

# Fair Attendance Fair

COLUMBUS (UPI) — Attracted by the promise of free rides tickets and performances by singer David Cassidy, a record Labor Day crowd of 169,558 persons attended the final day of the Ohio State Fair.

The fair this year had a total attendance of 2,209,993,27,868 more than last year but not a record. Considering that the 12-day festival was plagued by five rainy days, fair officials were pleased with the turnout.

Each fairgoer was given five free ride tickets Monday and Jerry Kaltenbach, president of Gooding Amusement Co., said all the rides ran at a full capacity throughout the day.

Crowds at the two performances by Cassidy, a popular singer who appears in the "Partridge Family" television series were estimated at about 25,000 each.

Bob Hope, a perennial fair performer, drew nearly 30,000 in his Saturday and Sunday shows.

Fair Manager Vic Lucas said it would take at least a month to determine the financial success of the fair.

He said the Ohio fair is the world's biggest 12-day festival on the basis of drawing more than 2 million persons four years straight. He said Ohio is second only to the 16-day Texas State Fair and the Calgary, Canada, exposition in total attendance.

Texas draws about 3 million in 16 days as does Calgary, Lucas said, but "Texas includes seven Cotton Bowl football games, including those of the Dallas Cowboys and Southern Methodist and Texas Christian universities in their total."

"Take away their football games and really talk about fair attendance and we are still the biggest," Lucas said.