

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS (WAF) ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE
AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

Sunday, January 5, 2025	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
7:00-9:00AM	BREAKFAST BUFFET
9:00-10:00AM	WAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9:00-10:00AM	FAIREST COMMITTEE MEETING
10:30-11:15AM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS CONTESTANT REGISTRATION (door 10)
11:00AM	SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING
12:00-3:00PM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS SCRAPBOOKS ON DISPLAY: The Fairest of the Fairs Contestants have brought scrapbooks highlighting their local fairest reign. There will be multiple times in the program to view them and maybe borrow some ideas.
2:00-8:00PM	CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPEN
2:15-3:15PM	FAIREST COORDINATOR NETWORKING: This is an opportunity for coordinators to share ideas and network.
3:30-5:00PM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS MEET THE CONTESTANTS: Come and watch the Fairest of the Fairs Contestants introduce themselves and answer an impromptu fair question.
4:30-5:00PM	SESSION #1: FIRST TIME ATTENDEE GATHERING: If it's your first time attending our convention, let us give you an overview of the convention. Our group loves to share and network so give us a chance to welcome you to convention!
5:00-6:30PM	SESSION #2: BRIGHT IDEAS WITH DEB GEGARE: Sharing new things or improved ideas shared from fellow fairs, Deb will showcase these ideas.
5:30-6:30PM	SESSION #3: TBA
6:30-8:00PM	CARNIVAL NIGHT: This reception is sponsored by members of the carnival industry. Enjoy free food and beverages while socializing with our carnival members. In addition, a 50/50 raffle will be held with proceeds going back to WAF to help with our evening receptions.
8:30PM	CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

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Monday, January 6, 2025	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
7:00-9:00AM	GRAND BREAKFAST BUFFET
7:00-9:00AM	GRAND BREAKFAST BUFFET
8:00AM-4:00PM	REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
8:00-9:30AM	SESSION #4: WE ARE FAMILY
9:00AM-1:00PM	TRADE SHOW SET UP
10:00AM	SPECIAL PROJECTS ACTIVITY: Join us for fun activities to get our convention attendees fired up for the start of convention.
10:30AM	CONVENTION KICKOFF: Let's get our convention underway with a few fair stories, awards, welcome from special guests and a keynote address.
11:00AM-12:00PM	<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ian Hill - Humanitarian, Business Leader, Award-Winning Social Innovator, and World Record Breaker. Ian Hill is celebrated for his tireless efforts in building stronger communities. Ian has worked with hundreds of fairs, agricultural societies, 4-H groups, and rodeo leaders across North America, helping them continue their valuable work in strengthening communities and promoting agricultural heritage.</p> <p>His work has always centered on creating spaces where people can come together, connect, and grow—values closely aligned with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs' mission of fostering community through local fairs and events.</p>
12:30-1:30PM	<p>SESSION #5: PREPARE TO RESPOND: Is your fair proactive or reactive to emergencies and hazards? Do you have an emergency plan for both before and after emergencies happen? What do to before and after severe weather hits? How do you avoid public threats that may not be seen as a threat? These and many other questions will be addressed as we focus on the safety and hazards on the grounds and how you deal with those unexpected happenings.</p>
12:30-1:30PM	<p>SESSION #6: AG EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS WAF has teamed up with Kelsey Henderson, our WI FOTF, to update the 4th grade educational materials. Join Kelsey as she showcases the updated program that you can share with schools in your area. This is a great promotional tool every fair can customize.</p>
1:00-4:00PM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS SCRAPBOOKS ON DISPLAY: The Fairest of the Fairs Contestants have brought scrapbooks highlighting their local fairest reign. There will be multiple times in the program to view them and maybe borrow some ideas.
1:00-4:00PM	TRADE SHOW OPEN: Come and network with our Associate Members in the trade show with more than 60 booths to visit. Then when you are done in the trade show, be sure to visit the Associates in Vendor Row in the condos. They are great Fair partners for us so be sure to visit as many as you can.
1:45-2:00PM	SHOWCASE COMMITTEE MEETING
2:00-3:00PM	AUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING
2:30-3:30PM	RESOLUTIONS & AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING
2:30-3:30PM	PREMIUMS COMMITTEE

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4:00PM	CHEESE PARTY & AUCTION VIEWING: Join us for snacks, beer and soda, including Wisconsin's favorite, cheese. Then view the items our Fairest of the Fairs Contestants have brought to donate to our auction.
5:00PM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS AUCTION: Bid high and bid often on these amazing Fairest of the Fairs auction items. Proceeds first go back to the Fairest of the Fairs Program, and then to offset convention expenses to keep your registration fees low.
7:00PM	SHOWCASE OF ENTERTAINMENT: Enjoy tonight's entertainment from our Associate Members. We are excited to share these talented groups with you. We hope one or more of them will be invited to play your fair.
Following Showcase	TIME TO SOCIALIZE: Take this time to Visit our Associate Members on Vendor Row. You are also welcome to stay and network in the Riverview Rooms following the showcase.

Tuesday, January 7, 2025	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
6:30-9:00AM	GRAND BREAKFAST BUFFET
7:00-9:00AM	GRAND BREAKFAST BUFFET
8:00-4:00PM	REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
8:00-9:30AM	SESSION #7: DATCP AG UPDATE & NETWORKING: Join Dr. Konkle, WI DATCP Veterinarian for an update on Animal Health Update along with Bernie O'Rourke and Jason Hausler, UW Extension and Debbie Gegare, Fairs Coordinator, WI DATCP as the panel to address any animal questions regarding fairs.
8:00-9:30AM	SESSION #8: STRUCTURED FOR SUCCESS: Discover the reasons behind common organizational challenges: engaging volunteers, leadership that resists change, the uphill battle of recruiting board members, and stagnant progress. If these issues resonate with your organization, the root cause may be your structure. This session uses a straightforward sports analogy to help you identify and place the right people in the right roles.
8:30-9:30AM	SESSION #9: FAIREST COORDINATORS: Q&A with the WAF fairest committee and local fairest coordinators.
9:30-11:30AM	COFFEE BREAK
10:00-11:30AM	SESSION #10: RECRUITING AND RETAINING VOLUNTEERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY with Ian Hill In today's dynamic environment, attracting and keeping dedicated volunteers is crucial for the success of fairs and community events. This session will explore modern strategies to engage volunteers effectively, leveraging technology and understanding evolving motivations to build a committed volunteer base.
11:30AM-12:00PM	ASSOCIATE MEMBER MEETING: All Associate Members are invited to attend a short member meeting to provide feedback on the convention.
12:00-1:30PM	LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
12:00-3:00PM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS SCRAPBOOKS ON DISPLAY: The Fairest of the Fairs Contestants have brought scrapbooks highlighting their local fairest reign. There will be multiple times in the program to view them and maybe borrow some ideas.

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12:00-3:00PM	TRADE SHOW OPEN: Come and network with our Associate Members in the trade show. More than 60 booths to visit. Then when you are done in the trade show, be sure to visit the Associates in Vendor Row in the condos. They are great Fair partners for us so be sure to visit as many as you can.
1:30-4:30PM	ONE-ON-ONE WITH UW EXTENSION: For those members that would like some time to talk to Jason Hausler and staff about UW Extensions partnership with your fair, can sign up for one-on-one sessions. Sign up forms will be available in December on the convention website.
1:00-2:00PM	ICE CREAM BREAK
12:30-1:30PM	SESSION #11: WI DATCP FAIRS COORDINATION UPDATE: Deb Gegare, Fairs Coordinator for the WI DATCP, will give an update from the office including ATCP160, judges, and SharePoint.
1:30-4:00PM	ONE-ON-ONE WITH DEB GEGARE: For those members that would like a little more assistance with SharePoint, you can sign up for a one-on-one session. Sign up forms will be available in December on the convention website.
1:30-3:00PM	SILENT AUCTION ITEMS RECEIVED: Have an item for our Silent Auction? Now is the time to bring them so the committee can have time to organize for the silent auction. All Fair and Associate Members are invited to bring donated items.
3:00 - 4:30PM	FAIREST OF THE FAIRS PRELIMINARIES: Contestants will present at 30 second Radio Advertisement and answer an impromptu question to our convention attendees.
3:00-5:00PM	SILENT AUCTION OPEN FOR BIDS: View the items and if you find an item or two you like, make a bid. Bidding will end at 7:00 pm.
6:00-6:45PM	PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION: Join us for a taco bar, soda and beer.
6:00PM	SILENT AUCTION LAST HOUR: Keep bidding! The silent auction closes at 7:00 pm. Thank you for your support!
7:00PM	SHOWCASE OF ENTERTAINMENT: Enjoy tonight's entertainment from our Associate Members. We are excited to share these talented groups with you. We hope one or more of them will be invited to play your fair.
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Wednesday, January 8, 2025	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
6:30-9:00AM	GRAND BREAKFAST BUFFET
7:00-9:00AM	GRAND BREAKFAST BUFFET
8:00AM-4:00PM	REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
8:30-10:00AM	BUSINESS MEETING: All members are invited to attend our Annual Business Meeting. We'll share highlights from this past year and plans for 2023.
10:30-12:00PM	SESSION #12 EXPANDING YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE: SPONSORSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COLLABORATIONS with Ian Hill Expanding your fair's reach and impact requires strategic relationships with sponsors, partners, and collaborators. This session will provide insights into building and maintaining these relationships to enhance resources and community engagement.
12:00-1:30PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
12:15-1:15PM	SESSION #13: MAKE IT-TAKE IT Join us as we "mustard up" some fun Make it-Take it ideas for your Fair. This will be a fast-paced workshop on how to create a new Make it-Take it activity from start to finish.
12:15-1:15PM	SESSION #14: ENERGIZING YOUR BRAND & WHY IT MATTERS! Does your logo match your brand? What about the fonts you are using? Or the colors? Believe it or not – it all matters! We will go through a few easy steps on elevating your brand as well as dive into the new Wisconsin Association of Fairs logo, which was proudly reimagined by Team Saffire! This will be a fun, light-hearted way to wrap up convention!
1:30-2:30AM	DISTRICT MEETINGS
	DISTRICT 1: Dale Christiansen & Rhonda Klement
	DISTRICT 2: Jackie Kumm & Linda Degner
	DISTRICT 3: Amy Olson & Liz Cook
	DISTRICT 4: Mary Check & Eileen Wash-Grzenia
2:45-4:30PM	SCRAPBOOKS ON DISPLAY
4:30-8:30PM	AWARDS BANQUET AND FAIREST OF THE FAIRS FINALE: Join us as we wrap up the 2024 convention. We are excited to recognize award winners and select the 2024 WI Fairest of the Fairs. Separate banquet ticket is required.
AFTER BANQUET	CELEBRATE & CONGRATULATE SOCIAL: Come and introduce yourself to the 2024 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs and congratulate our award winners. Join us for a few snacks and cake as we conclude our convention.