



October 28, 2013

The Honorable Dave Heineman,  
Governor of Nebraska  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 94848  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Heineman:

On behalf of the Nebraska State Fair Board, it is our pleasure to present to you the enclosed accounting of expenditures in accordance with Article III-24 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, specifying the expenditure of funds the Nebraska State Fair has made in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. An explanation of the expenditures contained in the report is also enclosed.

All expenditures were designed to improve the quality of the Nebraska State Fair and the experience the fair provides for all Nebraskans.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding the aforementioned items, please feel free to contact me at 308-382-1620.

As you know, the 2013 Nebraska State Fair was successful by any measure and we will work to ensure the success continues. We look forward to your continued participation at the 2014 Nebraska State Fair.

Sincerely,

Joseph McDermott, CFE  
Executive Director  
Nebraska State Fair

Enclosure

cc: Senator Greg L. Adams, Speaker of the Legislature  
Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature  
Gerry Oligmueller, Acting D.A.S. Director  
Gerry Oligmueller, State Budget Administrator  
Dave Spatz, State Budget Analyst



**State Fair Funds Account**  
**July 1, 2012 Through June 30, 2013**

**Balance of State Fair Funds account on June 30, 2012** \$2,164,804.83

**Contributions**

State Lottery funds	\$3,848,022.00	
Interest earned	\$5,436.41	
City match	<u>\$384,803.00</u>	
<b>Total contributions during the period</b>		<b>\$4,238,261.41</b>

**Expenditures**

<b>Note</b>	<b><u>Building &amp; Grounds</u></b>	
1	Campground Improvements	\$82,699.51
2	Skytram installation	\$106,247.49
3	Beef Pit - new air conditioning system	\$10,210.00
4	New lights west of cattle/sheep barns	\$41,825.00
5	Sprinkler systems	\$64,829.96
6	Architectural/Engineering fees for Nebraska Building	\$68,835.85
7	Sidewalk through Kidz Zone	\$14,300.00
8	Dirt work in Five Points Bank Arena	\$19,145.00
9	Parking Lot improvements	\$21,671.55
10	Grounds Signage	\$56,460.50
11	New light fixtures in Quilt Room	<u>\$5,990.00</u>
	<b>Totals - Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$492,214.86</b>

**Equipment**

12	Telehandler	\$96,000.00
13	Bobcat Attachments	\$7,200.00
14	Ten row bleachers - 2	\$17,150.00
15	Shuttles - handicap accessible	\$7,220.19
16	Shelving system for warehouses	\$20,000.00
17	Picnic tables/benches	\$29,668.00
18	Cages/equipment for Poultry Exhibits	\$11,564.23
19	Wireless equipment for exhibition buildings	<u>\$8,454.78</u>
	<b>Total - Equipment</b>	<b>\$197,257.20</b>

**Operations**

20	Fair Operations	<u>\$2,550,057.04</u>
	<b>Total - Operations</b>	<b>\$2,550,057.04</b>

**Debt Repayment**

21	Payment on debt	<u>\$658,370.14</u>
	<b>Total - Debt Repayment</b>	<b>\$658,370.14</b>

**Total Expenditures** \$3,897,899.24

**Balance of State Fair Funds account on June 30, 2013** \$2,505,167.00

**Note: Project\Equipment costs are as of June 30 and not necessarily reflective of final project costs**

# **Expenditures from State Fair Funds Account**

**July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013**

**The Nebraska State Fair Board of Directors approved the following improvements:**

## **1) Campground Improvements**

52 additional camping stalls were completed with pavement and electrical hookups in the new campground area. As a result, we now have a total of 131 camping spots available with full service including electricity, water and sewer. These camping accommodations are used for State Fair guests and exhibitors.

## **2) Sky Tram installation**

A new partnership was created with Wade Shows to provide a new carnival midway. As part of the partnership package, Wade Shows also partnered with the State Fair to install the Sky Tram. The Nebraska State Fair was responsible for erecting the towers complete with electrical service and lighting, while Wade Shows provides the ride for the 11 days of the fair.

## **3) Beef Pit**

The State Fair installed an additional air conditioning unit for the kitchen area of the Nebraska Cattleman's Beef Pit. This solved the problem of higher than comfortable temperatures created by the large ovens in the kitchen.

## **4) New lights west of cattle/sheep barns**

The State Fair added six light poles to the west side of the cattle and sheep barns. This action was needed to provide light during the fair and other events throughout the year. The light poles used were moved from the front of the livestock buildings to accommodate the erection of the Sky Tram towers with lights.

## **5) Sprinkler Systems**

Underground sprinkler systems were installed in the Family Fun Zone and Swine Park areas. The system was needed to aid in keeping both areas green to enhance the fairgoers experience.

## **6) Architectural/Engineering fees of Nebraska Building**

Architectural drawings and the construction of the Nebraska Building were approved. The Nebraska Building will house the State Fair administrative offices on the second floor with the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Game and Parks using the first floor exhibition space. The University of Nebraska exhibit will include a hands-on interactive exhibition of Nebraska agriculture from farm to fork.

The Game and Parks Commission returns to the State Fair with many of fairgoer favorites in Lincoln like the shooting sports, archery and Nebraska fish aquarium. Anticipated move in date is April 1, 2014.

#### **7) Sidewalk through Family Fun Zone**

An additional sidewalk was installed in Family Fun Zone to create a more inviting and safe approach to the midway for the fair guests.

#### **8) Dirt work in Five Points Bank Arena**

A new dirt mixture replaced the old in the Five Points Bank arena. This new mixture creates a better footing for draft horses and a solid base for other livestock shows.

#### **9) Parking Lot improvements**

Additional property for parking was leased east of Stuhr Road. The additional parking area was needed to handle overflow parking on the State Fair's busiest days. Vehicle gates and a pedestrian crosswalk were installed across Stuhr Road along with signage to identify the entrance and exit of the parking lot. A fence was added along Stuhr road to create a safety barrier to keep pedestrians from crossing the street other than at the crosswalk.

#### **10) Grounds Signage**

A total of three sponsorship signs were added to identify the Five Points Bank Arena. One on the front, one on the back and one inside the main arena foyer. Restroom/ticket booth signs and several grounds-wide banners were purchased as well. Signage and door clings were added to address the need for fair guests to wash their hands after visiting livestock to prevent the spread of disease.

#### **11) New light fixtures in Quilt Room**

Additional lighting was added to increase the ability to better showcase the many beautiful quilts that are on display during the fair.

#### **12) Tele-handler**

A new Tele-handler (multi-purpose tractor) was purchased to replace old worn-out equipment, and increase our versatility for set up and take down of the State Fair.

#### **13) Bobcat Attachments**

Larger buckets were purchased to increase the efficiency of the Livestock department.

#### **14) Ten row bleachers – Two sets**

Additional bleachers were purchased to create more seating for the grounds attractions.

### **15) Shuttles – handicap accessible**

Wheelchair lifts were added to the three remaining on grounds shuttles creating wheelchair accessibility available on all units. With this improvement more fair guests are able to ride the shuttles.

### **16) Shelving system for warehouse**

Additional shelving was added to increase the square footage and efficiency of our storage buildings in which fair related items are stored.

### **17) Picnic tables/benches**

Picnic tables/benches were purchased to create additional seating to fulfill the requests of our fair guests. This will be an ongoing process with new seating added each year.

### **18) Cages/equipment for Poultry Exhibits**

The Open Poultry Show has grown over the last few years and in need of additional cages, with emphasis on larger cages for turkeys, large birds, etc.

### **19) Wireless equipment for exhibition buildings**

In preparation for the 2013 Nebraska State Fair, we evaluated our wireless network both inside the buildings and outside in the Market Place. As a result of the review, we needed to upgrade the current technology which was installed in 2009 when the fair moved to Grand Island. The newer technology allows more people to access the wireless network during the fair. It also improves management, coverage, and speed in the three areas that were upgraded, Pinnacle Bank Expo Building, 4H/FFA Building and the outdoor Market Place.

### **20) Fair Operations**

Operations were subsidized to improve the overall quality of events produced at the State Fair as well as improve customer service within those events resulting in a single day attendance record since moving to Grand Island with 71,355 fairgoers on Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Surveys of guests at the 2013 Nebraska State Fair indicated that the number one reason our guests come to the fair is for the *Overall Experience*.

### **21) Debt Repayment**

As a result of the construction of the buildings in Grand Island in 2009/2010 and the new Nebraska Building currently under construction, the State Fair Board has incurred debt which will be paid down over the next several years. The amount listed are payments for interest and principal during the period covered with this report.