

# Does the MN State Fair have policies about alcohol?

**Yes.** The Minnesota State Fair has a number of policies for their vendors, which directly and indirectly impact the sale and consumption of alcohol. Below is a breakdown of these policies, as they relate to prevention strategies.

<p><b>What types of alcohol can be served?</b></p>	<p>As of 2015, the State Fair is allowed to license the service of wine and beer for consumption on fair grounds. In 2007, strong beer (over 3.2% alcohol) was added to the list of approved products. For the full history on this policy, see the <a href="#">MN House of Representatives Research brief</a>.<sup>1</sup> “Hard liquor is not served at the fair.”<sup>2</sup></p>
<p><b>When can alcohol be sold?</b></p>	<p>“Alcohol sales are 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., except Sundays when sales begin at 10 a.m. (Beer sales in the Grandstand stop at the end of the headliner’s performance and as the fireworks begin, or at 11 p.m., whichever comes first.) No alcoholic beverages may be brought into the fair.”<sup>2</sup></p>
<p><b>Where can alcohol be consumed?</b></p>	<p>The Minnesota State Fair Visitor’s Guide provides consumers with location information for the 20 locations which sell beer or wine. No designated locations for consumption are mentioned.</p> <p>“Service of alcohol at the State Fair has progressed over time, from state control with limited venues and service options to more open acceptance of alcohol on the general grounds of the fair. Historical customs, such as having beer limited to specific tents and limited to 3.2 service, have given way to general consumption across the grounds of the State Fair...”<sup>1</sup></p>
<p><b>Who issues the liquor licenses for State Fair vendors?</b></p>	<p>The State Agricultural Society issues liquor licenses to State Fair vendors.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>“All exhibits, concessions and attractions on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds are licensed and regulated by the fair’s concessions &amp; exhibits department.”<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>Are promotions allowed?</b></p>	<p>“Any promotion a licensee wishes to undertake associated with their exhibit or concession must have the prior approval of the concessions &amp; exhibits department.”<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>Is sampling allowed?</b></p>	<p>“Any licensee who wishes to offer free food or beverage samples (including water), must seek permission from the Minnesota State Fair and secure required permits from the Minnesota Departments of Health and/or Agriculture.”<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>What employee training is provided?</b></p>	<p>“Each concessionaire licensed to sell, distribute, offer samples or handle any type of food or beverage products(s) (including bottled water), whether prepared on-site or pre-packaged, must have at least one (1) person in their employ with current certification by an acceptable food managers training course.”<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Mention of Responsible Beverage Server Training was not found in the sources reviewed for this information brief.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Research Department of the Minnesota House of Representatives, [Alcohol Service at the Minnesota State Fair](#)

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota State Fair Visitor Guide, [http://www.mnstatefair.org/general\\_info/visitor\\_guide/](http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/visitor_guide/)

<sup>3</sup> Minnesota State Fair Licensed Participants: Concessions and Exhibits Manual, <http://www.mnstatefair.org/pdf/17-C-E-Manual.pdf>

