ribbon Foundation. Definitely looking forward to doing more next year."

Chantele Erwin Piler

DES MOINES, IA



IOWA STATE FAIR
**BLUE RIBBON
FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 57130
DES MOINES, IA 50317

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 4301

DONOR PROFILE: ART KAAE

It's the rich agricultural history of our state that attracts not only Iowans, but people from across the country to visit the Iowa State Fair. One proud Iowa farm kid first attended the event as a teenager and enthusiastically declares it is his favorite place to be.

Art Kaae will be 80 years old in January. Even with his self-described weak knees, you couldn't keep Art away from the Iowa State Fair. He attended four days this year – spending time around the livestock barns, admiring the tractors and of course, enjoying the food.

Art grew up on a farm outside of Cedar Falls and has lived in Iowa his entire life. He stays busy on his acreage north of Cedar Falls with Elle, his Border Collie, while raising goats and bottle calves.

"Spending time with the animals keeps me active," said Art, "so it's not a surprise that I spend a lot of my time at the Iowa State Fair in the livestock barns."

Walking around the antique and restored tractors really brings back memories for Art. "I enjoy reliving those memories as a farm kid," said Art. "I loved watching the tractor shows and demonstrations. Those were some of my favorite things to do at the Fair. These current displays remind me of how the Iowa State Fair was years ago and the importance of our agriculture roots."

Each year, you'll find Art exploring the Animal Learning Center. "Watching animals being born is an everyday thing for me having

grown up on a farm," said Art. "It's really something special watching the city kids experience it. The Iowa State Fair truly brings people together."

Art has had the opportunity to visit other state and county fairs, but the Iowa State Fair is always his favorite. "There are so many different food options," said Art, "but I find myself eating at the Cattlemen's. When you sit down and start talking with other Fairgoers, it feels like a big family."

Art has been a member of the 1854 Society since 2006, but he made his first donation back in 1993. If you ask him why he continually donates to the Blue Ribbon Foundation, his answer is simple. He has a passion for agriculture and wants the youth that work hard raising their animals to have high quality facilities for their exhibits each year.

And because Art has indicated the Blue Ribbon Foundation will be a beneficiary of his estate, his generosity will continue to make an impact far into the future. The support the Foundation receives from annual gifts each year is critical, but a legacy gift is a support system we can count on to help continue our mission for generations to come.

Thank you Art for your devotion to agriculture, your fondness for all things Fair related, and your support of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation.