



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival wraps up a sweet weekend

SANTA MARIA – For three fun-filled days, attendees of the Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival had the chance to enjoy a “Strawberry Escape” filled with rides, fun food and attractions, and of course, strawberries aplenty.

While official numbers are not yet in, the mild, sunny weather at the weekend’s start drew crowds. Attendance was up through Saturday. Likewise, the cooler weather on Sunday also affected attendance, leaving overall numbers even with 2018.

“We’re proud of the work that went into making this event so enjoyable. It helps that we also have some really great sponsors that support the event every year and we couldn’t do it without them,” said Santa Maria Fairpark CEO, Richard Persons.

Here are just a few highlights of this year’s Festival:

- The Rabobank Discovery Museum Children’s Activity Center. Kids had the chance to learn how to extract strawberry DNA and create moon sand. The activity center was a hit with families.
- Organizers received numerous positive comments about the food offerings. The variety of strawberry food featured included unique items like strawberry pizza, strawberry corn dogs, and even strawberry-glazed ribs.
- The Strawberry Festival gained national attention this year. The Food Network show *Carnival Eats* spent two days exploring the food options, interacting with attendees, and filming for an episode that will run in June.
- A strawberry selfie station gave people the chance to create picture-perfect memories.

- Performances by local artists kept the atmosphere lively at the Center Stage.
- Chef Landry's Cajun Comedy Show returned and once again attracted large crowds with his cooking demonstrations, ice cream-making contests for the kids, and the ever-popular dessert-eating contests.

The Santa Maria Fairpark is gearing up for its next big event: the Santa Barbara County Fair, which runs July 10-14. Tickets for the Fair are on sale now on the Fairpark website and Facebook page.

For more information, visit www.santamariafairpark.com or Like us on [Facebook](#).

About the Santa Maria Fairpark

The Santa Maria Fairpark serves as the hub for major events and community activities on California's Central Coast. The state-owned facility hosts the annual Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival, which attracts more than 70,000 people and is home to its headlining event, the Santa Barbara County Fair, which is attended by more than 150,000 people.