FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2013 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR BUTTER COW UNVEILED

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The iconic Butter Cow, an Illinois State Fair tradition for more than 90 years, is now under construction, Sculptor Sharon BuMann revealed today.

During a press conference in the Dairy Building on Preview Day, the unofficial start of the fair, BuMann gave the public its first glimpse of this year’s rendition of the famous bovine. She began work on the sculpture just two days ago and will allow curious visitors to watch her complete it during the first few days of the fair.

“Everyone is always so amazed that I can take something edible, like butter, and turn it into a work of art,” she said.

This year’s butter cow was inspired by a scene that BuMann witnessed in her home state of New York on a drive home. She saw a cow standing in a puddle and when the cow turned its head there was a small bird sitting right on its nose.

“It was so unique, I just wanted to capture the moment,” BuMann said. “I like to have a sub-plot to all of my sculptures, and this made for a great start to a story.”

The sculpture is scheduled to be finished early next week. BuMann’s progress also can be monitored on a web cam available at the fair’s website, www.illinoisstatefair.info, or by pasting the following link into a web browser: http://www.agr.state.il.us/isf/webcam.htm.

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The butter cow is not the only attraction in the Dairy Building. This year, in addition to the returning children’s games, the milkshake and ice cream sales, and the exhibits of champion dairy products, That’s So Sweet Cheesecake Factory will be selling mini gourmet cheesecakes.

**Visit our mobile website at ISFmobile.info**
Your personal guide to everything that’s happening at the Fair! You can see contest results, find your favorite vendor, see where your favorite band is playing, and much more!

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Friday, Aug. 9**
County Fair & Horse Racing Day

More than 70 county fair queens and 105 county fairs, including expositions from across the state, will be represented at the fair on opening day. It also is the first of six days of harness racing at the fair’s one-mile dirt track, which is the fastest in the country.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:** 9:30 a.m., Main Gate

**Conservation World:** Open daily from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**The Shed:** Continuous first class entertainment is in store this year with acts performing from noon to 11 p.m. daily. Fairgoers will experience fun, food, entertainment and contests at The Shed.

**Illinois Building Auditorium:** Female vocal talent contest, 5 p.m.

**Concert on the Hill:** New Odyssey, 5:30 p.m., Happy Hollow Stage

**Grandstand Entertainment:** Billy Currington with Lauren Alaina, 8 p.m.

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