



Birds Eye foods in Darien donates the sweet corn for the annual Cornfest celebration. Free roasted corn on the cob will be served all Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Darien West Park.

According to the Birds Eye website, Clarence Birdseye was a man of vision, curiosity and persistence. He was a naturalist, a businessman and a skillful inventor who used his unique gifts to develop a flash freezing process that not only preserved food safely but also preserved its taste and appearance.

Birdseye returned to the Unites States and formed the General Seafood Corporation with some wealthy partners who believed in his process. The partners' financial support allowed the inventive Birdseye to develop

and perfect a machine called a "Quick Freeze Machine" that he unveiled in 1926.

Birdseye then focused on marketing. He tested refrigerated grocery display cases and entered into a joint venture agreement to manufacture them. Birdseye's company began leasing refrigerated boxcars to transport frozen foods by rail in 1944. This made national distribution a reality and Birdseye a legend.

Fresh from the farm

Birds Eye has a long history of working with local farmers and some of the company's family farms go back generations, according to the website.

"Some companies have lofty goals. To fight disease. Or feed the world. Or save the planet. At Birds Eye our ambition is humble.

We just want to help people eat more vegetables," the Birds Eye website states.

Birds Eye says its vegetables ripen in the field – not on the truck.

"We pick our vegetables at the height of nutritional value. Our farmers carefully select only the best, highest-quality vegetables and they are flash frozen within hours to lock in that freshness. Birds Eye veggies are as nutritious when they hit your plate, as the day they were picked," according to the website.

Responsible growing

Birds Eye supports farmers' efforts with irrigation water conservation to reduce usage and enable reuse of post-use water, according to the website. The company also works together to treat only specific

parts of their fields with fertilization, avoiding unnecessary costs and potential environmental impact of spraying entire fields.

The website states, Birds Eye has invested in technology in the fields that enables it to communicate directly with the plants. This allows them to time harvesting with their production schedule, so that they pick the vegetables at peak ripeness and transport them directly to the plants that are ready to receive, wash and freeze them all within a few hours.

This process conserves water and energy, while locking in important nutrients and great taste, the websites

For more information about Birds Eye, visit www.birdseye.com.

Birds Eye Foods, which has a plant in Darien, donates the sweet corn for the annual Cornfest celebration. Faigoers can get free corn during the day on Saturday and Sunday.







'If We Roast it They Will Come'

ANNUAL CORNFEST CELEBRATION RETURNS TO DARIEN

The 61th annual Cornfest runs Sept. 9 to 11 at Daien West Park. This year's theme is "If We Roast it They Will Come."

Darien West Park is at the intersection of Highway 14 and North Road at 335 W. Madison St.

Cornfest features family friendly activities throughout its three-day run with live music, children's activities, a parade, fireworks and carnival. The festival also offers sporting tournaments in softball, horseshoe, Hammerschlagen and

volleyball and.

The annual celebration of all things corn has all-you-can-eat sweet corn, donated by Birds Eye Foods, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11.

The Delayan-Darien Athletic Booster

Club is, once again, hosting a breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday and 8:10 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Other highlights include the Mini-Rod Tractor Pull at noon on Saturday and the Big Corn Shell-Out at 3 p.m. Sunday, followed by the annual raffle drawing at 4 p.m.

Tri-County Pullers

Another fun activity for kids of all ages is the Tri-County Pullers Mini Rod Tractor Pull on Saturday afternoon.

"Tri-County Pullers Inc. brings some of the loudest and fastest paced mini-rod

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2022 DARIEN CORNFEST A publication of SOUTHERN LAKES NEWSPAPERS and ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115 (262) 728-3411

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On the cover: The Darien Cornfest has free sweet corn from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11. The corn is donated by Birds Eye Foods.



top: Kids of all ages take a ride in a tractor-pulled train during last year's Cornfest in Darien. This year's festival returns with free corn, sporting events, carnival, parade, fireworks and more. above: A group of Green Bay Packers fans enjoy some free sweet corn at last year's festival.

Page 4 2022 DARIEN CORNFEST

CORNFEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

tractor pulling in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Creating exciting entertainment for all ages for the last 30 years, the Tri-County Pullers, Inc. is a family based organization pulling at fairs and festivals with the finest built tractors in the nation. We support your local Lions clubs and Fire and EMS organizations," the Tri-County Pullers website states.

Tournaments, contests

Every year, Cornfest hosts a 32-team softball tournament. Prizes are awarded for the top placing teams. Games are played Saturday and Sunday.

Prizes will be awarded to top three teams in championship round. There will be a "toilet bowl" round as well.

For more information, contact Greg at 262-215-2811.

The volleyball tournament of competitive co-ed 6's is Saturday at the Darien West Park volleyball courts

A mandatory captain's meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Rules – USA volleyball rules. Pool play, two games of 25. Games played will be determined by the amount of teams and pools.

Cornfest also hosts horseshoe and Hammerschlagn games.

Hammerschlagen is a German game reportedly dating from 1940 in which several contestants try to hammer a nail into a post. The hammer is passed between players until someone countersinks their nail into the wood. It is usually considered an adult game but children can play when accompanied by an adult.

Hammerschlagen is played just outside the corn barn Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Prizes are awarded to the winners and are subject to change.

Parade

The 2022 Cornfest parade kicks off with the Liberty Bike Ride at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, followed by the parade line up, which steps off in downtown Darien at noon.

The Liberty Bike Ride is an annual tradition that features military veterans on motorcycles giving tribute to our current and lost military men and women with decorated motorcycles.

Any veteran who would like to ride a motorcycle (all kinds welcome) in the Liberty Bike Ride can fill out the parade form at the Cornfest website, www. dariencornfest.us.

Line-up for parade units being judged will begin at 10 a.m. Parade participants must be lined up in your spot before 11 a.m. to be judged.

The parade route is about threequarters of a mile long. There will be two reviewing stands the first will be in front of the Farmers Inn and the other on Madison Street.

Parade line-ups are sent out in advance. If there are any questions (including those on parade day), go to the staging area at Darien Legion Hall.

Cornfest awards ribbons for novelties, horses and tractors. Ribbons and cash prizes are awarded for floats.

Carnival

The carnival is open all three days of the event with wristband specials at \$25 from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, noon to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

Headlining on the Miller Lite Stage this year are the Two Beer Tommy on Friday and the The Toys on Saturday. Both bands take the stage at 7 p.m.

DARIEN CORNFEST 2022

Sept. 9 to 11 in Darien West Park

Featuring free sweet corn Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All weekend – 32-team Men's Softball Tournament, volleyball tournament, horseshoe tournament, merchandise and crafts, bingo and midway.

Carnival \$25 wristband specials – Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.

Entertainment

Friday, Sept. 9

• 7 p.m. – Two Beer Tommy

Saturday, Sept. 10
• 7 p.m. – The Toys

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 9

6 to 9 p.m. – Carnival rides 6 p.m. – Co-ed softball, Hammerschlagn, carnival 7 p.m. – Two Beer Tommy on the Miller Lite Stage 9 p.m. – Fireworks

Saturday, Sept. 10

7:30 to 10 a.m. – Booster Club breakfast

All day – 32-Team Men's Softball Tournament, volleyball tournament, horseshoe Tournament, merchandise and crafts, bingo, Hammerschlagn 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Darien

Women's Club Carmel Apples Delights

Noon – Cornhole Tournament Noon to 3 p.m. – Jess Piano Noon – Mini-Rods Tractor Pull 7 p.m. – The Toys on the Miller Lite Stage

Sunday, Sept. 11

8:10 to 10:30 a.m. – Booster Club breakfast

All day – 32-Team Men's Softball Tournament, horseshoe tournament, merchandise, crafts, bingo, carnival

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Darien Women's Club Carmel Apples Delights

11:15 a.m. – Liberty Bike Ride Noon – Parade, downtown Darien 3 p.m. – The Big Corn Shell-Out Raffle Drawing

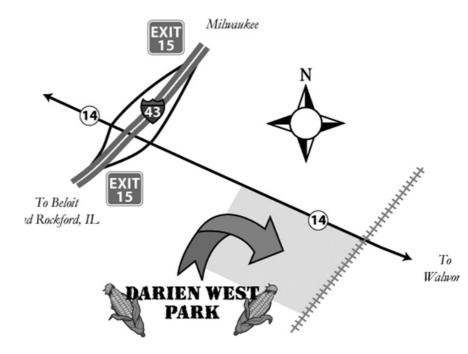
4 p.m. – Raffle drawing (\$1 each or six for \$5)

For more information on Cornfest events, go to www. dariencornfest.com.



A truckload of corn is delivered to Cornfest. Free sweet corn is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday during the annual Cornfest celebration.

FILE PHOTO Cornfest 2022



How to get to Cornfest

Darien Cornfest is at Darien West Park, which is just east of Interstate 43 (Exit 15) on Highway 14.

Darien is about 15 minutes north of Beloit, an hour from Milwaukee and only minutes from Lake Geneva and beautiful Fox Lake, Illinois.

Sports tournaments and games have always been a part of the Darien Cornfest. From softball to volleyball to Hammerschlagen there is always something for everyone.

SOFTBALL

Darien Cornfest hosts a 32-team softball tournament every year. Prizes are awarded for the top placing teams. Games start Friday night and run all weekend.

Call Greg at 262-215-2811 for more information

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball tournament of competitive co-ed 6's begins Saturday morning at the Darien West Park volleyball

Rules – USA volleyball rules. Pool play, two games of 25. Games played will be determined by the amount of teams and

Registration closed Aug. 31.

HORSESHOE

The horseshoe tournament will be on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the tournament starts at noon both days. For more information, visit www. dariencornfest.com.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

The Cornhole Tournament is at noon on Saturday. Sign-up is at 11:30 a.m. with the ournament beginning at 12:15 p.m.

Call Connor at 262-261-4358 for more information

HAMMERSCHLAGEN

Hammerschlagen is a German game reportedly dating from 1940 in which several contestants try to hammer a nail into a post. The hammer is passed between players until someone countersinks their nail into the wood. It is usually considered an adult game but children can play when accompanied by an adult.

Hammerschlagen is played just outside the corn barn Friday night and throughout the day Saturday and Sunday. Prizes are awarded to the winners and are subject to

Bingo is played Saturday and Sunday during the Cornfest in the Fire Station garage next to the festival grounds.

Cash prizes are awarded (amounts vary depending on participation). Cost is 50 cents a card or three cards for \$1.

top: The horseshoe pits on the Cornfest grounds have been refurbished for this year's festival, middle: The annual Cornfest softball tournament is a big draw for the festival. Over the weekend, 32 teams vie for the top spot and cash prizes. **right:** The Darien Cornfest volleyball tournament begins on Saturday, Sept. 10, on the Darien West Park Volleyball courts. The competitive co-ed 6 format plays under the USA volleyball rules.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Darien Cornfest 2022







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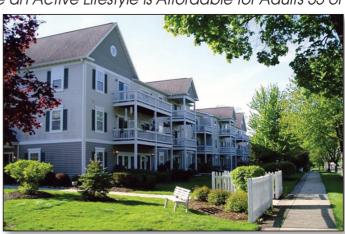
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on the Lite Stade

Headlining at the Darien Cornfest for 2021 are Two Beer Tommy and The Toys at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, and Saturday, Sept. 11, respectively.

The Two Beer Tommy Band out of Saint Charles, Illinois, plays modern and classic country-rock around the Midwest.

The Toys are a popular cover band, playing area events since 1997. The fast-paced, energetic shows are always a big

> **Two Beer Tommy** 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9

The Tovs 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10

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In years past

Darien Cornfest is in its 61st year. Here's a look back at some memorable moments from previous festivals.



One of Cornfest's special guests last year was Walworth County's Fairest of the Fair Katelyn Gonzalez.



Sparky the Fire Dog greets parade goers during the 2013 annual Cornfest Parade.



Busy B's float rides the parade route in 2019.

FILE PHOTO Cornfest 2022



The Delavan-Darien High School's band, the Blue Regiment, brings the tunes to the 2022 Cornfest parade.



Workers retrieve roasted ears of corn at the 2013 Cornfest.



A girl takes her corn with her through the midway during the 2014 Cornfest in Darien. FILE PHOTO Cornfest 2022

Page 10 2022 DARIEN CORNFEST











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Enjoy the Cornfest!

Things to do

clockwise from top left: The carnival at Cornfest opens the night of Sept. 9 and runs all weekend. Carnival wristband specials at \$25 are offered from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, along with noon to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday; Darien Cornfest features free roasted sweet corn on Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; The 61st annual Cornfest returns to Darien West Park Sept. 9 to 11. The event was cancelled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but made a comeback last year to celebrate its 60th birthday; Cornhole tournaments run all weekend long during Cornfest. All ages are welcome to play; Lucky Seven, Legs Eleven, Kelly's Eye, One Little Duck or Clickety Click are all played at the

Bingo Hall during Cornfest.

Going green isn't easy same as a challenges farmers face with organic farming

Organic production represents less than 1% of U.S. crop acres, but according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the demand for organics is rising. As a result, many farms are adding organic acreage to their farming operations.

"Consumer demand for more organic vegetables has driven our company in that direction," says Adrian Garcia, an in-house pest control adviser with Braga Fresh Family Farms.

For Burkey Farms, the decision was purely economic. "We looked pretty smart when we sold organic corn for \$9 per bushel, and conventional corn was at \$3.10," said Eric Thalken, operations

Organic farming can be profitable, but there are still several obstacles to widespread adoption. Below are three significant challenges facing organic

Pest and weed control

Weed, disease and insect control are shared challenges for organic growers. They have limited pesticide options because they can only use those approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute.

Some producers like Burkey farms use biological practices like cover crops that prevent soil erosion, increase soil quality, suppress weed growth, prevent disease and manage pests. Organic farms may also use mechanical weed control, though that requires two cultivations and two passes with a rotary hose. In rainy years, weeds can still get the upper hand.

At Braga Fresh Family Farms, in-season weed control is often by hand. Over the past three years, the farm began to rely on robotic weeding machines to save labor and remove weeds more effectively. To control pests, the farm has purchased thousands of beneficial insects - including parasitic wasps, lacewings and Aphidoletes that are released into the field by a drone. They then reproduce and feed on harmful

While these strategies work well in the West, it's nearly impossible to keep ahead of constant pest pressure in tropical climates where it rains most afternoons. Hot, humid weather fosters insect reproduction, weed growth and fungal diseases. Biopesticides can be used, but they need to be applied almost daily, increasing costs for farmers.

Shrinking yields and growing costs

Despite strides to improve organic tools and practices, yields still lag. USDA data from 2016 show conventional crops outyielded organics for every U.S. crop except forages.

"We spend less on crop seed, fertility and chemicals but more on equipment, labor and cover crops than an average farm in our area," Thalken says. "Overhead can be slightly more with increased costs of administration.

Production costs for organic agriculture can vary widely. In California, Garcia estimates that costs to grow organic vegetables are 20%-25% higher than nonorganic, due to added pest control steps and higher labor costs





above: Whether growing crops conventionally or organically, all farmers share in neeting expectations for sustainable food production. left: Organic farming can be profitable, but there are still obstacles to widespread adoption, even as demand for the product is increasing

STOCK PHOTOS

Fertilization is a major variable. Commercial organic fertilizer is expensive, and it's challenging to reach the necessary nitrogen levels needed for farming. Burkey Farms saves on fertilizer costs by applying hog manure. As with conventional crop producers who rely on manure for fertilizer, there is a risk of damaging the buildup of sodium and potassium in the

Environmental impacts

The environmental impacts of agricultural production vary by practice.

With lower yields, organic production requires more land to generate the same amount of food. According to a 2016 analysis of USDA yield data, if all crops switched to organic production, more than 100 million more farmland acres - an area the size of California - would be needed to achieve the same crop output.

OMRI-approved pesticides have impacts, too. Organic farmers commonly use copper sulfate as a fungicide. Although a natural compound, copper sulfate can accumulate in the soil and harm soil microbes, according to the

Genetic Literacy Project.

The multiple passes for weed control in organic production consume more fuel and increase soil compaction. Disturbing the ground with mechanical weed control also can erode soil and damage soil health.

"At the end of the day, the population is growing," said Liz Hunt, head of sustainable and responsible business at Syngenta. "We need to make sure we are meeting these needs in a way that optimizes land and input use."



61STANNUAL DARIEN CORNFEST

3 BIG DAYS September 9, 10 & 11 at Darlen West Park

FRIDAY, SEPT 9

TWO Beer Tommy On the Miller Lite Stage

7PM-11PM

Co-Ed Softball

6PM

Fireworks

9PM

Hammerschlagn

Carnival Rides

6PM-10PM

SATURDAY, SEPT 10

DDSAB Breakfast

7:30-10AM

Softball Tournament

Merchandise & Crafts

Carnival Rides

Volleyball Tournament

Darien Women's Club Carmel Apple Delights

11-4PM

Corn Hole Tournament

Noon

Jess Piano

Noon-3PM

Horseshoe Tournament

Mini-Rod Tractor Pull

Hammerschlagn

Noon

The Toys

On The Miller Lite Stage 7PM-11PM





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SUNDAY, SEPT 11

Mens Softball Tournament

DDSAB Breakfast

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Merchandise & Crafts

Carnival Rides

Darien Womens Club

Carmel Apple Delights 11-6PM

Horseshoe Tournament

Liberty Bike Ride

11:15AM

HUGE Parade

Noon

(Downtown Darien)

The Big Corn Shell-out 3PM

Raffle Drawing

4PM

(\$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5)

For More Information Go To DARIENCORNFEST.US