

# Darien cornfest 2024

Sept. 6 to 8  
at West Park in Darien

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# Darien Cornfest to celebrate 63 years

The annual Cornfest event will run Friday through Sunday, Sept. 6 to 8 at Darien West Park.

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

Cornfest, which is now in its 63rd year, features family-friendly activities throughout its three-day run, with live music, children's activities, a parade, fireworks, and a carnival. The festival also offers sporting tournaments in softball, horseshoes, cornhole, Hammerschlagen, and volleyball.

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. 7 and 8.

The DDSAB (the Delavan-Darien Schools Arts Boosters) is hosting a breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday and 8 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. (tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.)

## 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 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.

## Community Market

Saturday and Sunday of Cornfest will again feature a community market with makers, bakers, crafters, producers, growers, non-profits, and other small businesses.

Market hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sept. 7 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 8; however, vendors attending both weekend days have the option to set-up and sell Friday night as well.

## Tournaments, contests

Every year, Cornfest hosts a big softball tournament. Prizes are awarded for the top placing teams. Games are played Friday and Saturday, with an additional co-ed tournament being played on Sunday.

Other tournaments held during Cornfest include volleyball, horseshoes, and cornhole (beanbag toss).

See the tournament section of this publication for details, including contacts for each of the sports.

## Hammerschlagen

Hammerschlagen is a German game that originated years ago 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 kids can play when accompanied by an adult.

Hammerschlagen is played just outside the corn barn Friday and Saturday of

Cornfest. Prizes are awarded to the winners and are subject to change.

## Parade

The 2024 Cornfest parade kicks off with the Liberty Bike Ride at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8, 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 personnel with decorated motorcycles.

Any veteran who would like to ride a motorcycle (all kinds welcome) in the Liberty Bike Ride can arrive in front of Farmers Inn no later than 11:45 a.m.

Line-up for parade units being judged

will begin at 10 a.m. Parade participants must be lined up in their spots before 11 a.m. to be judged.

The parade route is about three-quarters of a mile long. There will be two announcer stands. The first will be in front of the Farmers Inn, and the other in front of the Village Garage.

Parade line-ups are sent out a week in advance. For more information, contact Kellie Joerger by calling 608-317-7151 or emailing kjcornfestparade@gmail.com.

## Carnival

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

Headlining on the Miller Lite Stage

this year are Dirt Road Rebelz at 7 p.m. on Friday and Chery Pie at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

## Schedule of events

- Friday, Sept. 6**
- Carnival Rides, 6-10 p.m.
  - Dirt Road Rebelz on the Miller Lite Stage, 7 -11 p.m.
  - Softball tournament
  - Fireworks, 9 p.m. (in the event of rain on Friday, fireworks will be moved to Saturday)
  - Hammerschlagen

- Saturday, Sept. 7**
- DDSAB Breakfast, 7:30-10 a.m.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



## Everyone loves a parade

Local fire and rescue departments are generally among the participants in the Darien Cornfest parade, which takes place downtown in the village. This year, the parade will be held on Sunday, Sept. 8. It will step off at noon in downtown Darien. Lineup will begin at 10 a.m. that morning, and parade participants must be lined up in their spot before 11 a.m. to be judged.

FILE PHOTO Darien Cornfest 2024



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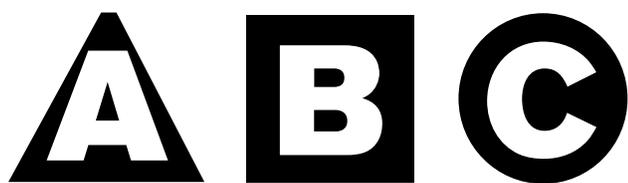
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**2024 DARIEN CORNFEST**

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# Cornfest tournaments offer fun for all

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

## Softball

Darien Cornfest hosts a 32-team softball tournament every year. Prizes are awarded for the top placing teams. Games will run Friday and Saturday, with an additional co-ed tournament being played on Sunday.

Call Nolan at 262-203-2894 for more information.

## Volleyball

The volleyball tournament begins Saturday morning at the West Park volleyball courts.

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

Teams pre-register for this event.

## Horseshoe

The horseshoe tournament will be on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7 and 8.

Tournament play starts at 11 a.m. both days.

For more information, call Shane at 262-374-3755 or visit the festival website at [www.dariencornfest.us](http://www.dariencornfest.us).

## Cornhole

The cornhole tournament is at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

For more information, call Bryce at 262-949-8921 or visit the festival website at [www.dariencornfest.us](http://www.dariencornfest.us).

## Hammerschlagen

Hammerschlagen is a German game reportedly dating from the 1940s 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. Prizes are awarded to the winners and are subject to change.

## Bingo

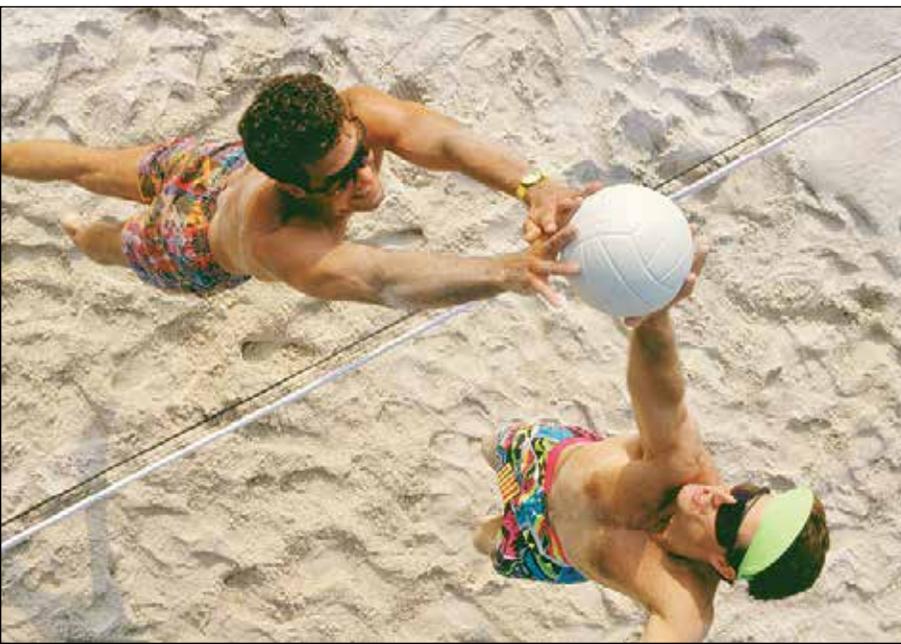
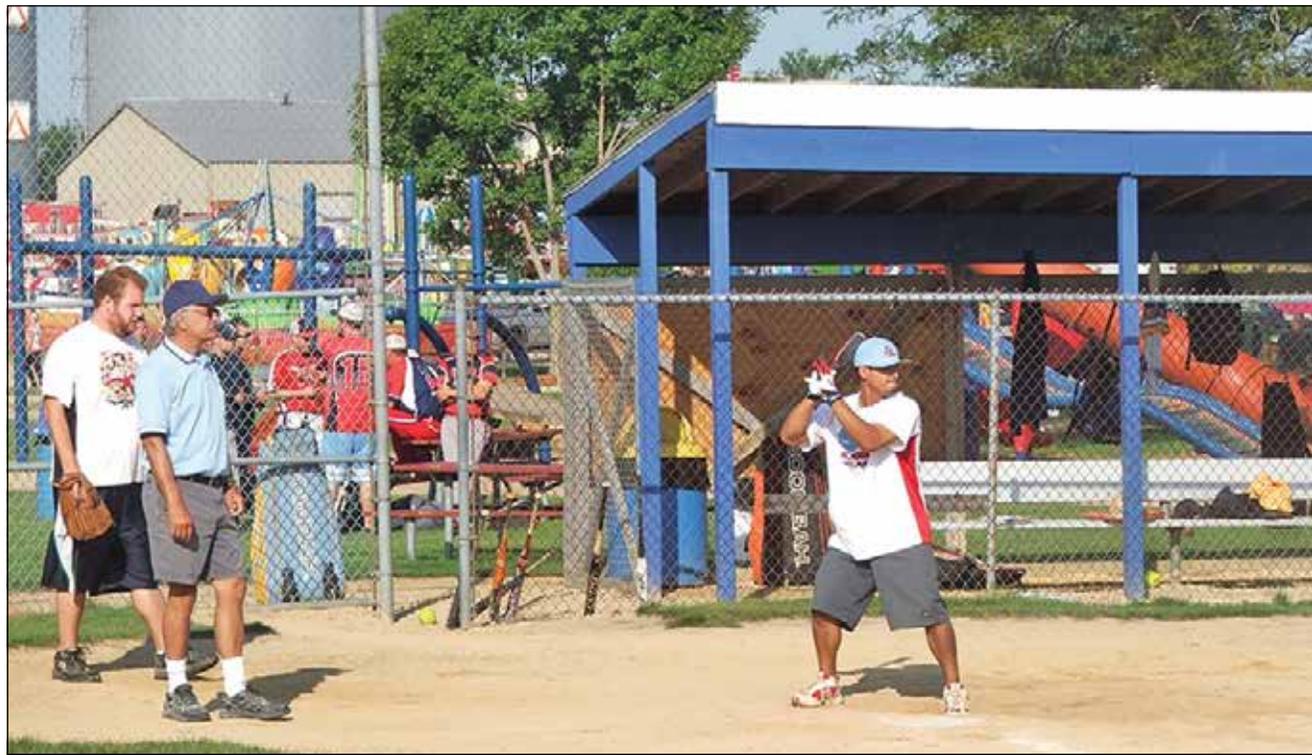
Bingo is played Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It takes place in the Fire Station garage next to the festival grounds.

Cash prizes are awarded (amounts vary depending on participation).



Darien Cornfest features a variety of tournaments including softball, volleyball, cornhole (beanbag toss), and horseshoes. Volleyball is a pre-registered competition while teams can register on site for horseshoes as well as cornhole. The fest also offers bingo as well as Hammerschlagen.

FILE PHOTOS  
Darien Cornfest 2024



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# Birds Eye supports fest with free corn

## Local company a longtime supporter of community event

Birds Eye in Darien donates the sweet corn for the annual Cornfest celebration held in the village.

Free roasted corn on the cob will be served Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7 and 8, 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.

Birdseye 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.

He returned to the United 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," which 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," the website states.

"Birds Eye veggies are as nutritious when they hit your plate, as the day they were picked," it states.

### Responsible growing

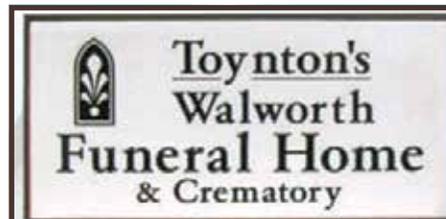
Birds Eye supports farmers' efforts with irrigation water conservation to reduce usage and enable reuse of post-use water, according to the website.

The company also works together to treat only specific parts of their fields with fertilization, avoiding the 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 website states.

For more information about Birds Eye, visit [www.birdseye.com](http://www.birdseye.com).



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# Ready to pull

An event held during Darien Cornfest that continues to be a crowd favorite is the Tri-County Pullers Mini Rod Tractor Pull, which begins at noon on Saturday, Sept. 7. According to the TCP website, they aim to bring some of the "loudest and fastest paced mini-rod tractor pulling" to venues in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Tri-County has been running pull events for 30-plus years and is a "family-based organization. We support local Lions clubs and fire and EMS organization," the website states.

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Darien Cornfest 2024



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Plenty of fun and games



Cornfest is a family-friendly event, and while there are numerous things happening to entertain guests, including the festival's younger guests, the annual carnival is one of the favorite places for families to spend a little time. While the carnival will be open all three days of the event, wristband specials are available at a cost of \$25 each from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. as well as 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

STOCK PHOTOS Darien Cornfest 2024





ROCK



## Bringing the music

**above:** Members of the Delavan-Darien High School Marching Band, shown in a different parade, are among the many participants who will walk through downtown Darien on Sunday, Sept. 8, entertaining people watching along the Cornfest parade route. The parade is described as “huge” by organizers and certainly lives up to that name each year.

PHOTO COURTESY ROCKY FEENEY  
Darien Cornfest 2024

## What an ear (of corn!)

**above:** This large ear of corn is a great marketing tool to help draw passersby to Darien Cornfest. Keep an eye out for it near entrances to the village and in the annual parade, which will be held at noon, Sunday, Sept. 8.

FILE PHOTO Darien Cornfest 2024

## Here's your sign

**at right:** Cornfest has a new sign that replaced the one on Highway 14 in the Village of Darien, close to West Park where the fest is held. The sign was made from a composite-like material by Tim, owner of the Wooden Sign Company in Elkhorn. It has a 3D effect as the corn kernels are carved out.

CORNFEST PHOTO Darien Cornfest 2024



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## CORNFEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- Softball Tournament
- Bingo, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Carnival Rides
- Volleyball Tournament
- Darien Woman's Club Carmel Apple Delights, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Corn Hole Tournament, 11 a.m.
- Horseshoe Tournament, 11 a.m.
- Hammerschlag
- Walworth County Cloggers, 11 a.m.
- Mini-Rod Tractor Pull, noon

- Twin Rivers Band, noon-3 p.m.
- Cherry Pie on the Miller Lite Stage, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Sept. 8

- DDSAB Breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m.
- CoEd Softball Tournament, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Carnival Rides
- Darien Woman's Club Carmel Apple Delights, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Horseshoe Tournament, 11 a.m.
- Liberty Bike Ride, 11:15 a.m.
- Parade in downtown Darien, noon
- The Big Corn Shell-out, 3 p.m.
- Raffle Drawing (\$1 each or six tickets for \$5), 4 p.m.

For more information about Darien Cornfest, go to [www.dariencornfest.us](http://www.dariencornfest.us) or like and follow the event's Facebook page.

## Basic overview

**Sept. 6 to 8  
Darien West Park**

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

**Friday** – softball tournament, fireworks, Hammerschlag, carnival rides, Dirt Road Rebelz

**Saturday** – DDSAB breakfast, softball tournament, bingo, carnival rides, volleyball tournament, Darien Woman's Club caramel apple delights, corn hole tournament, Twin Rivers Band, horseshoe tournament, community market, mini-rod tractor pull, Hammerschlag, Walworth County Cloggers, Cherry Pie

**Sunday** – coed softball tournament, DDSAB breakfast, bingo, carnival rides, Darien Woman's Club caramel apple delights, horseshoe tournament, liberty bike ride, huge parade (downtown Darien), The Big Corn Shell-out, raffle drawing

### Carnival \$25 wristband specials

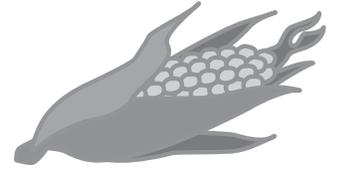
– Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. and again on Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Cornfest has live music on the Miller Lite Stage and there is no cover charge. Here is this year's rundown:

**Friday, Sept. 6**  
7 to 11 p.m. – Dirt Road Rebelz

**Saturday, Sept. 7**  
Noon to 3 p.m. – Twin Rivers Band  
7:30 to 11:30 p.m. – Cherry Pie



Dirt Road Rebelz



Cherry Pie

COURTESY TRASH PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Full weekend of fun

The 63rd annual Darien Cornfest promises to entertain families from throughout the area as well as visitors during the three-day event. There are many things to do, see, and enjoy, including perusing the marketplace, playing bingo, enjoying some food from vendors and taking in volleyball (and a variety of other sports tournaments.)

# 63RD ANNUAL DARIEN CORNFEST



## 3 BIG DAYS

### September 6, 7, & 8th at Darien West Park



### FRIDAY, SEPT 6TH

**Dirt Road Rebelz**  
**On the Miller Lite Stage**  
7PM-11PM

Softball Tournament

Fireworks 9PM

Hammerschlag

Carnival Rides 6PM-10PM

### SATURDAY, SEPT 7TH

DDSAB Breakfast 7:30-10AM

Softball Tournament

Bingo 10-4PM

Corn Fest Community Market

Carnival Rides

Volleyball Tournament

Darien Women's Club

Carmel Apple Delights 11-4PM

Corn Hole Tournament 11AM

Twin Rivers Band Noon-3PM

Horseshoe Tournament 11AM

Mini-Rod Tractor Pull Noon

Hammerschlag

Walworth County Cloggers 11AM

**Cherry Pie**  
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**Corn Fest**  
**Community Market**  
Saturday & Sunday  
10AM - 4PM

### SUNDAY, SEPT 8TH

CoEd Softball Tournament 9am

DDSAB Breakfast 8-10:30AM

Corn Fest Community Market

Bingo 10-3PM

Carnival Rides

Darien Womens Club

Carmel Apple Delights 11-5PM

Horseshoe Tournament 11AM

Liberty Bike Ride 11:15AM

HUGE Parade Noon  
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The Big Corn Shell-out 3PM

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# For More Information Go To DARIENCORNFEST.US