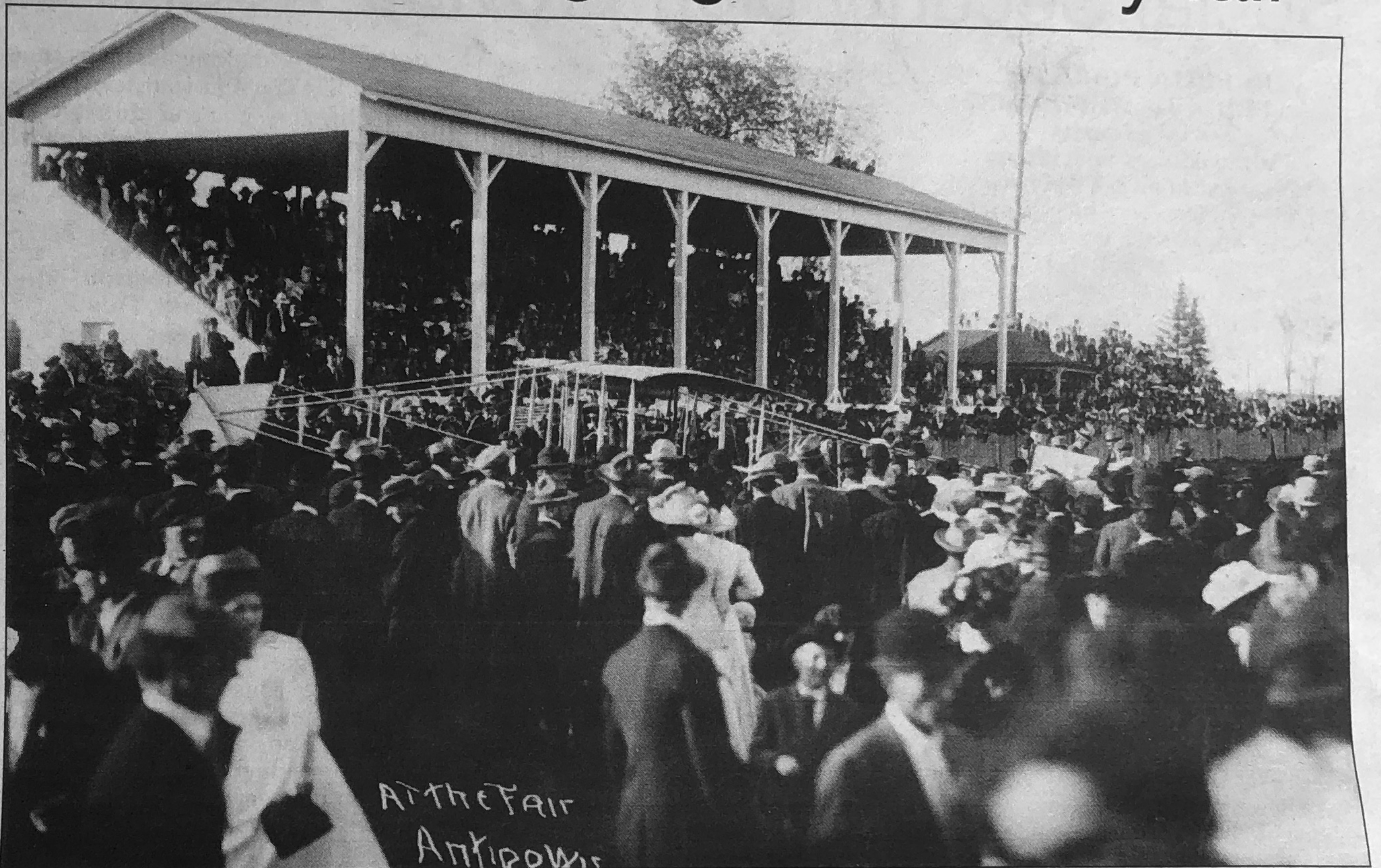


# 'Flying machines' were a highlight at county fair

By **JOE HERMOLIN**  
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The recently concluded Langlade County Fair at Antigo's fairgrounds is always a highlight of summer. From its very beginnings when the county established the fairgrounds 1887 officials have tried to attract people to the fair by special entertainment features. In 1911 and 1912 they definitely had winners.

Less than a decade earlier on Dec. 17, 1903 the Wright Brothers flew a heavier-than-air craft at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. That first airplane flight lasted 12 seconds and the plane traveled 120 feet. Advances in airplane technology proceeded quickly but during the following decade, to most of the world, flying machines were a novelty they only read about. By



After Beachey's show spectators crowded in for a closer look at his machine.



An ad in the Antigo Daily Journal in 1911 announcing Schwister's flight over the grandstand.

1911 airplanes had been spotted in a dozen places in Wisconsin, including Wausau.

One man who became involved was John Schwister of Wausau who decided to try his luck in building a plane. Having grown up in Wisconsin but having attended the University of Minnesota he



Provided by the Langlade County Historical Society. To donate, volunteer or become a member, call 715-627-4464. Visit the museum complex at Superior Street and Seventh Avenue or check out the Website at [www.langladehistory.com](http://www.langladehistory.com).

Our History

named his plane the "Minnesota Badger." Flying was a hobby for the most part, albeit not one for the faint of heart. But in 1911 John Schwister's amateur status changed. The Langlade County Agricultural Society, organizers of the county fair, asked Schwister to fly his Minnesota Badger from Wausau to the Langlade County Fairgrounds during the fair so that spectators could view this novelty. Schwister agreed, for a fee, and so became the first person in Wisconsin to fly professionally.

Fair officials proudly announced that at the 1911 fair, in addition to the usual horse races, motorcycle races, and bicycle races, fair goers would be treated to "The Wausau birdman" and watch him fly his "splendid, large, high class machine of his own design" on two separate dates. About 6,500 people came out to witness "The Wausau birdman" and his Minnesota Badger. Many were turned away from the filled grandstand. After a number of horse, motorcycle, and bicycle races it was time for what the people had come for.

The Antigo Daily Journal described the scene: "When it was rumored that the machine was in sight at the other side of the track the people craned their necks in

anxious excitement to catch the first glimpse of the bird man. The machine was a huge affair, constructed for the most part of steel. A six cylinder engine was mounted on the frame to propel the craft."

A crowd surrounding the Minnesota Badger was so thick that it looked as if Schwister would not be able to take off. But, according to the Antigo Daily Journal, "at the proper moment, the propeller was twirled and the air man soon glided away from the crowd. As he neared the end of the



John Schwister at the controls of his Minnesota Badger. When he flew at the Langlade County Fair in 1911 he was the first person in Wisconsin's history to be paid to fly.

track, the blades of the machine were tilted upward and it sprang into the air. It soared in a north-east direction, covered about two miles of territory, and then gracefully swung toward the grandstand."

Having come up with a winning attraction, fair officials decided on a repeat performance the following year. In 1912 they hired Lincoln Beachey to make three separate take-offs and landings at the fairgrounds with passes over the grandstand. On Sept. 18, 1912, Beachey did not disappoint. He drew an estimated crowd of between 12,000 to 15,000 spectators. (Census data show that in 1910 the entire population of Langlade County was only a little over 17,000.)

The Antigo Daily Journal reported: "Towns up and down the Northwestern line sent large delegations and schools in many of the neighboring towns closed down so that pupils could see the Langlade County fair."

The crowd must have gotten its money's worth for Beachey was a great showman. "The first flight was started from a point just south of the grandstand on the race track. From this point he gathered

See Our History Back Page





In 1912 barnstorming pilot Lincoln Beachey thrilled a large crowd at the fair with airborne stunts. Note the horse and sulky on the track.



Beachey at the controls as he prepares for takeoff in one of his three flights.

## Our History

Continued  
speed and swept past the stand to about 100 yards north when he rose into the air and when barely thirty feet in the air began circling. His first exhibition consisted of thrilling maneuvers such as rising and dipping and going close to the heads of the people only to rise quickly when he had nearly reached the ground. After about five minutes of these thrilling tactics Beachey mounted into the air gradually until he became a mere

speck against the sky line. When reaching an altitude of 6,000 feet Beachey caused a sensation by disappearing from view behind some dense clouds only to reappear and then again submerge himself in a still denser cloud.... From this high point he turned the machine directly to the earth and fairly dropped until within a point of 100 feet above the race track enclosure when he again swung parallel with the earth and effected a safe landing just where he had intended."

Beachey's second flight for the crowd was a five mile race against

a local motorcycle rider, Ralph Krause, on his two cylinder Harley Davidson. Again, the Antigo Daily Journal described "Beachey's daring swoops at the motorcyclist. From an elevation of a couple of hundred feet Beachey would fairly fall to a point just a couple of feet over the motorcyclist's head and would then mount again in the air only to come down again just in front of the motor cycle."

Beachey then delighted the audience with a third flight- an exhibition of fancy glides and dips and spiral glides.

The entire performance was

something never before witnessed in northern Wisconsin and fair officials were proud to have contracted with such a skilled pilot and entertaining showman as Lincoln Beachey.

Barnstorming pilots did much to advance the technology of flight in the early days. The Antigo Daily Journal praised Beachey for his skill and stated that he did not appear to be foolhardy or part of the "insane aviator class". But about a year later Beachey died in an airplane crash. The world of barnstorming pilots had lost a great showman.

## Hessedal

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lower in protein compared with strained varieties such as Greek yogurt. Traditional yogurt has a smooth and creamy texture.

Popular brands: Yoplait, Stonyfield and Dannon.

Nutrition information: One 8-oz. cup of Dannon plain yogurt contains 120 kcal; 0 g fat; 0 g sat fat; 18 g carbohydrate; 15 g sugars; and 10 g protein.

Ingredients: (Dannon) Cultured Grade A nonfat milk, food starch and active yogurt cultures, including L acidophilus.

How do you choose:

Because there are so many types of yogurt, we must remember not all yogurts are created equal — especially when it comes to live cultures. Looking for the phrase "contains active cultures" or "living cultures" on the carton will ensure you're getting live cultures. In addition, the presence of the National Yogurt Association's "Live Active Cultures" seal insures that the yogurt contains live cul-

tures. Yogurt's live and active cultures make it a more easily digestible option for people with lactose intolerance.

To reduce added sugar intake, choose plain yogurts and sweeten them with honey or fruit such as berries. For those who buy plant-based yogurts, look for brands fortified with vitamin D and calcium. And for those who wish to increase their protein intake, choose Greek-style yogurts. Icelandic and Australian are other higher-protein options. Always read the ingredients list and choose yogurt with no added sugars. Yogurt is a versatile, nutrient-dense food and is available in many forms to meet the taste preferences of consumers.

Information adapted from Today's Dietitian June 2018 Original article by Constance Brown-Riggs, MSed, RD, CDE, CDN.

### Zippy Cucumber Crunch

- 2 large cucumbers, peeled and sliced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups ice water
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 small green bell pepper,

chopped

- 1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream (try fat free plain yogurt instead)
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper

Instructions  
In a large bowl, combine the cucumbers, salt and ice water. Cover and chill for 1 hour, then drain and return the cucumbers to the bowl.

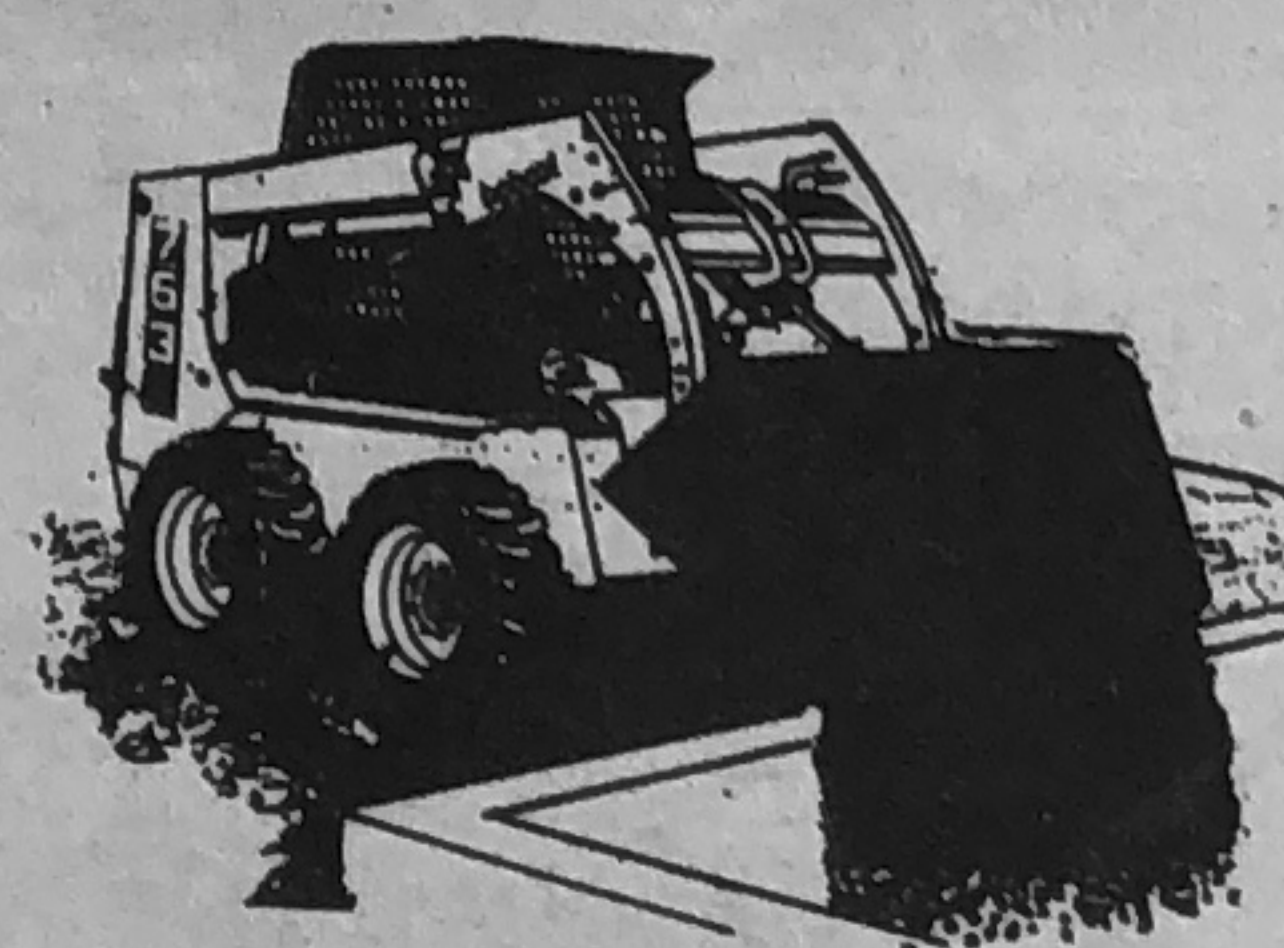
Add the remaining ingredients

and mix until well combined. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours before serving.

Nutrition Facts	(Serving Size: 1/2 cup)
Calories 30	
Total Fat 1g	
Sodium 104mg	
Carbohydrate 5g	
Fiber 1g	
Protein 1g	

Recipe adapted from Diabetes.org.

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