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### **Butter Sculpture Display Facts**

In the early 1900s, The Ohio State University and Ohio's dairy processors sponsored butter sculpting contests at the Ohio State Fair. The subjects of these contests were not restricted to specific themes.

As a result of one of the sculpting contests, the first butter cow made its debut at the fair in 1903 and was crafted by A.T. Shelton & Co., distributors of Sunbury Cooperative Creamery butter.

Eventually, the butter cow, and later the butter calf, found a permanent "home" in the Dairy Products Building, which was constructed in the 1920s. New cow and calf sculptures are crafted in butter each year, thus becoming a fair tradition.

Additional butter figures were added to the butter cow and calf display in the early 1960s, and the subject changes every year.

The Dairy Products Building and the butter sculpture display are sponsored by the American Dairy Association Mideast, Ohio's dairy-farmer funded marketing and promotion program.

Each year, the American Dairy Association Mideast selects an icon or theme to feature in butter that is non-political, non-controversial and reflects optimism and broad audience-appeal.

On behalf of Ohio's dairy farmers, the American Dairy Association Mideast commissions a group of technical sculptors to create the butter masterpiece. The team is led by Paul Brooke of Cincinnati and includes Tammy Buerk of West Chester, Erin Birum of Columbus, dairy farmer Matt Davidson of Sidney, Joe Metzler of Auburn and Karen Tharp of Ft. Meyers, Fla.

The mural in the display is painted by Ohio artist Ted Hendricks of Cincinnati.

This year, the butter display was completed in about 600 hours, of which 500 hours are spent sculpting, and is made from approximately 2,530 pounds of butter, donated in part by Dairy Farmers of America.

The butter sculptures are displayed in a large walk-in cooler, where the temperature is maintained at 46 degrees. The energy-efficient refrigerated display case is 36 feet long by 11 feet wide.

After the fair, the butter is recycled and refined into an ingredient used in a variety of non-edible products.

More than 500,000 fairgoers visit the Dairy Products Building annually to see the butter sculptures and enjoy ice cream, milkshakes and cheese sandwiches.

Previous butter displays include:

1982	Astronaut Neil Armstrong
1983	Star War's Darth Vader
1984	Golfer Jack Nicklaus
1985	A Tribute to the Arts
1986	A Tribute to Milk Delivery
1987	Indy 500 Winner Bobby Rahal

1988 Jack Hanna and the Columbus Zoo  
1989 The Modern Dairy Farmer  
1990 Boxer Buster Douglas  
1991 A Salute to the Armed Forces  
1992 A Tribute to the Olympics  
1993 A Tribute to 4-H  
1994 The Anniversary of the Ice Cream Cone  
1995 Wendy's founder Dave Thomas  
1996 A Salute to Dairy Product Development  
1997 The Ohio State Buckeyes  
1998 Space Pioneer John Glenn  
1999 Retired Butter Sculptor Dan Ross  
2000 A Day at the Fair with Hasbro Toys  
2001 The Columbus Crew  
2002 Salute to America  
2003 Aviators Orville and Wilbur Wright  
2004 Great Explorers Lewis and Clark  
2005 America's Favorite Treat - Ice Cream  
2006 Cincinnati Bengals and Cleveland Browns  
2007 Ohio as the Nation's Leader in Swiss Cheese  
2008 Tribute to Ohio's U.S. Presidents  
2009 The People Behind the Product – a Salute to Ohio Dairy Farmers  
2010 Fuel Up to Play 60 school wellness program  
2011 A Tribute to the Nation's Space Program  
2012 A Salute to the Columbus Bicentennial  
2013 Anniversary of the All-Ohio Youth Choir  
2014 A Tribute to Ohio's state symbols  
2015 Ohio State Football National Championship  
2016 Cleveland Cavs NBA Championship  
2017 Chocolate Milk, the Official Beverage of OHSAA  
2018 A Tribute to A Christmas Story  
2019 Tribute to 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moon Landing