



**Marion County**  
OREGON

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**Final Numbers in on Marion County Fair: New Attendance Records Set**

The total attendance for the 2009 Marion County Fair was 24, 780, the highest in recent history, according to fair officials. The attendance is a seven percent increase over last year and a fifty-one percent increase since 2004.

“It is hard to tell whether the increase in attendance was due to the fabulous weather (78-80 degrees each day...except for a rainy Sunday afternoon) or "staycations" due to the economy, but I would hope most of it was due to programming and marketing,” said Kelly Walther, Marion County Fair Board Chair. “ I am very proud of what the Marion County Fair has to offer and am happy so many people experienced it,” she said.

Gate receipts increased overall by 4.8 percent from last year and were over 82 percent higher than 2004. This is significant because gate receipts help pay for the cost to produce the fair. The rest of the funding comes from the county, fees, local grants and fair sponsors.

"Much credit goes to our fair board, Sweeney Promotions, and public works staff,” said Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson. “These numbers show that people are starting to recognize the Marion County Fair is a quality event -- with fun for children, teens, adults and seniors. We also put much energy into the 150 Miles for 150 Years relay and that may have helped put us over the top," she added.

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