



October 28, 2015

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

Dear Governor Ricketts:

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, 2015. 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 2015 Nebraska State Fair was successful by any measure with 352,176 fair guests. This is a record attendance number since the move of the fair to Grand Island. We will work to ensure the success continues.

Sincerely,

Joseph McDermott, CFE
Executive Director
Nebraska State Fair

Enclosure

cc: Senator Galen Hadley, Speaker of the Legislature
Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
Byron L. Diamond, D.A.S. Director
Gerry Oligmueller, State Budget Administrator
Claire Oglesby, State Budget Analyst



**State Fair Funds Account
July 1, 2014 Through June 30, 2015**

Balance of State Fair Funds account on June 30, 2014 \$2,244,647.18

Contributions

State Lottery funds	\$3,660,699.00	
Interest earned	\$5,320.94	
City match	\$366,070.00	
Total contributions during the period	\$4,032,089.94	

Expenditures

Note Building & Grounds

1	Nebraska Building - Handicap Door openers	\$9,414.00	
2	Midway water/sewer project	\$106,887.76	
3	Water line- east to west (south of HEC)	\$29,797.24	
	Totals - Buildings & Grounds	\$146,099.00	

Equipment

4	Website	\$18,500.00	
5	Food Pod Barriers	\$6,146.40	
6	Springboard signage	\$6,054.08	
7	Furnishings (Nebraska Building)	\$52,161.81	
8	Bleachers	\$26,100.00	
9	Tenant Floor Scrubber	\$8,558.95	
	Total - Equipment	\$117,521.24	

Operations

10	Fair Operations	\$2,149,664.95	
	Total - Operations	\$2,149,664.95	

Nebraska Building

11	Construction Costs for the Nebraska Building		
	Total Construction Costs	\$486,030.45	
		\$486,030.45	

Debt Repayment

12	Payment on debt	\$588,288.84	
	Total - Debt Repayment	\$588,288.84	

Total Expenditures \$3,487,604.48

Balance of State Fair Funds account on June 30, 2015 \$2,789,132.64

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

Expenditures from the Nebraska State Fair Funds Account July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

1) Handicap door openers in Nebraska Building

While already ADA compliant, the Nebraska State Fair took additional steps to add automatic door openers for guests requiring help entering the Nebraska Building. The automatic door openers were installed on the east and west main doors giving fair guests this important convenience.

2) Carnival Midway water and sewer project

Water and sewer lines were extended to the north side of the carnival midway to accommodate travel and bunk trailers used by carnival management and staff during the Nebraska State Fair. Prior to this project, management and staff trailers were separated allowing for less supervision of staff than was desired by midway management.

3) Water line – East Entertainment Area

The City of Grand Island mandated that a new waterline be installed east to west in the East Entertainment Area of the Nebraska State Fair. At issue was the existing supply line did not provide adequate water pressure in the case of fire.

4) Website

In need of updated technology, the Nebraska State Fair commissioned a new Website to kick off the 2015 season. The new web site is bright, colorful and more user friendly than the original site. The new site incorporated fan favorites like the “Food Finder”, a program to “Create Your Day” and of course all the information one might desire about their State Fair.

5) Food Pod Barriers

Until this year, fairgoers were able to walk in between food trailers and into the food vendor “back of house.” While visitors were looking for a short cut to the next event, it caused safety concerns as all plumbing and electrical hook-ups as well as vendor supplies were located in this area. The barriers simply provided an aesthetic solution keeping fair patrons on the public side of the barriers and out of harms way.

6) Springboard Signage

In an effort to keep fair guests up-to-date, we utilize springboard signage for announcements, way finding and so forth. The springboard signs, measuring 26”

by 42”, allows State Fair staff an easier option for updating information as needed.

7) Nebraska Building Furnishings

Upon completion of the Nebraska Building, the Nebraska State Fair was in need of furnishings for the executive suite on the second floor. These purchases included conference room, boardroom and staff office furnishings where needed.

8) Bleachers

As the State Fair grows, so too does our need for additional seating for State Fair patrons. From grounds entertainment to rodeos, new bleachers are required to give fair guests the best possible view of the shows and events throughout the fairgrounds. Five- and ten-row aluminum bleachers were purchased to accommodate our guests.

9) Tennant Floor Scrubber

Following the Nebraska State Fair, the livestock barns are cleaned and readied for the next event. In order to become more efficient, a Tennant floor scrubber was purchased that does the work of several people in much less time.

10) Fair Operations

Fair operations are subsidized to improve all aspects of the Nebraska State Fair. This investment paid off with the largest attendance since the State Fair moved to Grand Island. This year 352,176 people attended the fair with 93% rating the fair as “good to excellent” in providing family focused fun.

11) Nebraska Building Costs

The Nebraska Building, featuring Nebraska Game and Parks, “Outdoor Encounter,” the University’s “Raising Nebraska,” Nebraska Tourism and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) program are open to inform and educate fairgoers about the many great things about Nebraska. The second level of the building contains the State Fair administrative offices.

12) Debt Service

With the construction of the State Fair facilities in 2009 and 2010, and the new Nebraska Building, debt was accumulated that needs to be repaid. This includes monthly payments and additional payments paid directly toward the principal on the loans.