



## Visit us at The Fair!

A number of Rice County departments will have booths at this year's fair, including:

- Extension Office
- County Attorney
- Public Health
- Sheriff (mobile command unit)
- Solid Waste

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Dundas • Faribault  
Lonsdale • Morristown  
Nerstrand • Northfield  
Warsaw • Webster

## For More Than 150 Years, Fairs Have Offered Entertaining Mix of Old and New

*Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue ...*

The traditional formula for good luck at weddings turns out to be a pretty good formula for a county fair too. The fair that will take place July 20–25 has a number of elements that those who attended the first fair in 1859 would recognize. And new-fangled ones that would make them scratch their heads in earnest.

4H-type agricultural, mechanical, domestic arts and cultural contests have been a constant throughout the years. As it did in the beginning, today's fair features competitions to determine who has raised the best sheep or swine, who's preserved the tastiest jams, jellies and pickles, who's done the best needlework. But, what do you think the farmers and townfolk of 1859 would have thought of last year's 4H llama contest? Or the aerospace, robotics and digital photography competitions?

Another constant at the fair has been racing. Today the track is filled with Enduro racers and people bashing their vehicles into one another in a "demolition derby" that would probably horrify the folks of yesteryear. A century ago, however, the track was filled with drivers trying to get their horses to equal the feats of

Dan Patch, the harness horse who set a record by trotting a mile in less than two minutes.

### Something "Borrowed"

The harness racing, by the way, took place in Northfield – on a track at Carleton College, near where Skinner Memorial Chapel now stands. The county fair is held in Faribault now, but Northfield was home to the county fair from 1868 to 1938. Well, home to "a" county fair. The Northfield gathering was almost from the beginning called the Rice County Fair. The fair that began in 1859 in Faribault was sponsored by the Rice County Agricultural Society and known for years as the Rice County Exposition and 4H Club Fair.

The cities sometimes held their fairs in alternating years. In other years, two fairs were held. In 1927, after "a spirited debate," Faribault businessmen were able to persuade the Rice County Board to declare the Faribault fair the official county fair and to purchase permanent fairgrounds. The Northfield fair continued for another 11 years, becoming more of a street fair before folding in 1938, unable to compete any longer with the county-subsidized fair.

[See Rice County Fair, page 2](#)

## New Environmental Services Department Will Save an Estimated \$95,000 Per Year

An opening created by the departure five months ago of the director of the Department of Solid Waste and a downturn in the number of building inspections being conducted by the Office of Planning and Zoning have combined to provide Rice County with the opportunity to merge the two areas into a larger Environmental Services Department. The change, which the Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed to on June 22, will save the county an estimated \$95,000, said County Administrator Gary Weiers.

It's not just about the money, he added, though cuts in state aid have stressed the county budget. "Doing this makes more efficient use of the talent and experience of

people already on staff, people whose work on issues such as responsible building and development, maintaining water quality and resource conservation, mesh well with the task of managing the county landfill and overseeing recycling."

Julie Runkel, who has been director of planning and zoning since January 2006, will head the new department. Her previous experience includes three years as a planner and assistant director for Chisago County Environmental Services and three years as director of Wabasha County Environmental Services. She holds a master's degree in environmental and public health from University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire.

## On the Web

### On The Road to Smooth, Safe Summer Travel

Minnesota, they say, has two seasons: winter and road construction. You can find out about the road work taking place in Rice County each year by visiting [www.co.rice.mn.us/highway/projects.php](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/highway/projects.php)

Here you will find listings of all the county road projects underway, many with links to separate pages that contain detailed descriptions of the project, such as this one of the bridge replacement on CSAH 11 over Crocker Creek (7th Street NW in Faribault):

“This project is funded with State Aid Bridge Bonding Funds. It will include the removal of the existing, structurally deficient bridge and replacement with two 12’x7’ precast concrete box culverts. The project will also include the widening of the section of road over the new culverts to match the adjacent street width of 48 feet, reconstruction of in-place storm sewers, sanitary sewer, water main and entrances to local businesses within the project area.”



Construction dates, detour information and downloadable maps, and weekly project updates are also provided, and, in many cases, photos of the construction being done.

Produced by Graffics Design and Ashmore Ink.

## The Rice County Fair Through The Years

Continued from page 1

Some old-time Northfielders felt that the fair had been “stolen” from them, noted a 1976 article in the *Northfield News*. Things worked themselves out in due course, however. The timing of the Rice County Fair in Faribault eventually was moved from early fall to mid-summer, and in 1948 a group of Northfielders organized the Defeat of Jesse James Days celebration – giving residents and visitors to the county the opportunity to enjoy terrific community gatherings in July and September each year.

### Something “Blue”

4H ribbons are the biggest source of “blue” at the county fair, though in the 1930s some ladies were moved to write to the organizing committee to complain that the entertainment being offered – “the newest of the popular stage and screen dance crazes, girls and girls, beautiful of face and form” – was a little too “blue” (racy) for their taste.

Mainly, of course, entertainment at the fair is family-friendly, with performances of music ranging from acts like the Kitty Wells Grand Ole Opry Show and Ohio Express (“Yummy, Yummy, Yummy”), featured at the 1969 fair, Foghat (“Slow Ride”), which appeared in 2005, and this year’s offerings, which include country star Johnny Lee (“Looking for Love [in All the Wrong Places]”) and a bluegrass and gospel music festival.

Often fairgoers have made their own entertainment – from parades, pageants, and baseball and wrist wrestling tournaments to contests that probably wouldn’t fly in the 21st



“Some of the Splendid Entries in the Horse Department.”  
From a 1914 booklet called *The Rice County Fair in Photos*.  
Photo courtesy of the Northfield Historical Society.

century. At the 1935 fair, for instance, there was a whistling contest just for girls and volunteer contestants could win 50¢ for being judged the “boy with the most freckles,” the “tallest man” or the “heaviest woman.” Prizes of \$1 went to the winners of the “hog calling contest” and the “husband calling contest.”

### Putting the Story Back Together Again

The Rice County Fair has an illustrious history that dates back more than 150 years. Unfortunately, the fire that destroyed the fair’s grandstand in 1990 also destroyed the many records and artifacts that organizers had collected over the decades and stored there.

“If you’ve got mementoes and photographs of the fair tucked away in your attic, please consider donating them to the Rice County Historical Society,” says Director Sue Garwood. “It doesn’t have to be a group of things in order to be of interest to us. It may be only one ribbon won by a grandparent or a photo taken at the fair – a premium book or even a story of an experience you’d like to share. Individual artifacts, when put together, create the whole story that we’re trying to preserve.”

## Visit Public Health at The Fair!

Rice County Public Health will again have a booth at the fair. This year’s theme is “Health and Physical Activity.” Adults can enter their names in a drawing for some great prizes, and there will be a game for children to play. Once

again, we will sponsor a breast-feeding area in the exhibit building for the convenience of fair-goers.

Be sure to stop by when you visit the 2010 Rice County Fair!

## Loans and Grants Available to Help Homeowners Upgrade Septic Systems and Reduce Water Pollution

“Rice County has as many as 7,500 septic systems,” estimated Director of Environmental Services Julie Runkel. “To date, Planning and Zoning has inventoried more than 1,400 parcels, and 152 had systems on them that were deemed ‘imminent health threats,’ i.e., systems that cause ‘ground surface or surface water discharges or sewage backup into a dwelling or other establishment.’ Bringing these into compliance will not only reduce hazards to human health, but also reduce and prevent water pollution that can affect things like lake and groundwater quality.”

A loan program established by the Board of Commissioners is helping homeowners upgrade septic systems that need attention. The Rice County ISTS (Individual Sewage Treatment Systems) Revolving Loan Program, administered by the Rice County Planning Department, provides low-interest loans of up to \$15,000 per residential property to county property owners. Rates are based on the applicant’s gross household income, adjusted for family size. Principal and interest will be paid biannually in conjunction with property taxes, and loans will have a seven-year term.

Who is eligible for these loans? Individuals who own residential property in Rice County on which the improvement is to be made. The property must have enough value remaining after subtracting any mortgages and/or liens on the property from the assessed market value to cover the cost of the loan.

What kinds of improvements are eligible to be covered? Funds may be used to finance the

site evaluation, design and replacement of a failed or nonconforming individual septic system. This includes an individual’s cost to join an approved cluster collection system. It may also include well sealing and/or well replacement if the well needs to be relocated due to the new septic system location and setback requirements. Funds may not be used to increase capacity of an individual sewage treatment system beyond what is reasonably required to serve existing buildings or for new construction.

Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, Runkel noted. A fee of \$200 per property is due when the application is submitted. For more information, contact: Rice County Planning, 320 NW 3rd Street, Faribault, MN 55021, 507-332-6113; e-mail inquiries to [replanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:replanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us)

“Rice County is also offering 50% cost-share grants of up to \$6,000 to applicants who apply for USDA Rural Development loans and meet the agency’s ‘very low-income limits’ and whose septic systems are classified as imminent public health threats,” noted Runkel. The USDA Rural Development loan program aids very low-income rural residents. For information on how to apply for this assistance, contact: USDA, Rural Development, 1810 30th Street NW, Suite 3, Faribault, MN 55021, 507-332-7418 ext. 4.

The Rice County Planning and Zoning Department is continuing to survey the county as funds permit, said Runkel. It next will begin inventorying in Forest Township.

## County Profile



### Donna Morelan

**Accounts Payable/Elections Coordinator, Rice County Auditor/Treasurer’s Office**

Donna Morelan has worked for Rice County for 30 years, in the Treasurer’s Office (1974–79) and in the Auditor’s Office (since 1985), where she processes accounts payable and assists with all the functions of the election process.

“Before working here, I didn’t realize all the work that goes into having an election. Many hours go into preparing for each one, from reviewing new election laws and training election judges (we train about 300 every two years) to testing voting equipment and administering absentee balloting.”

What advice does Donna have for people who intend to vote in the primary election on August 10 and the general election on November 2?

“Remember that voting at the polls will be easier if you are already registered. You can register on the day of the election by presenting an approved proof of residence, like a valid Minnesota driver’s license, but if you register at least 21 days before that, things will go much more smoothly.”

Donna was raised on a farm in Bridgewater Township and graduated from Faribault Senior High School. Her husband, Kim, works at Xcel Energy. They have two children, Kelly and Kristopher. When not working, Donna enjoys reading, walking, watching her son race at Elko Speedway, and spending time with her five-year-old grandson Zachary.

## Public Health Awards Mini-Grants to Projects Improving Access to Nutritious Foods, Exercise

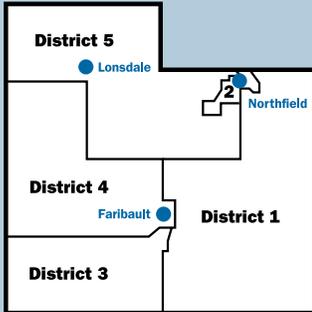
As part of its first year of Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant funding with the Minnesota Department of Health, Rice County Public Health awarded more than \$26,000 to 13 community organizations and schools working on projects related to healthy weight and healthy behaviors. Coordinating the work of SHIP throughout the county is County Health Educator Natalie Ginter. “We are making real strides at addressing the goal of SHIP, which is to prevent chronic disease risk factors of poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and tobacco use and exposure,” said Ginter. “I am amazed at the

amount of creativity and passion that exists in our community when it comes to health.”

Ginter also noted that while the funding for the first year of SHIP has all been allocated, another application period begins after July 1. For information, go to <http://healthyricecounty.org/funding-opportunities/>

In its first year of SHIP, Rice County Public Health made it a priority to provide grants of up to \$5,000 for projects related to improved access to nutritious foods and increased opportunities for physical activity in schools and communities.

## Contacts



### Rice County Board of Commissioners (as of January 1, 2009)

#### District 1

Jake Gillen  
507-334-5746  
jgillen@co.rice.mn.us

#### District 2

Galen Malecha  
507-645-6041  
gmalecha@co.rice.mn.us

#### District 3

Milt Plaisance  
507-334-7612  
mplaisance@co.rice.mn.us

#### District 4

Steve Bauer  
507-334-9700  
sbauer@co.rice.mn.us

#### District 5

Jeff Docken  
952-652-2876  
jdocken@co.rice.mn.us

## Phone Numbers

General Information 507-332-6100  
**Toll-Free Numbers** (do not dial "1" or area code)  
 From Northfield 645-9576  
 From Lonsdale 744-5185

## Rice County Standing Meetings

### Board of Commissioners

Meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month as a Committee of the Whole/Work Session, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month as a Regular Board, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

### Planning Commission

Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month, 7:00 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

### Board of Adjustment

Meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month; 7:00 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

### Community Corrections Advisory Board

Meets the third Thursday of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December), 3:30 p.m., Rice County Government Services Building.

### Community Health Services

#### Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meets the fourth Wednesday every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November), 6:30–8:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6111 for location.

### Emergency Medical Services Provider Council

Meets quarterly, 7:00–9:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6119 for meeting date and location.

### Mental Health Advisory Council

Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friendship House, located at 212-B Central Avenue, Faribault.

## Rice County Departments

### Administrator

507-332-6101 Gary Weiers  
gweiers@co.rice.mn.us

### Assessor

507-332-6102 Paul Knutson  
pknutson@co.rice.mn.us

### Attorney

507-332-6103 Paul Beaumaster  
pbeaumaster@co.rice.mn.us

### Auditor/Treasurer

507-332-6104 Fran Windschitl  
fwindschitl@co.rice.mn.us

### Community Corrections Director

507-332-6106 James Haas  
jhaas@co.rice.mn.us

### Court Administrator

507-332-6107 Robert Langer  
robert.langer@courts.state.mn.us

### Economic Development Director

507-332-6126 Deanna Kuennen  
dkuennen@co.rice.mn.us

### Environmental Services Director

507-332-6113 Julie Runkel  
jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us

### Extension Educator

507-332-6109 Brad Carlson  
bcarlson@umn.edu

### Highway Engineer

507-332-6110 Dennis Luebbe  
dluebbe@co.rice.mn.us

### Human Resource Manager

507-332-6123 Kerie Anderka  
kanderka@co.rice.mn.us

### Information Technology Director

507-332-5968

### Parks/Facilities Director

507-332-6105 Joe McGough  
jmcgough@co.rice.mn.us

### Public Health & CHS Director

507-332-6111

### Recorder

507-332-6114 Marsha DeGroot  
mdegroot@co.rice.mn.us

### Sheriff

507-332-6010 Richard Cook  
rescook@co.rice.mn.us

### Social Services Director

507-332-6115 Mark Shaw  
mshaw@co.rice.mn.us

### Veterans' Service Officer

507-332-6176 Tracy McBroom  
trmcbroom@co.rice.mn.us



## 2010 Rice County Fair Calendar

### TUESDAY, JULY 20

Exhibits & Barns – 5 p.m.  
 Midway Open – 5 p.m.  
 Fair Queen Coronation – 7 p.m.  
 Demolition Derby – 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

Exhibits & Barns – All Day  
 Midway Open – 3 p.m.  
 Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.  
 Super Cross Races – 7 p.m.  
 Rockin Hollywoods – 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JULY 22

Exhibits & Barns – All Day  
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.  
 Guitar Star – 5:30 p.m.  
 Compact Car Races – 7 p.m.  
 The Whitesidewalls – 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 23

Exhibits & Barns – All Day  
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.  
 Texting Contest – 5:30 p.m.  
 Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 24

Exhibits & Barns – All Day  
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.  
 Enduro Auto Races – 12 p.m.  
 Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival – 12:45-10 p.m.  
 Johnny Lee – 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JULY 25

Midway Open – 1 p.m.  
 Antique Tractor Pull – 9 a.m.  
 Amateur Talent Contest – 12 p.m.  
 Ranch Rodeo – 12 p.m.  
 Demolition Derby – 6 p.m.

Thursday is Senior Day!

## Special Attractions at The 2010 Rice County Fair

It's time for the Rice County Fair – some of the most exciting days of the summer! Every year, members of the Fair Board work hard to bring different events and exhibits to the fair.

Admission to the Rice County Fair is free! You will be able to see more than 100 commercial exhibits, lots of animals, and exciting entertainment all week long. Here is a preview of just some of the free entertainment. Be sure to check the full schedule published just prior to the fair.

Hand-made marionettes, hand puppets and ventriloquism figures join professional puppeteer/ventriloquist Nancy Mitchell and her Mitchell Marionettes troupe to present their **Showboat Puppet Spectacular** from the decks of their Mississippi Riverboat puppet stage. (Three shows daily.)

Don't miss all the contests. Chocolate Classic, Homemade Wine, Salsa, The Big Apple Pie, Chile, Texting and Guitar Star are just some of the contests you can enter.

World-renowned street entertainer **Wade Henry** will perform three times daily.

Don't miss **Lyndon Peterson's One Man Band**, appearing on both free stages on Thursday and Friday.

On Saturday, listen to the **Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival**. Five different groups will perform nine straight hours of bluegrass and gospel music on two stages: Midway Stage, 1-10:45 p.m., and Cannon Stage, 12:45-7 p.m. Bring along a chair if you plan to stay for the day.

After several years' absence, the **Ranch Rodeo** returns on Sunday at 12 noon at the Horse Arena. Four events will be held.

**Please remember: NO pets, roller skates, inline skates, skateboards or bikes are allowed on the fairgrounds.** (There are exceptions for service animals and pets allowed for exhibition, demonstration or show.) Please help ensure the safety of all our visitors.

**LEGENDARY COUNTRY SINGER**

**JOHNNY LEE**

*"Lookin' For Love"*

*"Bet Your Heart on it"*

*"Pickin' Up Strangers"*

*"Hey Bartender"*



**Grandstand Concert Saturday, July 24, 8 P.M.**

**Limited Seating • Doors open at 7 P.M. (Advance Tickets \$10; Day of Show Tickets \$15)**

Advance tickets are available at HyVee, Nelson's, KDHL, Regency Inn & Suites and can be purchased online at [www.ricecountyfair.net](http://www.ricecountyfair.net)

## 2010 Entertainment Lineup

### Bruce Sellner Memorial Midway Stage

Tues., July 20	A Hard Day's Night – 6 p.m.
Tues., July 20	Rice County Fair Queen Coronation – 7 p.m.
Wed., July 21	Rockin Hollywoods – 7 p.m.
Thurs., July 22	Jim Lawrence Orchestra – 10:30 a.m.
Thurs., July 22	The Whitesidewalls – 7 p.m.
Fri., July 23	Terry T. and the Red Canyon Band – 4 p.m.
Sat., July 24	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival – 1 p.m.
Sun., July 25	Amateur Talent Contest – 12 noon

### KDHL – Cannon Stage

Tues., July 20	DC and Hawk – 6 p.m.
Wed., July 21	Jim Austerman Original Music – 11 a.m.
Fri., July 23	Lonesome Ron – 11 a.m.
Sat., July 24	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival – 12:45 p.m.

### Grandstand

Tues., July 20	Demolition Derby – 7 p.m.
Wed., July 21	Super Cross Races – 7 p.m.
Thurs., July 22	Compact Car Races – 7 p.m.
Fri., July 23	NTPA Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
Sat., July 24	Enduro Auto Races – 12 noon
Sat., July 24	Johnny Lee Concert – 8 p.m.
Sun., July 25	Antique Tractor Pull – 9 a.m.
Sun., July 25	Demolition Derby – 6 p.m.

### Beer Garden Entertainment (All Music is 8 p.m.–Midnight)

Tues., July 20	Johnny Holm
Wed., July 21	Brat Pack Radio
Thurs., July 22	Killer Hayseeds
Fri., July 23	Lamont Cranston
Sat., July 24	Mister Peabody



www.ricecountyfair.net • 507-332-2470

### Free Events on the Fairgrounds

Street Entertainer Wade Henry (3 shows daily)  
Banana Derby (3 times daily)  
Showboat Puppet Spectacular (3 shows daily)  
Ranch Rodeo – Sunday, July 25, at noon

... and much more!

## CASH DRAWINGS

Every Day – 5 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

Final Sunday Drawing – 3 p.m.

**\$1,300 in cash given away all week plus two Grand Prizes:**

Win one of two casino trips to Treasure Island (Red Wing) and Grand Casino (Hinckley)

Drawings Held Every Day (Cannon Stage)

(To be eligible, sign the ticket you receive upon paying your parking admission and deposit in the barrels in either of the commercial exhibit buildings. You must be present to win.)

## Stroll the Midway! Over 30 Thrilling Rides!



GoldStar Amusements  
**Passport to Fun!**  
Unlimited Rides for the Entire Fair  
**\$45.00**

ADVANCE SALE ONLY  
Sold only at Rice County Extension Office,  
Nelson's, Hy-Vee and  
Fred's IGA Foods

### Ride Specials & Schedule

Tuesday, July 20 – Open 5 p.m.

Power 96 Radio Night  
8 Rides for \$9.60

Wednesday, July 21 – Open 3 p.m.

Thrill Day! – Reduced Prices

Thursday, July 22 – Open 12 noon

Senior Day, Day Care Day  
Special Senior Citizen and Day Care Prices

Friday, July 23 – Open 12 noon

Kids' Day – 12–5 p.m.  
(Special Kids' Arm Band Price = \$15)

Saturday, July 24 – Open 12 noon

Family Day – 4–10 p.m.  
(Special Family Arm Band Price = \$20)

Sunday, July 25 – Open 1 p.m.

Amateur Talent & Latino Day  
(Special Arm Band Price, 3–9 p.m. = \$20)