



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## OZAUKEE COUNTY FAIREST CROWNED AS 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FAIREST OF THE FAIRS

WEST ALLIS, WI - January 14, 2009 - The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs was selected from 39 young women currently representing their counties as Fairest. The Fairest of the Fairs was unveiled Wednesday evening during the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention taking place this week in the Wisconsin Dells.

The Fairest of the Fairs will represent the 76 Wisconsin county, district, and state fairs in 2010. The newly crowned Fairest begins her one-year term immediately and will carry out her duties through the conclusion of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention in January of 2011. Fairest's responsibilities include traveling to the county, district and state fairs throughout the state as the spokesperson for the Wisconsin Association of Fairs, and she will also serve as the official hostess of the 2010 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular, August 5 through August 15. Throughout her term, the Fairest of the Fairs will promote educational, agricultural, social, cultural and commercial opportunities offered at Wisconsin's county, district and state fairs.

Natalie Salkowski, 20, representing Ozaukee County Fair, was crowned the 2010 Fairest of the Fairs. Daughter of David and Nancy Salkowski of Cedarburg, Natalie currently attends the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay where she is a sophomore majoring in biology with a double minor in psychology and secondary education. She has been a member of Ozaukee County 4-H for more than a decade and competed in forensics at Cedarburg High School. Natalie's scholastic achievements are impressive, making the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Dean's List (Fall '08/Spring '09), earning both the Cedarburg Education Association Scholarship and UW-Green Bay Founders Association Scholarship in 2008, and earning a spot in the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.

Salkowski was selected as Fairest of the Fairs from a field of qualified young women, and replaces the 2009 Fairest of the Fairs, Melissa Ploeckelman of Marathon County. "Each year there is an impressive and talented field of women competing for Fairest of the Fairs, and the counties they represent should be very proud of these exceptional young women," stated

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## 2010 FAIREST OF THE FAIRS ANNOUNCED / ADD ONE

Nodji Van Wychen, one of the three judges of the statewide Fairest of the Fairs contest. "It's such a difficult decision every year, because each of the young women could have made an impressive Fairest of the Fairs." The Fairest of the Fairs was chosen by a panel of three judges representing the agricultural, fair, and media industries. The panel included Nodji Van Wychen, Wayne Hanke, and Monica Gill.

Teyanna Marx, 19, of Sauk County was named first runner-up. The daughter of Phillip and Holy Marx of Sauk City, Teyanna is currently a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a double major in Management and Dance.

Rachel Nicole Hardekopf, 20, representing the Waukesha County Fair was selected as the second runner-up. A freshman at Wisconsin Lutheran College, she is majoring in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Art. Hardekopf's parents, James and Fay Hardekopf, reside in Waterford.

The third runner-up, Katie Wirkus, 22, representing Wisconsin Valley Fair, is the daughter of Allen and Barb Wirkus of Athens. Katie is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls who will graduate with a double major in Agricultural Education and Mathematics.

Alesha Kuster, 22, of Grant County was selected as the fourth runner-up. Alesha is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville majoring in Speech Communications with a minor in Public Relations. Alesha is the daughter of Dwight and Beth Kuster of Potosi.

Bree Ceranske, 20, representing Waupaca County Fair was selected as Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants. Bree is the daughter of Bruce and Valerie Ceranske of Waupaca and is a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College.

"The Wisconsin State Fair has always been impressed by the caliber of young women who have participated in the Fairest of the Fairs competition, and this year is no exception" stated Patrice Harris, director of public relations and communications of the Wisconsin State Fair. "The staff, exhibitors and Fairgoers look forward each year to meeting Fairest and getting to know her. We are excited to work with Natalie and help guide her development on a personal and professional level over the coming year."

Individuals interested in competing in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs contest may contact their county or district fair board for more information or visit [www.wifairs.com](http://www.wifairs.com).

The 2010 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular, will take place Thursday, August 5 through Sunday, August 15. The Wisconsin State Fair offers an original experience to all that attend and is a phenomenal value with 30 FREE entertainment stages, thousands of animals, endless family activities, events, contests, vendors and culinary delights. For the most up-to-date information call our recorded information line at 800.884.FAIR or visit [WiStateFair.com](http://WiStateFair.com).

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