

Note from Mark Goodrich & Michelle Butler, Minnesota State Fair

With the fair just a few short months away we thought we would be sure to highlight some of the components we're putting together for the 2012 State Fair Horse Show.

Here are 10 major items that most of you might be interested in:

1. **NEW! IMPORTANT!** The Minnesota State Fair must pay the premiums to the SADDLE CLUB (not an individual). Therefore, **EVERY SADDLE CLUB MUST HAVE a tax identification number (EIN) in the name of the club.** We **CANNOT** accept individual or personal tax identification numbers on Saddle Club W-9s! Every entry form must be accompanied by a completed W-9 for the current year on file, with the Saddle Club's tax identification number; if not, they will NOT be allowed to show at the Minnesota State Fair. It is very easy (and free) to apply for an EIN in the name of the saddle club. Simply go to www.irs.gov/businesses to apply on-line or you may call 1-800-829-4933 for additional information.
2. **NO SADDLE CLUB ENTRIES will be accepted before June 18.** Any Saddle Club entries we receive in our office prior to June 18 or with a USPS post mark prior to June 18 will be promptly returned to the exhibitor.
3. **AGAIN IN 2012!** We received lots of positive feedback regarding our changes in overnight parking and stalling. We are continuing to tweak and make some changes. Again, no Saddle Club vehicles or horses will be permitted until 10 p.m. Friday, August 31.
4. **AGAIN IN 2012!** Due to the high demand for overnight parking space in Lots A, B, C, & D livestock trailers will be parked across Como Ave. The fair will provide a scheduled shuttle service for our exhibitors to the livestock trailers each day for those that need to retrieve tack, feed, etc. from their livestock trailers.
5. The line-up for vehicle parking will follow the same procedure as it has the past couple of years; no line-up before 8 pm Friday, August 31. Vehicles arriving prior to that time will be required to go to our public lots and will be charged for the day. The State Fair Mounted Patrol will again do a random draw for the order of line-up at starting at 8 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE: You CANNOT stall your horse until 10 p.m., so please take that into account if you choose to arrive prior to then with your horse.**
6. **AGAIN IN 2012!** The overnight parking stickers will be available beginning **June 4.** Detailed information can be found on our website; www.mnstatefair.org in the coming weeks.
7. Make sure the qualifying dates you provide are the dates you actually qualified for the events. You will not be permitted to make changes to the qualifying dates unless the date change is for a show prior to the one you listed on your entries.
8. **The entry closing date is July 23 at 4:30 pm.**
9. The substitution of horse or rider will again be permitted (under certain circumstances). It has worked well the past couple of years and will be handled the same this year. Please refer to the premium book for specifics.
10. All shows (including the rodeo) will be free of charge. This year's rodeo will again be a Minnesota High School Rodeo event.

2012 Equine Complex changes

Ag Star Arena is on schedule to be completed in time for the 2012 Horse Show season. The new arena will include:

1. (34) 10' x 10' box stalls or (68) 5' x 10' tie stalls.
2. 2 wash stalls
3. Spectator seating for up to 600 people
4. Arena size is approximately 80' x 200'
5. Arena will incorporate a drive around design to allow for multiple trailer loading and unloading into the main Horse Barn or the new Ag Star Arena
6. Arena will be completely enclosed and insulated for the possibility to be used 9-10 months out of the year.
7. A new 100' x 200' outdoor warm-up/schooling ring west of the Ag Star Arena.

Horse Barn

1. The rubber matting project should be completed this year in the south barn and a goal of finishing the north barn also.
2. A new outdoor wash area on the northwest corner of the barn
3. Two new farrier pads on the west side of the barn.

Blue & White Barn *formally the Forage Barn*

1. Will be transformed into a multi-purpose stalling barn.
2. With the ability for (29) 10' x 10' box stalls, (58) 5' x 10' tie stalls or (64) 6' x 6' sheep/swine pens.

Coliseum

Installation of one large screen on the west end of the arena allows us to display real-time results, along with other information of interest to our exhibitors and spectators. In addition, we have installed a screen outside of the Coliseum (by the staging area under the arch) utilizing that screen for class staging information. Our goal is to expand this system to the new Ag Star Arena and at least half of the Horse Barn for the 2012 fair, with the other barns to follow in the future. This is a very ambitious undertaking and we're hopeful that our long range goals are successful and timely.

Livestock Parking

1. Continue to move all the livestock trailers that do NOT have living quarters to Block 55 (livestock trailers with living quarters will be treated like campers, and will require a paid camping sticker to be parked in any of the livestock lots on the grounds). This should allow us to accommodate everyone who needs to have a camping space on the grounds.
2. If the tow vehicle is unhooked from the camping unit, and is used to leave the grounds, a charge will be assessed and the vehicle must be properly credentialed. If the tow vehicle remains static, and is not unhooked from the camping unit, no additional charge will be made.
3. With the vast majority of the livestock trailers across the street, we will continue the shuttle system to Block 55 and Stella to haul forage and tack for exhibitors. This shuttle will run for a few hours in the mornings and in the evenings, with exact times and intervals TBD and posted in the barn office.
4. The WSCA arrival date and time will remain the same so as to not conflict with the MN High School Rodeo and the arrival of open class beef, open class dairy goats and FFA. WSCA will be arriving after 9 p.m. on Friday. This will continue to make load in for the livestock exhibitors less hectic and confusing.
5. Continue with the High School Rodeo performance on Friday afternoon to allow rodeo move-out and stall cleaning before WSCA move-in.
6. We will be using a campground program with all daily and over-night spaces being numbered. This will alleviate any over booking and allow for a more orderly process in our livestock lots.

Other Miscellaneous

1. We will continue with our implementation of equine educational programming to our Horse Show schedule. (We are finalizing plans with the MN Horse Council in a long term endeavor of Equine educational programming and presentation)
2. Adding a stalling program to help with arrival, departure, cleaning and disinfecting of stalls in a more efficient manner.
3. Adding Leo Fourre as our over-all Horse Show Superintendent. He will oversee and coordinate all of the equine events and activities at the Minnesota State Fair. The positions of divisional or discipline specific superintendents have been eliminated beginning in 2012 and will be replaced with one Assistant Horse Superintendent per division or discipline.