

## Governor Paterson opens the New York State Fair

2009-08-27

### Strong attendance is running ahead of 2008



Governor David A. Paterson officially opened the New York State Fair today, welcoming a crowd that was running well ahead of last year's opening-day attendance by mid-afternoon.

A total of 32,019 people had entered the Fairgrounds By 3 p.m.; 5,576 more than attended by the same time on last year's opening day.

"The State Fair is a wonderful showcase of all that New York has to offer," Governor Paterson said. "New Yorkers know that the fair offers an affordable and family friendly atmosphere that is easy to take advantage of because it is so accessible. This year's Fair will continue to be the success we have seen in recent years."

The Governor spent several hours at the Fairgrounds, and introduced country singer Chuck Wicks - the first Chevy Court performer of the 2009 season - to a crowd of several thousand cheering fans.

Governor Paterson was greeted at the 163<sup>rd</sup> Fair by the State's agricultural leaders in front of the Pride of New York display and the Pride of New York Marketplace, which showcase agricultural products made in New York. He then visited the Horticulture Building, taking time to talk with Fairgoers and vendors.

In the Horticulture Building, the Governor stopped at the new New York Café, one of two new Fair restaurants that serve only New York-produced foods and beverage items.

The Governor also unveiled a new logo at the New York State Maple Producers booth. The new logo and tag line, "Taste the Tradition," will help maple producers fill large orders by working collectively under the name New York Maple. The logo will be available this Thanksgiving at retailers across the State.

During his visit, the Governor stopped at one of the Fair's cherished exhibits - and one of it's most unique attractions - the 9-11 Memorial. Governor Paterson also visited the New York State Trooper exhibit and met with leaders at the Pan African Village.

The Governor - like many, many other fairgoers - also took advantage of one of the Fair's best bargains; A 25-cent cup of ice-cold milk from the Rainbow Milk Bar. He finished his tour with a sausage sandwich from Syracuse's own Dinosaur BBQ.