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CONTACT: Brian or Jen Bellmont
Bellmont Partners Public Relations
(952) 233-0428, info@bellmontpartners.com

Fact Sheet: Butter Sculpting

- The Butter Sculpting booth is a Minnesota State Fair exhibit sponsored by Midwest Dairy Association through its 5,000 Minnesota dairy farmers.
- Butter sculpting at the Minnesota State Fair was initiated to highlight Minnesota's claim as the "butter capital of the nation."
- The butter sculpture booth in the Empire Commons is one of the most popular attractions at the Minnesota State Fair.
- Various butter sculptures were featured at the Minnesota State Fair from 1898 through 1927. In 1965, the American Dairy Association of Minnesota began its tradition of having the likenesses of dairy princesses sculpted in butter.
- On opening day of the State Fair, the newly crowned Princess Kay of the Milky Way spends 6 to 8 hours in the butter sculpture booth, having her likeness carved. This procedure continues each of the remaining days of the fair with the 11 other Princess Kay candidates.
- Each sculpture is carved from a 90-pound block of Grade A butter. The butter blocks are produced at AMPI in New Ulm exclusively for this activity at the State Fair. They are packaged and transported to the fair in specially made containers.
- This year will be artist Linda Christensen's 36th year of creating butter sculptures for the dairy industry at the Minnesota State Fair.
- The temperature inside the rotating butter booth is 38°F.
- The history of butter sculpture began in the 1800s when frontier women molded and imprinted their homemade butter.
- Midwest Dairy Association helps to sponsor butter sculpting at several other state fairs in its nine states, but sculpting in front of the fair-goers using a live model is unique to Minnesota.
- It takes 21.8 pounds of whole milk to make a pound of butter.



MEDIA: For more information, photography or to set up an interview, contact Bellmont Partners Public Relations at (952) 233-0428 or info@bellmontpartners.com.