



## Module 9 Talking Points

- Have you ever been to the Sauk County Fair? Have you been on the rides or played the games on the midway?
- Have you seen animals at the fair or have you ever taken an animal to the fair?
- What is a fair? A fair is a place where people show and sell things.
- When did the fair start in Baraboo?
- The Sauk County Fair has been held in Baraboo for over 160 years and is one of the longest running events in the county.
- The Sauk County Fair was started and is still run by the Sauk County Agricultural Society.
- The agricultural society was started in 1854 in Baraboo by people who were interested in promoting farming and gardening, as well as making useful and artistic things.
- Many early settlers in Sauk County were farmers. Farming was an important part of the economy.
- The first settlers used oxen to plow their fields.
- One of the crops that early farmers grew was wheat.
- Do you remember what could be made from wheat at the mills in Baraboo?
- The Sauk County Fair was originally held on the square in downtown Baraboo.
- People gathered to show off the produce from their gardens, their farm animals and their arts and crafts.
- Cows, horses and other animals were allowed to be on the courthouse lawn.
- In 1870 the Sauk County Agricultural Society purchased 20 acres of land east of Baraboo and called them the "Fair Grounds".
- This piece of land is where the Sauk County Fair has been held ever since. That's over 148 fairs at this spot!
- Buildings were built at the fair grounds to house exhibits of fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods, arts, crafts and other things.
- Some of these buildings are over 100 years old.
- Barns were also built so that people can bring their animals to the fair and show them off.
- Different kinds of animals are judged at the fair and awarded prizes. Some are farm animals like cows and some are pets like dogs.
- The fair was, and still is, a place to show people new ways of doing things.



- One change was that horses replaced oxen on farms. Plowing competitions were held at the fair.
- Later steam tractors replaced horses for some of the work on the farm.
- You learned about steam locomotives in Module 8. Steam helped farmers harvest their crops, as well.
- People were very excited to see the machinery exhibited at the fair that amazed them.
- Many people saw an airplane for the first time at the Sauk County Fair in 1911.
- The fair was also a place for having fun and watching races. Bicycles were new around 1900 and bicycle races were held at the fair. A grandstand was built for people to watch races and other events.
- Horses were also raced at the fair in the past.
- After automobiles were invented they were raced at the fair. Today, there are no car races but old cars are used in the demolition derby.
- The Sauk County Fair is Baraboo's longest running community event.
- People from all over gather at the Sauk County fairgrounds to see exhibits of farm produce, arts and crafts, products and animals.
- People also have fun at the fair visiting the midway, eating food, watching contests and attending concerts.
- The Sauk County Fair normally happens every year and is one of Sauk County's biggest events.
- Thousands of people attend the fair and people have been going to the Sauk County Fair for over 160 years.