



## DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

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### **SD State Fair Starts Strong, Ends with Record Breaking Heat**

HURON, S.D. – The 2023 South Dakota State Fair, which ran from August 31 – September 4, got off to a strong start. Despite the heat, Fair participation remained strong through the weekend! The Fair offered family friendly attractions, six stages of entertainment, thrilling carnival rides, world class livestock shows, agricultural education, and endless shopping opportunities.

This year's State Fair experience was like no other, with temperatures soaring on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, exceeding 100 degrees each day. Sunday's 103 temperature in Huron broke a 130-year record from 1893, and Monday's 102 temperature broke a record from 1913.

#### Youth Participation and Education

- More than **1,400** exhibitors entered more than **8,500** exhibits in open class livestock and non-livestock competitions.
- The Arts & Education Building hosted **5,800** education exhibits.
- **9,375** 4-H display exhibits, livestock exhibits, and youth in action entries participated in the Fair.
- **369** FFA exhibitors showcased over **950 entries**.
- Over **675** students and teachers participated in South Dakota's Largest Classroom.
- Nearly **50** schools and libraries participated in the Read and Win program sponsored by Ag Performance, handing out over **8,600** youth daily admission gate passes to young readers.

#### Attendance and Economic Impact

- **178,246** guests passed through the gates, and nearly **2,000** campers stayed at the fairground's campsites, helping set the pace for a successful State Fair.
- **322** commercial exhibitors filled **607** vendor locations.

- More than **\$2.6 million** was spent by fairgoers on goods, beverage, specialty concessions, and carnival rides.
- The Fair generated over **\$217,000** in tax revenue.

#### Additional Highlights

- The Open Class Sheep Show and Open Class Beef Show were held ahead of the Fair, kicking off fair week August 26 through 30.
- The DEX: Dakota Events CompleX [ribbon cutting](#) was held Thursday, August 31. In total, the DEX is a 150,000 square-foot open concept facility, capable of hosting two full-sized equestrian arenas and seating for 5,000+ people. Alternatively, it is equipped to host up to 1,700 cattle stalls, two show rings, and visitor seating, further solidifying its adaptability. During the 2023 State Fair, the DEX was set with 1,200 cattle stalls and one large show ring, giving exhibitors and spectators the best possible showing and viewing experience. Thank you to all who helped bring this [vision to life!](#)

The 2024 South Dakota State Fair dates will be Thursday, August 29 – Monday, September 2. For more information about the South Dakota State Fair, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com) or find them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).