

NEBRASKA

State Fair Returns To Rural Roots

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska State Fair is returning to its rural roots as organizers prepare for a second year in Grand Island and work on fixing first-year kinks.

The fair's renewed focus on farming and the rural lifestyle is noticeable right away, with livestock barns now sitting prominently by the main gate instead of near the back of the fairgrounds like they were in Lincoln.

"There was a sense that over time, livestock and agricultural influences might have been diluted a bit" in Lincoln, said Cindy Johnson, president of the Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce.

Organizers for the fair in Grand Island, which starts Friday and runs through Labor Day, said they are trying to attract more farm families from rural central and western Nebraska, while also giving residents from urban areas a new experience. The number of 4-H participants and livestock exhibits increased when the fair relocated, Johnson said.

The fair was staged at State Fair Park in Lincoln for more than a century, but was moved last year to make way for a University of Nebraska high-tech research park at the old fairgrounds. Lawmakers voted in 2008 to move the fair to Grand Island, which is closer to the state's geographic center but farther from the much larger eastern Nebraska population.

Last year's fair drew more than 300,000 people, less than the final fair in Lincoln but still one of the largest crowds in recent history.

A survey of last year's attendance found 59 percent of fairgoers came from Grand Island or central Nebraska. One-third came from eastern Nebraska, including 12 percent from Omaha and Lincoln. Organizers don't know how that breakdown compares to past years, but they suspect most came from within 100 miles of the fair.

"I think it has less to do with geography than the options Omaha has," Johnson said. "It's

not unusual to have a Keith Urban or Sugarland concert in Omaha. You could do arts and culture every day of the week. That group (of urban Nebraskans) might need an extra reason to come."

Johnson said the chamber and fair organizers sent 15,000 mail invitations to "greater Nebraska" — locations at least 150 miles from Grand Island — to entice visitors who would likely need to stay overnight.

The fair could have a larger economic impact on Grand Island, a city of 49,000, than Lincoln, which is more than five times bigger. Organizers and business leaders are still adjusting.

"I think last year, the excitement and focus was on watching the facility come up," Johnson said. "There was almost a sense of awe, and perhaps a lack of understanding of what was about to happen."

The \$42 million grounds and the concerts, rides and vendors should feel more familiar

this year.

Vendor Ken Triplett of Grand Island spent Thursday arranging cabinets, dining room tables and other furniture at his fair booth. Triplett, the owner of Amish Furniture Outlet Inc., said the new grounds are easier for fairgoers to navigate than the space in Lincoln.

"This is huge for me," he said, adding that the customers he attracts at the fair bring him more business year-round.

Shaun Schleif, the fair's marketing director, said organizers have learned important lessons from last year.

A larger drop-off area will greet fairgoers who ride buses from parking lots to prevent congestion. Organizers added 800 more parking spaces on the grounds, for a total of 5,500 spots marked with poles and flag ropes.

Things got out of control last year on the fair's "Older Nebraskans Day" when visitors swamped a Mel Tillis country music concert. Schleif said the

standing-room crowd grew so large that fair workers had to turn visitors away. He said this year's act, country music singer Crystal Gayle, will play two shows.

Grand Island has installed four cameras around the fairgrounds to study traffic this year, so the public works department can find ways to keep cars moving smoothly during future events, said City Administrator Mary Lou Brown. Local police are scheduled for traffic patrol overtime, and the Nebraska State Patrol will provide 24-hour security.

Shops and restaurants disappointed with last year's smaller-than-expected business traffic have planted additional signs around town, placed advertisements in fair pamphlets and split the cost of an exhibit booth. Fair transport buses will take riders to the local mall, a Walmart, a Sam's Club and other outlets.

The number of volunteers for cleanup and crowd management has grown to about 840, from 640.

Corps To Fix Unusual Problem At Oahe Dam

PIERRE (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers plans to further reduce water releases from Oahe (oh-AW'-hee) Dam on the Missouri River in South Dakota on Monday so it can fix what officials call an unusual problem.

KCCR radio reports that a gate on one of six emergency outlet tunnels underneath the dam has become stuck halfway closed.

The problem was reported Tuesday when the gate was being lowered.

Officials say something became lodged underneath the gate's roller.

Corps officials say the problem is unusual but fixable. It does not affect the stability of the dam.

S.D. Guard Breaks Ground On \$25M Armory

WATERTOWN (AP) — The South Dakota National Guard has broken ground on a \$25 million armory in Watertown.

The Guard says the 80,000-square-foot Watertown Readiness Center is being built on 30 acres of land about a mile from its current 53-year-old armory, which will be shuttered.

The new facility will have classrooms, office space, parking for vehicles, equipment storage and an auditorium. It should be complete in the spring of 2013.

2 \$10,000 Powerball Tickets Sold In S.D.

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota lottery officials say winning tickets worth \$10,000 apiece in Wednesday's Powerball drawing were sold in Sioux Falls and Hermosa.

Each ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball to win the game's third prize.

The odds of winning \$10,000 playing Powerball are one in about 723,000. The winners have about six months to claim the money.

Powerball is played in 42 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot for Saturday's drawing is \$61 million.

SOUTH DAKOTA

High Court Rules Appeals Process Unconstitutional

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a judge's ruling that Sioux Falls' administrative appeals process is unconstitutional.

Dan Daily sued the city in 2008 after receiving four citations in two years for violating city code with a driveway extension up to a fire hydrant. He lost his appeal to the city but decided to pursue the matter in the courts rather than pay the \$200 fine.

In a written opinion issued Thursday, the high court affirmed a trial court opinion that the city's enforcement violated Daily's constitutional rights to due process and equal application of the law.

The justices said the city took a position that issuing a city code enforcement citation assumed non-compliance, and Daily incorrectly bore the burden of proving that the city incorrectly issued it.

Although Sioux Falls municipal code says that an appellant can call and examine witnesses, introduce documentary and physical evidence, cross-examine opposing witnesses and rebut evidence, the court said Daily did not get that opportunity.

"This difficulty was compounded by the fact that Daily was not afforded an opportunity to subpoena witnesses or documents or to otherwise investigate the basis for the citations," the justices wrote in the opinion.

The court said the city's appeals process did not afford Daily an opportunity to be heard "at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner."

A message left Thursday with Sioux Falls City Attorney Dave Pfeifle was not immediately returned.

The court also took issue with the city issuing Daily multiple citations for the same violation rather than initiating legal proceedings in magistrate or circuit court to collect fines or have him correct the violations.

"While this practice did not constitute a technical violation of Daily's procedural due process rights, it is a relevant consideration in evaluating the fairness of the City's administrative appeals process," the justices wrote.

URGENT NEWS FLASH!

Northtown Automotive in Yankton, SD just had hail. Every New Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac and pre-owned vehicle, MUST be sold. We will be moving to our new location in September and we will not be moving any hail damaged vehicles with us. **This is your opportunity to save up to \$12,000 on your next vehicle!**

3.9% UP TO 72 MOS. W.A.C.

Good thru Sept. 6, 2011

<p>2012 Chevrolet Equinoxes</p> <p>STARTING AT \$18,990*</p>	<p>2012 Chevrolet Impala #2209</p> <p>ONLY \$19,990*</p>	<p>2012 Chevrolet Malibu LTs #2223</p> <p>STARTING AT \$17,990*</p>
<p>2012 Chevrolet Traverses</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$7,500* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 Buick Enclaves</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$10,000* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 Buick Lucernes 3 to Choose From</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$10,000* off MSRP</p>
<p>2011 Buick Regals #2105</p> <p>STARTING AT \$18,990*</p>	<p>2011 Chevrolet & GMC 1/2 Ext Cabs Over 50 to Choose From</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$12,000* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 Chevrolet & GMC 1/2 Crew Cabs</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$12,000* off MSRP</p>
<p>2011 Chevrolet & GMC 3/4 Tons</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$10,000* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 Chevrolet Traverses</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$8,500* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 GMC Acadia #1958</p> <p>\$9,000* off MSRP</p>
<p>2011 Chevrolet Equinox #2198</p> <p>\$7,000* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 GMC Terrain</p> <p>\$7,000* off MSRP</p>	<p>2011 GMC Yukon #2077</p> <p>\$12,000* off MSRP</p>

*Prices do not include \$75 DOC fee. After rebate & hail discount, you may qualify for additional rebates. See dealer for details.

Don't Miss Your Chance to SAVE!

Northtown
CHEVROLET • BUICK • GMC • CADILLAC

“View our facility progress at facebook.com/NorthtownUSA”

3100 Broadway • Yankton, SD
(605) 665-4500 • (888) 876-7705

www.NorthtownUSA.com