



IOWA STATE FAIR
BLUE RIBBON
FOUNDATION

NEWS

SUMMER 2025

The Power of **Community**

At the heart of Iowa lies its small towns. Growing up in one, you quickly learn the value of hard work, the importance of lending a hand, and the strength that comes from pitching in and working together.

The Iowa State Fair is one setting where these small-town values shine. It's a gathering place for communities across the state, a celebration of everything that makes Iowa great.

With over a million visitors each year, it's not hard to wonder how the Fair could still feel like a tight-knit community. That's where the Blue Ribbon Foundation steps in, helping make the Fair feel more personal and connected.

One way we highlight our shared values is through the "Iowan of the Day" program. Each year, we recognize ten remarkable individuals from across the state who are making a difference in their hometowns. These volunteers serve not for recognition, but out of genuine care. We know their ongoing example of commitment to

service is inspiring the next generation. Truthfully, we could honor ten Iowans every single day.

The Blue Ribbon Foundation also supports projects that Fairgoers of all ages can enjoy. Take the new "Variety Star Playground," a vibrant addition to the Fairgrounds made possible by donors from every corner of Iowa and partners like Variety – the Children's Charity and Larry Fleck & Son Trucking. It's a shining example of what can be achieved when we work together.

That's the power of community.

Time and again, Fairgoers rise to the challenge. Whether it's restoring century-old livestock barns, upgrading sound systems, or creating new spaces for families to gather and enjoy, the Blue Ribbon Foundation is proud to preserve and enhance the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds so it remains the icon Iowans cherish.

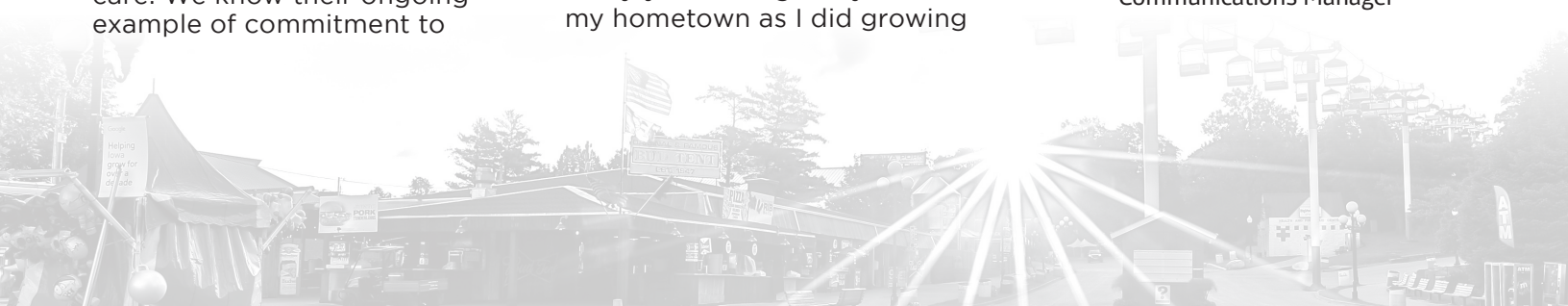
Personally, I've now spent as many years living away from my hometown as I did growing

up in it. And like many of you, I was raised not only by my parents, but by a community – neighbors, teachers, coaches and friends. You don't always realize how much those first 18 years shape you until much later. But it's what we do beyond those years that carries the legacy of our first community forward.

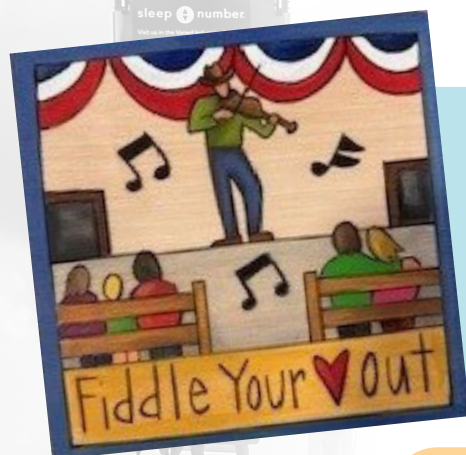
So, bring your kids and grandkids to the Iowa State Fair. Let them feel the pride and connection of our shared community. Hopefully it will stay with them for a lifetime.



Drew Sniezek
Communications Manager



2025 Merchandise Pre-Order



Iowa State Fair Plaque: Fiddlers' 100 Years

The Iowa State Fair Fiddlers' Contest is marking a monumental milestone this year as it celebrates its 100th anniversary of toe-tapping tradition, spirited competition, and heartfelt music. This 7"x7" limited edition wood plaque, created by Sticks, is a jubilant reflection of a century-long love affair with the fiddle.

Pottery: Utensil Holder

In partnership with the Central Academy Potters of Des Moines Public Schools, the 2025 Iowa State Fair pottery piece is a utensil holder. The students designed the piece with a creamy clay body, cobalt blue design in a houndstooth pattern, and embossed "Iowa State Fair" stamp.



Advance Merchandise Order Form

Please reserve:

Pottery: Utensil Holder — \$45 each
Iowa State Fair Plaque: Fiddlers' 100 Years — \$145

QTY Total

All orders will be shipped:

Shipping & handling rate for one item
\$1 extra for each additional item shipped
One order that ships to multiple locations — \$10.00 per location

\$10.00

TOTAL _____

- ☐ My check, payable to the Blue Ribbon Foundation, is enclosed.
☐ Please charge to my Mastercard/Visa.

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please clip & send with payment to:

Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation • P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 or call: 1-800-450-3732

*To reserve the 2025 Iowa State Fair collector's pottery piece or plaque, send in this form or call 515-262-3111 ext. 371. Online ordering is not available on other 2025 merchandise. The Foundation is unable to guarantee availability if advance orders are received after August 1. **All orders will be shipped.***

2025 Corndog Kickoff

A great recipe for Iowa State Fair success includes a cup of agriculture, a teaspoon of education, a dash of entertainment and a pinch of friendly competition—all blended together over 11 unforgettable days, then garnished with attractions, industry showcases and unique foods-on-a-stick to make the Fair experience complete!

As key ingredients in our recipe, we invite you to support the Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction and Fair Food Grazing Party on Saturday, July 12—a fundraising event that promises to be a blue-ribbon-worthy experience.

Tickets are still available for \$125 and can be purchased at the door on the night of the event. Tickets include a complimentary photo, food and drink, fireworks, Sky Glider rides and more! Doors to the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building on the Fairgrounds open at 6:30 PM.

Information about auction packages, registering to bid and the Kickoff itself can be found on the Foundation's website, www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org. The silent auction opens for bidding on Friday, July 11 at 10 AM and closes on Saturday, July 12 at 8:30 PM.

Special thanks to all Corndog Kickoff patrons, volunteers, concessionaires, auction donors and guests who make this event possible. Each participant is a necessary ingredient, contributing to the bigger picture of preserving and enhancing our beloved Iowa State Fairgrounds.

**Check out the
Silent and Live
Auction Items:**



**\$10,000
Best of Show**
Sinclair Tractor
**The Doerring
Family**

**\$7,500 Grand
Champion**

Sheri Avis Horner

**Doug & Heather
Den Adel**

**Don & Cheryl
Timmins**



\$5,000 Champion
Bob's Septic
Community State Bank
Patty & Jim Cownie
Daniels Filter Service
Tom & Julie Jackowski
McAninch Corporation
Mediacom
**MidAmerican Energy
Company**
Janis Ruan
Bob & Cherie Shreck
West Bank

\$2,000 Blue Ribbon

Greg & Andrea Abel
Air-Con Mechanical
Baker Group
Judy Balsman & Mark
Zimmerman
Ernie & Paula Barnes
Richard & Sharon Bender
Frank & Jan Berlin
Blue Ribbon Bar & Eatery
Bob Brown Chevrolet
Denise Bradfield
Bratney
Randy Brown
Brown Winick
Cindy Brun
Buse & Ostrander Families
Campbell's Concessions & The
Depot
Casey's
Catch Des Moines
Central Bank

Cerne Calcium Company
Jeff Chelesvig
Ken Cheyne
Caren Clevenger
Cookies BBQ
Michael & Julie Coppola
Barney Cosner
Peter & Mary Cownie
Darling Ingredients
Delta Dental of Iowa
Steve & Barb Determan
Dave & Kelly Donato
Brad & Alison Duffy
Eick & Day Construction, LLC
Denny & Candy Elwell
Farmers Mutual Hail Ins. Co.
Fuller Petroleum Service
Kathryn Griffin
Ron & Angel Grubb
Todd & Wendy Hagen
John & Barb Hagie
Hansen Company, Inc.
Homesteaders Life Co.
Nate & Niki Hopwood
Hy-Vee
Iowa Beverage Systems
Iowa Lottery
Iowa Soybean Association
Iwig Family
JMT Trucking
Jason Jennings
Joseph's Jewelers
Mark & Christy Joyce
K/O Architects
Bill & Tonya Kimberley
Bill & Susan Knapp
Kollmorgen, Schlue &
Zahradnik, PC
Joseph & Ruth Lakers
Larry Fleck & Son Trucking
Mike & Carri Lauterbach

Living Des Moines
Lynch Family Companies
Bill & Julie Marlin
John & April Marmon
Rich & La Donna Matthes
Steven & Nancy McMenamin
Brady & Julie Meldrem
George & Deb Milligan
Mr. Electric of Central Iowa
Chris & Amy Murray
Nepereny Acres
Northwestern Mutual -
Brian & Jessica Carlson
Mark & Jill Oman
P&P Concrete
Marcus & Angela Pitts
Brenda Person
Prairie Meadows
John & Emily Putney
Mike & Ann Richards
Russ & Debbie Richardson
Charles & Melinda Ruperto
David & Linda Schinckel
Schuessler Enterprises
Seprio, LLC
Steel Structures
The Benskin Family
Barry & Jackie Tewes
The Rib Shack
The Scale Guy
Tom's Auto
U.S. Bank
VanDerKamp Family
Georgia VanGundy & Chad
Kleppe
Van Wyk State Farm Insurance
Mel & Kathy Weatherwax
Keith & Deb Welling
Willis Automotive
Gary & Sandi Yates
Kelly Zelinsky



\$500 Red Ribbon

David & Liz Adelman
AE Dairy
Jerry & Nancy Armstrong
Paul Barnds &
Shawn Sabin
Don & Margo Blumenthal
Dermatology P.C.
Doll Distributing
LeLoie Dutemple
Paul & Sandy Easter
Chuck & Libby Hartlieb
Shannon Hogendorn
Carolyn Hove
Chuck & Jaina Johnson
Tom & Robin Jurgens
Tim & Brenda Kapucian
Jerry & Vicki Lage
Gerry & Mary Lou
Neugent
Jeremy & Kelsi Parsons

John & Julie Phillips
Raccoon Valley Bank
Nick & Jill Ryan
Ryan Companies
Paul & Sarah Rypma
Tim & Lindsey Rypma
Gary & Mary Slater
The Best Around, Inc.
The Dental Practice
CW & Kay Thomas
Tom & Christie Vilsack
What's Your Cheez

\$250 White Ribbon

Robert & Katherine
Anderson
Tom Brien
Karen Brockelsby
Alan & Deb Brown
David & Hallie Caris

Carl's Concessions
Grant & Tennie Carlson
Jimmy & Gretchen
Centers
Curtis & Diane Claeys
D and R Asphalt
Darwin & Jan Gaudian
Curt & Beth Greiner
Siobhan Harman
John & Kathy Harms
High Caliber Home
Inspections
Pat & Melody Hunter
Joseph Jones
Pat & Mary Knueven
Izaah & Jenna Knox
Fred & Joyce Lock
Gary & Linda McConnell
M & K Concessions
Jerry & Randall Parkin
Kay Peiffer
Andy Piro
Joe & Kara Pollpeter

Martin & Jo Reynolds
Robert & Joni Sandburg
Tom & Catherine Sands
VerDon & Donna Schmidt
Todd Schomburg &
Jomarie Tucci
Mel & Linda Shivvers
Dan & Patty Skokan
Keith & Cindy Steffens
Connie Taylor
The Showtimes, Inc.
Bill Tiffany
Bob & Amy Tursi
Doran & Cora
Van Rheenen
Norman & Mary
Van Zante
Rick & Marcia Wanamaker
Michael & Missy
Wolnerman
Louie & Deb Zumbach

Create Your **Legacy**

Many of Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation's supporters have chosen to advance the values that have been most important in their lives by providing a gift through their will. Regardless of the size of your gift, you can provide funding to help support causes important to you.

Traditionally, creating a will can be expensive and time consuming. To solve this problem, the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation is pleased to offer our supporters free access to Giving Docs, where you can easily create your will and other estate planning documents in just a few minutes. You are not required to leave a gift in order to create a will. This is our gift to you.

Join the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation supporters and plan your legacy with Giving Docs. It's safe, secure and free for life.

Contact Meg Courter, Development Manager, to learn more.
Meg@BlueRibbonFoundation.org or 515-262-3111 Ext. 370



Giving Docs



2025 Merchandise Highlights

The Blue Ribbon Foundation offers official Iowa State Fair souvenirs, with all proceeds supporting its mission to preserve and enhance the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

Along with the featured items below, a wide selection of apparel, collectibles and more will be available at the State Fair Store, located in the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center during the Iowa State Fair, August 7-17. You can also find merchandise booths in the Agriculture Building, Cattle Barn, Varied Industries Building, Elwell Family Food Center and Museum.

Thank you for shopping and supporting the Blue Ribbon Foundation!



Lapel Pin: Nestled on the hillside between the Cultural Center and Youth Inn, Hillcrest Dorm was constructed in 1930. Recent renovations including a new roof, ventilation system, windows and restrooms were a warm welcome from the FFA members who stay in the building while serving as Grandstand ushers.



Charms: Artists create their best pieces for submission in the Fine Arts competition at the Iowa State Fair. Display this painter's palette on your charm bracelet along with the 2025 "Fair Sweet Fair" logo charm.



Ornament: Each year, more than 900 exhibitors show 3,700 sheep during the Iowa State Fair. The club lamb is represented in this year's ornament, but all 16 breeds are showcased with pride.



Isabel Bloom Sculpture: Historic barns are scattered throughout Iowa, symbolizing our rich agricultural heritage and farming traditions. This red barn ornament is a tribute to both the iconic barns of the Iowa State Fair and the beloved barns found on farms across the state.



Butter Cow Necklace & Bracelet: The Butter Cow resides in the Agriculture Building. Add a miniature version to your jewelry collection with this corded necklace and bracelet.



Sticks Ornament: On a stick or in a cup, nothing compares to Iowa State Fair food — so let's eat up! This ornament shows the deliciousness of the Fair.

Project **Update**



Horse Barn: Phase One of the project (exterior painting, window replacement, masonry repairs and north restroom renovation and construction) will be completed prior to the 2025 Iowa State Fair. Phase Two (concrete floor with radiant heat, relocated offices, interior wash rack area, portable stalls, fire suppression system and enhanced ventilation) will begin this fall and be finished in time for the 2026 Fair.



Ron & Bev Shivers Family Plaza: Thank you to the Shivers Family for their generous donation to create a beautiful plaza. The project features open seating, landscaping and brand-new restrooms. Between JR's Southpork Ranch and Old West BBQ, the plaza enhances the Fairgoer experience by providing a gathering area where Fair visitors can relax, dine and soak in the wonderful Iowa State Fair atmosphere.



Variety Star Playground: The Blue Ribbon Foundation partnered with Variety – the Children's Charity of Iowa to create a new inclusive playground, allowing children and adults of all abilities to enjoy playing together, creating an environment that encourages connection and fun.

Pella Plaza: In honor of Pella Corporation's 100th anniversary, the company is giving the Pella Plaza area on the Fairgrounds a fresh new look. With updated landscaping and maintenance improvements, the area will be ready to shine at this year's Fair. The popular misting fountains will continue offering a cool, relaxing spot for guests to enjoy. Congratulations to Pella Corporation on this incredible milestone. The Blue Ribbon Foundation is proud to help celebrate your century of success.

Expo Hill: Take in a beautiful view of the lower Fairgrounds from newly added seating on Expo Hill, located beneath the wind turbine. With the addition of several benches, Adirondack chairs and tables, it's the perfect spot to relax any time of day – though sunset might just be the ideal moment to make the climb. A special thank you to Paul & Kiki Curtis for their generous donation in support of this enhancement.



2025 T.A.G. Team Members

Thank you to the Blue Ribbon Foundation supporters that joined the 2025 T.A.G. team. The loyalty of these generous donors proves that Together, we can Accomplish our Goals. These members are making an immediate, positive and direct impact on our historic Fairgrounds.

Member donations are being used to update the Livestock Pavilion sound system. Updating the sound system in an old building is essential to meet modern standards of audio quality and functionality, while preserving the building's historical character. An upgraded sound system enables clearer speech ensuring all attendees can engage fully with events. By investing in a sound system upgrade, the Iowa State Fair can enhance a visitor's experience and ensure the Livestock Pavilion remains functional and appealing for all audiences.

Paul & Crystal Abbe
Blake Anderson
Scott & Lisa Baker
Robert Barber
Ernie & Paula Barnes
Craig & Shellie Benson
Randy & JoAnn Berry
Lynn & Elaine Bohling
Kevin & Chris Brooks
Joe & Bonnie Buman
Ken & Linda Cairns
Curtis & Diane Claeyes
Ken & Diana Clark
Caren Clevenger
Don Corrigan
Jeff & Meg Courter
Paul & Kiki Curtis
Dale & Sue Derscheid
Gary Dinsdale
Dave & Kelly Donato
Craig & Carrie Dostal
Robert & Amy Durian
Mark & Tammy Ebensberger
Stuart & Sondra Feldstein
Randy & Vikki Fischer
Sue Fisher
Larry & Sandra Fleck
Tracy Forbes
Richard & Beth Frank
Darwin & Jan Gaudian
Michael & Ann Gersie
Bill & Marilyn Grochala Gorham

Alan & Lisa Hagie
John & Kathy Harms
Howard & Sandra Hecht
Jan Higgins
Joe Hintzsche
Skip Hitchcock
Allen & Wanda Holm
Melinda Huisinga
Brandi Jackson
Nicole Jonas
Julianna Kasper
Bill & Sarah Keel
Kenneth Kessler
James Kopel
Joseph & Ruth Lakers
Mike & Carri Lauterbach
Mike & Anne Long
Ron & Pat Long
Larry McConnell
Rollie & Patty McCubbin
Andrew McDowell
Doug McKechnie
Charles & Connie Moore
Jason & Cara Morse
Ken Morse
Tony & Denise Mudderman
Burton & Molly Murphy
James & Chris Neary
Patrick & Angela Nepereny
Cynthia Northey
Dixie Pencil
Brenda Person

Brooke Person
Stuart & Laurie Peterson
Matt & Anna Pilcher
Denny Prather
Jo & Martin Reynolds
Tom & Leah Rodenberg
Tricia Rosendahl
Nancy Schrum
Bob & Lynne Schueler
Jon & Laura Scoles
Sherry Sears
Shannon Shepherd
Bruce & Linda Simonton
Mike & Janet Sinclair
Staats Awards
Glenn & Ginger Sterk
Virginia Stone
Adam & Aundrea Suntken
Bret & Beth Jensen Thies
Don & Cheryl Timmins
Chuck & Kathy Van Dike
Eve & Theo Vanden Broek
Kelsey Warfield
Melvin & Kathy Weatherwax
Bonnie Wetzel
Jarred & Leslie Whitfield
Dave Windisch
Gary & Sandi Yates
Eric Youngberg & Gary Krogh
Ronald & Mary Beth Zelle
Louie & Deb Zumbach

Mailbox

"I ordered two bricks to be installed at the Anne & Bill Riley Stage. These are for my 9-year-old twin grandchildren. These twins have appeared in every Twins Contest at the Iowa State Fair since they were five weeks old, making their tenth appearance last year. Thank you, Blue Ribbon Foundation, for allowing my family to commemorate this tradition."

Connie Taylor

WEST DES MOINES, IA



IOWA STATE FAIR
**BLUE RIBBON
FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 57130
DES MOINES, IA 50317

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NEED TO CONTACT US?

CALL

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EMAIL

Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org

MAIL

P.O. Box 57130

Des Moines, IA 50317

WWW.BLUERIBBONFOUNDATION.ORG

Painting Class

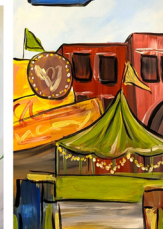
Unleash your creativity in the cool, comfortable setting of the Oman Family Youth Inn with a morning or afternoon painting class — or enjoy both!

The Blue Ribbon Foundation has teamed up with "Painting with a Twist" to bring fun and relaxing painting sessions to Fairgoers during the Iowa State Fair.

Each registration includes two hours of guided instruction, all necessary supplies and your very own completed painting to take home. New for this year, you can also paint a DIY project on your own time and at your own pace with lots of options for you to let your creativity flow.

A portion of the proceeds benefit the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation's mission.

For more information, the class schedule and registration, visit:
www.PaintingWithATwist.com/Studio/Des-Moines-Urbandale



Fair admission ticket not included. Class size is limited, so be sure to register early.

Make lasting memories and artwork while soaking in the fun of the Fair!

PAINTING WITH A
Twist.

