

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amanda Storment Vice President of Communications Kentucky State Fair Board (502) 367-5180 astorment@ksfb.ky.gov

Ryne Dunkelberger Social Media and Communications Manager Kentucky State Fair Board 502 367-5186 rdunkelberger@ksfb.ky.gov

NATIONAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW CELEBRATED 50 YEARS AND REWRITES RECORD BOOKS

LOUISVILLE, KY (Feb. 18, 2015) - The Kentucky State Fair Board announced that attendance for the 50th National Farm Machinery Show was up more than 16,000 from the previous year. The 2015 event saw the second highest attendance total of all time as 310,589 attendees that included exhibitors and agribusiness professionals traveled to the Kentucky Exposition Center to participate in the nation's largest indoor ag trade show.

Show managers said more than 850 exhibitors, including delegations from Argentina, Italy, Germany, England and China, filled the 1.2 million square feet of exhibit space of the Kentucky Exposition Center during the February 11-14 event.

"For 50 years, the National Farm Machinery Show has always been focused on showcasing the best in agriculture, offering firsthand looks at what's new and highlighting the economic stakes and challenges within the industry," said Kentucky State Fair Board President and CEO Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe. "We want to create a gathering place for the latest technologies and education for the ag industry and these numbers affirm our place as one of the most important agricultural shows in the nation."

Other expo highlights included 15 seminars, with topics ranging from marketing practices for farmers to fine-tuning crop production skills and computerized and cloud-based farming.

In conjunction with the National Farm Machinery Show, the 47th Championship Tractor Pull continued to draw a cheering fan base to the nation's oldest indoor tractor pull with remarkable increases over the previous year in attendance and revenue. More than 66,000 people attended the pull, an increase of seven percent from last year.

The National Farm Machinery Show started in 1966 when a few hundred farmers, salesmen and crop experts gathered in Louisville to organize a farm show. Now the show has grown to one of the largest economic impact events of the year, generating a \$21.5 million impact across the community and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Planning will soon get underway for the 2016 National Farm Machinery Show, which is set for Feb. 10-13, 2016 in Louisville.

For more information, visit www.farmmachineryshow.org.

###

About the National Farm Machinery Show

The National Farm Machinery Show, the nation's largest indoor farm show, features the agricultural industry's most comprehensive display of equipment, services and technology. Held annually at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky, the show attracts 300,000 attendees from the United States and around the world. The Championship Tractor Pull, the country's oldest indoor tractor pull, accompanies the show to provide an added element of entertainment and competition. The National Farm Machinery Show occupies over one million square feet of contiguous exhibit space, contributes \$19 million in economic impact to the Commonwealth each year, and is owned and produced by the Kentucky State Fair Board.