

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brienna Schuette • Communications Supervisor • (651) 288-4452 • brienna.schuette@mnstatefair.org

Two Weeks Left to Register for Amateur Talent Contest

July 6, 2009

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS — Only two weeks remain until registration closes for State Fair Amateur Talent Contest Auditions. Performers from across the Midwest will have an opportunity to perform and compete in the 37th annual competition.

A total of \$7,325 in prize money will be awarded to the first- through third-place winners in three divisions. Entries are being accepted for all age groups. Age categories are: Open Division, for any age; Teen Division, ages 13-18; and Preteen Division, ages 12 and under.

Auditions for the amateur talent contest run Monday, July 20 through Sunday, July 26 at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell on the fairgrounds. Auditions begin at 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. From auditions, semi-finalists will be selected to perform during the Minnesota State Fair.

During the first 10 days of the fair, semifinals will be held nightly at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell. Winners from the semifinals will compete in the finals at 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6 at the Grandstand. Last year, Callie Syverson and Brett Anderson of Windom took the grand prize for their vocal/dance duet of "If You Hadn't But You Did." They will perform during finals this year.

Participants are encouraged to register on-line at www.mnstatefair.org. Entry forms may also be downloaded and returned through the mail. For more information, please call the talent contest information line at: (651) 288-4395 or e-mail msfent@mnstatefair.org.

The 2009 Minnesota State Fair runs Thursday, Aug. 27 through Labor Day, Sept. 7.

-MSF-