

1976 revival of Hand Cornhusking in South Dakota

2026 50th Anniversary of South Dakota Hand Cornhusking

November 3, 1938, South Dakota hosted the National Hand Corn Husking Contest near Dell Rapids with 125,000 watching. The attack on Pearl Harbor, World War II and mechanization joined forces to end this chapter of Midwest history. In 1975 longtime friends Burton Burkman and Burton Ode were talking about Bicentennial projects for the next year. The 1976 Bicentennial project was a culmination of demonstrations of pioneer farming ways. But the event that would return South Dakota to its husking heritage occurred October 9th and 10th 1976. The contest on the Burnie Burkman farm would grow quickly. By 1978 a non-profit organization, whose main goal was to promote pioneer farming and hand corn husking would be formed and called Dakota Heritage INC. With the growth of sponsorships this association flourished, South Dakota would host the 1978 National contest on Burton and Jo Burkman's Farm. This was the first National husking contest held in South Dakota since the 1938 contest.

On **October 3rd, 2026**, we will be hosting the **50th Annual State Hand Corn Husking Contest** near Chester, SD on the Fred Fedeler farm. We have horse drawn wagons for our huskers to husk into and for giving spectators rides around the husking site. As in the past we are looking for sponsors to help ensure the success of this contest. Some things that the sponsorships help cover are keeping the cost reasonable for participants, insurance, and awards. We also have a big event after the 50th anniversary,

2027 will bring NATIONAL CORNHUSKING to SOUTH DAKOTA with huskers from 9 states participating and we feel we need a nice celebration to highlight our wonderful state. Thank you if you have sponsored us in the past, we could not do this without you. Any sponsorships are welcome individuals, business, and donations in memory of someone. We appreciate any donations to promote this; we will have a list available at the contest of every sponsor for the contest. Thank you for considering being a sponsor for this contest. Please make payments to Dakota Heritage Assoc. INC. 46119 240th Street Chester SD 57016. Please inform us how you would like to be listed on the sponsor board. Thank you for considering this.

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