

Red Ribbon Fair



1st prize wheat, Ontario, 1928; Prize winning squash, 1955; The Fair at Frederickton, N.B, 1935. Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.

Agricultural fairs were highly anticipated events in the late 19th century. They provided a place to socialize, enjoy some entertainment and share information about the best local crops and farming methods.

With plenty to see and do for everyone, there were flower shows, seed competitions and displays of vegetables, livestock and farming implements. Fine domestic arts were displayed, including spinning, textiles and baking. Foot and animal races entertained the crowds.

Competition was a cornerstone of the fair, with contests for the biggest, tastiest, heaviest and



Photo by David Cavagnaro

best in each category.

In Canada first prize winners were awarded a red ribbon, while in the USA winners received a blue ribbon.

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