

NEWS RELEASE

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State Fair Receives Western Fairs Association's Highest Honor

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MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS - The Western Fairs Association (WFA) honored the Minnesota State Fair with two industry awards at its annual convention held Jan. 14 - 17 in Reno, Nev.

The Eco Experience was named Best New Non-Competitive Exhibit and received the Merrill Award, the WFA Achievement Awards Program's highest honor. Named in honor of WFA Founder Louis Merrill, the award is given to fair programs that demonstrate outstanding vision and leadership.

A new partnership between the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Eco Experience is the first exhibit of its kind. A showcase and forum for renewable energy, organic foods, green technologies and alternative fuels, it attracted more than 350,000 guests during the 2006 State Fair.

WFA serves more than 2,000 members in the fair industry throughout the western United States and Canada. Since 1922, its primary objective has been to promote the prosperity of fairs through educational activities, training programs, and legislative advocacy. The WFA Achievement Awards Program annually recognizes excellence and encourages sharing of successful ideas and programs.

The 2007 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3.

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