STATE FAIR

CAST OF CHARACTERS (line counts are approximate & do not include songs)

MEN

Abel Frake (93 lines)
An Iowa farmer who is very proud of his pig, whom he hopes will win Grand Champion at the State Fair. He is a loving family man.

Wayne Frake (106 lines)
The Frakes' son. He has a girlfriend Eleanor, but he falls for Emily, whom he meets at the State Fair.

Pat Gilbert (64 lines)
A newspaper reporter, a "man of the world" whom Margy meets at the State Fair and falls in love with.

Harry (30 lines)
Margy's boyfriend who urges her to marry him and settle down on a nice farm.

Charlie (14 lines)
A newspaper photographer who travels with Pat Gilbert.

Gus (2 lines)
The Frakes' hired hand at their farm.

Dave Miller (16 lines)
The local storekeeper, who makes a bet with Abel that things will not go well for the entire Frake family at the Iowa State Fair.

The Hoop-La Barker (23 lines)
The carnival worker who tries to get people to play the ring toss game.

The Concession Stand Vendor (1 line)
A barker at a carnival stand.

The Shooting Gallery Barker (1 line)
A barker at a carnival game.

The Balloon Vendor (1 line)
A barker at a carnival stand.

The Astounding Stralenko (2 lines)
A carnival barker who introduces the dancing girls.

Lem (5 lines)
A farmer at the fair.

Clay (2 lines)
A farmer at the fair.

Hank (11 lines)
A farmer at the fair.
Mr. Heppenstahl (11 lines)
The head judge at the State Fair who judges pickles, mincemeat, etc.

The Chief of Police (7 lines)
The chief of police who patrols the grounds. He has a daughter.

The Fair Announcer (5 lines)
Makes announcements throughout the fair over the P.A. system (this part is off-stage).

The Emcee (1 line)
Another announcer who is heard (but not seen).

Roustabout #1 (2 lines)
Roustabout #2 (1 line)
Men who help set up and tear down the fair.

A Man with Thick Glasses (1 line)
A fair-goer.

Another Male Judge (no lines, but we could write some)
Another fair judge that helps Mr. Heppenstahl judge pickles, mincemeat, etc.

Bartender (1 line)
A bartender who works at the fair.

Other Men at the Fair
Need not speak (but we could add lines).

Boys at the Fair
Need not speak (but we could add lines).

WOMEN

Margy Frake (104 lines)
The Frakes’ daughter, who has completed high school. She has a hometown boyfriend, Harry, but she doesn't know if she can settle down to the life he offers her. While at the State Fair, she meets Pat Gilbert and falls in love with him, even though he's a "man of the world".

Melissa Frake (71 lines)
Abel's wife, and the mother of Margy and Wayne. She is determined to win best pickles and best mincemeat at the State Fair (and beat Mrs. Metcalf who has won these honors multiple years).

Emily Arden (53 lines)
A sophisticated woman who appears out of nowhere to defend Wayne at the fair. She turns out to be a traveling singer who has dreams of making it big. Wayne falls for her (even though he has a girlfriend at home).

Eleanor (12 lines)
Wayne's hometown girlfriend who will soon be leaving for college, meaning she won't be able to go the State Fair with Wayne.
Violet (7 lines)
The 11-year-old daughter of the chief of police.

Vivian (8 lines)
and
Jeanne (2 lines)
Both are dancing girls in one of the sideshows at the State Fair.

Mrs. Edwin Metcalf of Pottsville (2 lines)
A woman at the fair who regularly wins the top prizes for her pickles and mincemeat.

A Female Judge (no lines, but we could write some)
Another fair judge that helps Mr. Heppenstahl judge pickles, mincemeat, etc.

Women Friends of Mrs. Metcalf (number is optional; one has a speaking line)
Friends who praise Mrs. Metcalf for her prize-winning accomplishments.

Dorothy Boxhorn
and
Mrs. Robert Mosely
Both these women win ribbons for their fair food entries.

1st Judging Assistant
She holds the pail for the food judges to spit out their food samples in.

2nd Judging Assistant
She has an atomizer to spray the food judges' mouths to clear their palates for further taste-testing.

Other Women at the Fair
Need not speak (but we could add lines).

THE FOLLOWING ROLES COULD BE PLAYED BY MEN OR WOMEN

The Fairtones
The four backup singers and dancers who perform with Emily Arden at her performances.

Two Tap-Dancing Clowns:
One is Dressed as a Calf
and
One is Dresses as a Piglet
They perform a tap dance routine at the fair.

Uncle Sam on Stilts (1 line)
Could be a different type of person (not necessarily Uncle Sam). This person is a greeter, welcoming people to the State Fair.

Voice in the Crowd (2 lines)
A spectator who speaks while watching carnival games.

Another Voice in the Crowd (1 line)
Same as above.
**VOCALS:**

**Abel:** some solo singing, 2 duets with Melissa, some singing with his family members, some singing with other farmers

**Margy:** 4 vocal solos, 1 duet with Pat, some singing with her family

**Melissa:** 2 duets with Abel, some singing with her family

**Wayne:** 1 solo, 1 duet with Emily, some singing with his family

**Pat:** 1 solo, 1 duet with Margy, 1 trio with Vivian and Jeanne

**Emily:** 2 solos with the Fairtones as backup singers, 1 duet with Wayne

**Vivian & Jeanne:** 1 trio with Pat

**The Fairtones:** 2 songs with Emily

**Lem, Clay and Hank:** 1 song with Abel

**Everyone is involved in Ensemble and Company songs.**

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**About "STATE FAIR"**

This musical is an honest story of an American heartland tradition, the State Fair. The show is set in Iowa and follows the hopes and dreams of the Frake family as they travel to the Iowa State Fair.

Abel and Melissa Frake are vital farm folk who truly love each other and have a playful, time-tested relationship. Melissa is a bit of a worry-wort and tends to be a little high-strung – only because she cares so much about her family's well-being. One of her dreams is to take top prize for her pickles and mincemeat at the State Fair. Abel may seem gruff and preoccupied at times, but he's a big-hearted man who never fails to come through with the emotional support his wife and kids have come to rely upon. One of Abel's dreams is to have the grand champion pig at the State Fair.

The Frakes have two children. Margy, their daughter, has a hometown boyfriend who wants to marry her and settle down on a nice, modern farm. Margy, however, is on the verge of discovering what she doesn't want and is on the verge of doing something about it.

Their son Wayne, who is actually more naive than his younger sister, thinks he has life all figured out – complete with a girlfriend back home. Wayne is about to learn that life can be more complicated than expected.

You're invited to journey with the Frakes to the Iowa State Fair as they meet new people and experience events that will influence their lives forever.