

CLEAN AIR FOR MINNESOTA'S COUNTY FAIRS

A Guide for Tobacco Control Advocates on Creating Tobacco-Free County Fairgrounds

Minnesota has approximately 95 county fairs across the state (some counties hold multiple fairs). That means residents of Minnesota have many opportunities during the year for fair food and fun. Just like the counties they serve, every fair is unique. Fairs have different visitors, participants, festivities, and events. This guide will provide you with some steps and information on how to help your county fair become a tobacco-free fair.

Creating a Tobacco-Free County Fair

The county fair should be an event that the whole community can enjoy. Allowing tobacco use at a fair may prevent children, families, the elderly, and people with respiratory or other medical conditions from experiencing the full fun that a county fair offers. A tobacco-free fair gives everyone the opportunity to visit the fair without worrying about the health risks caused by secondhand smoke and tobacco litter. As a tobacco control advocate, you can help the fair in your community understand the importance of becoming a tobacco-free environment.

- 1) **Work with Youth Organizations.** Youth who are involved in groups like 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) are often at the fair for many hours each day—sometimes even overnight—and may have a high interest in helping you get a smoke-free policy passed. (See the Resources section for information on contacting 4-H and FFA.)
- 2) **Create Your Request.** Think about whether you would like the entire fairgrounds to be free of tobacco use, and/or free of sponsorship. Keep in mind that if your fair also has a rodeo, the rodeo may have tobacco sponsorship (See TFYR's guide "Rounding up Tobacco in Minnesota Rodeos").
- 3) **Build Community Support.** Since the fair is for the entire community to enjoy, ask community members to show their support for a tobacco-free fair by writing letters of support or signing a petition.
- 4) **Talk to the Fair Board.** Contact the fair board to find out if you can attend a board meeting. Decisions about the fair are often made months in advance of the fair, so meet with the board early. Share the facts about the dangers of secondhand smoke and spit tobacco. Explain the many benefits of being tobacco free and of other fairs in the country that are tobacco free.
- 5) **Hold a Tobacco-Free Day.** Some fairs may not be ready to adopt a comprehensive tobacco-free policy right away. Ask the fair to go tobacco free for a day so they can see the benefits for themselves. Fairs often have special days like Kids Day, Family Day, or Safety Day that would be a natural fit to have a tobacco-free day. Be sure to publicize the fair's tobacco-free day and collect visitor comments to show the fair board the community's reactions.
- 6) **Help Create a Policy.** Once a fair has decided to go tobacco free, encourage them to write a tobacco-free policy. Written policies provide documentation that the fair is actually tobacco free. (See the enclosed model policies for tobacco-free fair policy examples.)
- 7) **Provide Signage.** Permanent signs are great ways to let visitors know that they are entering a tobacco-free environment. Temporary signs for high traffic areas will also increase visibility and awareness.
- 8) **Celebrate!** There are very few tobacco-free fairs in the country, and your county fair has just done an amazing service to the community. Letting the community know the fair is tobacco free will help attract more visitors and help to educate the public. Make an announcement in your local newspaper or put up flyers in businesses, day cares, and schools. You can also set up a booth during the fair to help celebrate your community's first annual tobacco-free fair!
- 9) **Don't Forget the Web.** If the fair has a Web site, encourage them to post an announcement that they are tobacco free on the home page. Contact TFYR to have the fair listed on TFYR's web site.
- 10) **Congratulate the Fair.** Take out an ad or write a letter-to-the-editor to thank the fair for protecting the health of its visitors, employees, and the community.



County Fairs in Minnesota

County/Region	City	Web site	Rodeo Events	Event Days	4-H/FFA	Attendance (2006)
Aitkin	Aitkin					15,000
Anoka	Anoka	www.anokacountyfair.com	Rodeo	Family Fun Night	4-H	45,000
Becker	Detroit Lakes	http://beckercountyfair.tripod.com		Kids Day	4-H and FFA	35,000
Beltrami	Bemidji					25,000
Benton	Sauk Rapids	www.bentonfairmn.com		Kids Day	4-H	98,000
Big Stone	Clinton	www.bscfair.org			4-H	9,000
Blue Earth	Garden City	www.blueearthcountyfair.org			4-H	14,000
Brown	New Ulm	www.browncountyfreefair.com	Bull Riding		4-H and FFA	20,000
Cannon Valley	Cannon Falls	www.cannonfalls.com			4-H and FFA	18,000
Carlton	Barnum	www.carltoncountyfair.com		4-H Night	4-H	49,000
Carver	Waconia	www.carvercountyfair.com	Rodeo	Senior Day, Kids Day	4-H	91,000
Cass	Pillager					2,000
Cass	Pine River					7,000
Chippewa	Montevideo					14,000
Chisago	Rush City	www.chisagocountyfair.org				15,000
Clay	Barnesville					19,000
Clearwater	Bagley					25,000
Cook	Grand Marais					550
Cottonwood	Windom					10,000
Crow Wing	Brainerd	www.brainerd.com/fair	Bull Riding	Military, Senior, Agriculture, Kids, Teen, & Family Days		91,000
Dakota	Farmington	www.dakotacountyfair.org	Bull Riding		4-H	129,000
Dodge	Kasson					38,000
Douglas	Alexandria					49,800
Faribault	Blue Earth					50,000
Fillmore	Preston	www.fillmorecountyfair.com	Rodeo	Military, Senior, 4-H, Kids, & Family Days	4-H	8,000
Freeborn	Albert Lea	www.freeborncountyfair.com		Day Care, Senior, & Kids Days		95,000
Goodhue	Zumbrota	www.goodhuecountyfair.com		Family Night		30,000
Grant	Herman					8,000
Hennepin	Corcoran	www.hennepincountyfair.com	Bull Riding	Family/Safety Day	4-H	16,000
Houston	Caledonia	www.houstoncountyfair.com			4-H	38,000
Hubbard	Park Rapids					14,000
Isanti	Cambridge	www.isanticountyfair.com	Rodeo	Senior Day, Kids Day	4-H	24,000
Itasca	Grand Rapids					40,000
Jackson	Jackson					15,000
Kanabec	Mora	www.kanabecfair.org			4-H	22,000
Kandiyohi	Willmar					22,000
Kittson	Hallock					15,000
Koochiching	Northome					5,000


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Lac Qui Parle	Madison					21,000
Lake	Two Harbors	www.thelakecountyfair.com	Rodeo	4-H Day/Teen Night, Kids, Family, & Senior Days	4-H	4,500
Lake of the Woods	Baudette					7,500
Le Sueur	Le Center	www.lesueurcountyfair.com				11,000
Lincoln	Tyler					4,000
Lyon	Marshall	www.lyoncountyfair.com	Rodeo	Senior Day	4-H	28,000
Mahnomen	Mahnomen	www.mahnomencountyfair.com			4-H and FFA	5,000
Marshall	Warren	www.marshallcountyfair.org				32,000
Martin	Fairmont	www.theotherbigfair.com		Senior Day, Kids Day	4-H and FFA	40,000
McLeod	Hutchinson					35,000
Meeker	Litchfield	www.co.meeker.mn.us				18,000
Mille Lacs	Princeton	www.millelacscountyfair.com				26,000
Morrison	Motley					5,000
Morrison	Little Falls					15,000
Mower	Austin	www.mowercountyfair.com		Teen Night	4-H and FFA	80,500
Murray	Slayton					18,000
Nicollet	St. Peter	www.nicolletcountyfair.com				20,000
Nobles	Worthington					8,000
Norman	Ada					12,000
Northern MN District	Littlefork					8,000
Olmsted	Rochester	www.olmstedcountyfair.com	Bull Riding	Senior Day	4-H and FFA	130,000
Ottertail	Fergus Falls					12,000
Ottertail	Perham					25,000
Pennington	Thief River Falls					25,000
Pine	Pine City	www.pinecountyfair.com			4-H	30,000
Pipestone	Pipestone					15,000
Polk	Fertile	www.polkcountyfairfertilemn.com		Senior Day	4-H	41,000
Pope	Glenwood	http://glenwood-lakes-area.info			4-H and FFA	10,000
Ramsey	Maplewood	www.ramseycountyfair.com				30,500
Red Lake	Oklee					2,000
Redwood	Redwood Falls	www.redwoodcountyfair.com		Day Care Day	4-H	19,500
Renville	Bird Island	www.renvillecountyfair.com	Rodeo	Family, Kids, & Senior Days	4-H and FFA	8,000
Rice	Faribault	www.ricecountyfair.net		Day Care, Senior, & Kids Days		55,000
Rock	Luverne					16,000
Roseau	Roseau	www.roseaucountyfair.com	Rodeo	Family Night		35,000
Scott	Jordan	www.scottcountyfair.com	Rodeo		4-H	38,000
Sherburne	Elk River	www.sherburnecountyfair.org	Rodeo		4-H	25,000
Sibley	Arlington	www.sibleycountyfair.com		Kids, Family, & Senior Days	4-H	16,000
St. Louis	Chisholm	www.stlofair.org	Bull Riding, Barrel Racing	Family, Kids, & Senior Days		32,000

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St. Louis	Proctor	www.proctorduluthfair.com		Kids Day, Teen Dance	4-H	15,000
Stearns	Sauk Center	www.stearnscountyfair.com				32,000
Steele	Owatonna	www.scff.org	Bull Riding	Kids & Senior Days	4-H	277,700
Stevens	Morris	www.scfair.net			4-H	38,500
Swift	Appleton	www.swiftcountyfair.org		Kids, Senior, & Family Days	4-H and FFA	15,500
Todd	Long Prairie	www.co.todd.mn.us				
Traverse	Wheaton					8,000
Tri-County	Mankato					
Wabasha	Wabasha	www.wabashacountyfair.org		Senior Day	4-H	3,500
Wadena	Wadena					1,500
Waseca	Waseca	www.wasecacountyfair.org			4-H	32,000
Washington	Lake Elmo	www.washingtoncountyfair.org		Senior, Family Fun, & Fire Fighters Days	4-H and FFA	54,000
Watonwan	St. James					10,000
Wilkin	Breckenridge					25,000
Winona	St. Charles	www.winonacountyfair.com	Rodeo		4-H	38,000
Wright	Howard Lake	www.wrightcountyfair.com			4-H	45,000
Yellow Medicine	Canby					10,000

County Fair Resources

- ❖ **Your County's Fair:** Fairs may change a little from year to year, so be sure to visit the Web site for the fair in your county for the latest information on fair dates, event days, and activities.
- ❖ **County Fairs and Other Outdoor Events Guide:** The guide was created for California and is available for order. It provides insight on steps to take to create a tobacco-free fair. <<http://www.tobaccofreecatalog.org>>
- ❖ **4-H and FFA Groups:** Minnesota's 4-H County Extension offices: <<http://www.fourh.umn.edu/join.html>>; Minnesota's FFA Association: <<http://www.ffa.umn.edu/association/>>
- ❖ **Minnesota Federation of County Fairs:** For more information on contacting the coordinator for each fair, visit the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs at <<http://mfcf.com>>.
- ❖ **Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation:** Contact TFYR for an updated list of fairs around the country that have adopted tobacco-free policies.




Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation
 2395 University Avenue West, Suite 310
 St. Paul, MN 55114
 651-646-3005
tfy@ansrmn.org
www.ansrmn.org