

August 1, 2025 at 11:59 PM CDT

A Very Enjoyable Event

All, Black River Falls is the county seat of Jackson County. Every year starting the last day of July through August 3rd the Jackson County Fair is held.



It is a very enjoyable event. There are rides some of which are terrifying like this one:

When Ciara was a kid I used to take her to the Fair. It was a fun outing, but for one demand that she made upon me. Ciara likes the more daring rides. The one in the photograph above was a favorite. I would not set foot on it because I don't like heights. But there was another ride that she was able to persuade me to take. It was kind of like sitting in little airplane that was that the end of a spoke coming off of a central axis. When the ride started the "airplane" would be in an orbit. It also would lose and gain altitude. I don't think I've described it too well and I regret that. As for my enjoyment of the ride was somewhat limited because I kept my eyes closed for most of it while Ciara told me that I was missing the view. It was an experience.



Terrifying

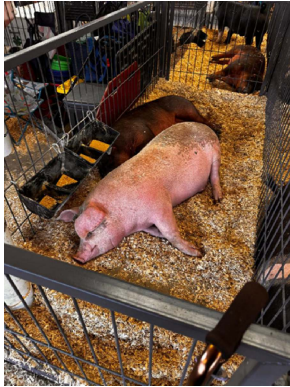
In addition to rides, there are food vendors galore who are more dedicated to appealing to the more carnal aspects of eating than in nutrition. Lots of ice cream (we are the Dairy State). I ignored the food, made possible by having a "healthy" sandwich to dull any cravings for things that I shouldn't be eating.

The Best Part of the Fair...

For me, the best part of the Fair is the livestock exhibition. It's the chance for kids who are in 4-H ("4-H" is derived from the four Hs: head, heart, hands, and health) a program embraced by the youth in this area. It is a chance for them to develop their skills in animal husbandry. They have the opportunity to exhibit their animals at the Fair. All of the animals exhibited are top-notch.

In addition to having their animals exhibited, they are also judged, with ribbons given out to those that appear to be the best. I have been going to this fair for so many years that I have developed somewhat of a sixth sense about which of the bovines might win. I can't explain it; suffice it to say that just something that you pick up by looking and listening and talking to folks who are showing their animals.

Since it is possible that not a whole lot of people in the APT Group have been to a county fair, I took some pictures that I hope will convey the tone of the event.



The art of relaxation.

There are lots of pigs. As a group they look as though they have mastered the art of relaxation. There are many different breeds of pigs. That is about all I know about the different breeds of pigs, just that there are lots of them.

I'm always amazed when I see the chicken exhibit. There are many different breeds of chicken. I have no idea as to whether or not the breed has an effect on the color of the eggs. That's probably a question that I should've asked today. The plumage is what catches my eye.

Whenever I walk through the chicken exhibit I recall the fact that chickens are descendants of dinosaurs. I once mentioned this gem fact to a friend of mine. Without missing a beat, she responded, "Then dinosaurs must've tasted like chicken."



Goat

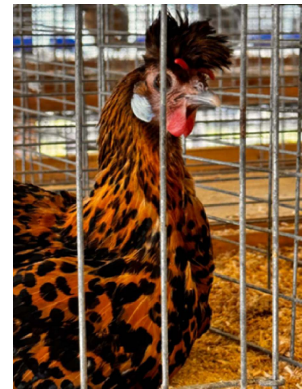
The goats are always interesting. They have a certain rambunctious quality that is simultaneously endearing and mildly scary. The only true encounter that I've ever had with goats occurred in Spain when I confused the word for sheep (oveja) with goat (cabra). As a result I wound up having goat for lunch. It was tasty.

The sheep on exhibit were very pleasant. They are relatively docile animals happily giving up their wool. I inadvertently gained a great deal of information about sheep while handling a divorce between a sheep farmer and his wife. They were less concerned about the placement of children than who would get the sheep.



Percheron

Horses are big. At the fair there were several Percheron horses. They are beyond big. They are gigantic. While their size might be intimidating to some, there is no reason to be unnerved by them. They also seem to be tolerant of people. Percherons are well-muscled, and known for their intelligence and willingness to work. They don't like to be idle. They would rather be wearing a bridle than be idle.



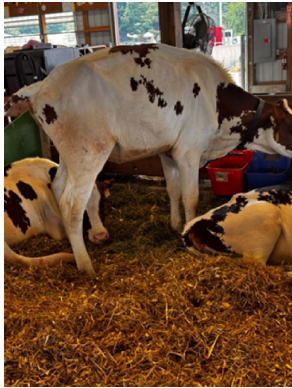
Here's a bird that looks both regal and bit judgmental.



Sheep

A message that comes across loud and clear is that we are in the Dairy State, especially when you're walking through the area where cattle are being exhibited. The kids that take care of the cattle make sure that they are glistening and the stalls are mucked out immediately when needed.

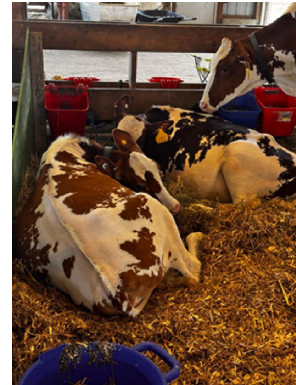
I have not had a lot of direct contact with cows. Unless you are the farmer who milks them every day and takes care of them they look right past you. But they do get along with each other. It is known that cows actually make friends with other cows.



QR Code Cow.

There was one cow that caught my attention immediately. The markings resembled a QR Code. Here it is at left.

When I decoded it with my phone, it said: *Drink Milk – Eat Chicken.* --- (Just kidding. But I am sure that that would be the animal's choice of message.)



It looks as though the animal on the right knows how to photo-bomb.

It Was A Treat...

There are many positive aspects to our county fair. I am partial to the animal exhibits. But I'm also partial to the fact that it's a chance to run into people that I don't always see out of the context of their daily lives. Since so many of the folks here grew up on farms or had relatives who had farms, they are a great source of knowledge for me because they don't hesitate to make sure that this guy from the East Coast learns something about what is going on in farm country. And I appreciate it more than they might guess.

Ken