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KENTUCKY STATE FAIR ATTENDANCE DOWN IN 2014

LOUISVILLE, KY (August 29, 2014) – The 2014 Kentucky State Fair, which wrapped its 110th edition on Sunday, drew 515,937 visitors, dipping below 600,000 people for the first time since 2012.

Despite the decrease in attendance, others areas saw growth including the competitive entry departments and World's Championship Horse Show. Both areas brought in a total of 58,449 entries, an increase of more than 1,500 from last year's figures.

Marked by 100 degree heat indexes and thunderstorms, the rain-soaked final weekend dampened overall attendance numbers, down from last year's total of 615,648. Rain fell on eight of the 11 days of the Fair, most notably on Saturday, August 23 that saw the Joan Jett and the Blackhearts free concert cancelled.

"The same thing that affected us affected other area activities as well and still the Fair continues to be one of the most popular events in the state and draws people from across the region," President and CEO of the Kentucky State Fair Board Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe said. "It represents the best that Kentucky offers."

Rippetoe added that the Fair creates hundreds of temporary jobs, provides millions in economic revenue and offers Kentuckians an event to showcase themselves.

Fair officials underscored the amount of work it takes to produce the commonwealth's largest summertime event. During the 11-day event:

Approximately 100,000 pounds of pork are cooked by the Kentucky Pork Producers.

More than 5,000 blue ribbons are distributed.

Nearly 68,000 trash bags are used in and around the facility.

An average of 150 bingo games a day are played.

79 counties are represented at the Little Miss and Mister Pageant.

Nearly 30,000 biodegradable balloons were used to create this year's balloon sculpture.

25,000 corn dogs are cooked and sold by one food vendor during the Fair.

25,700 beer cups are used.

The 11-day event generated approximately \$16.5 million in economic impact across the community and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Next year's Kentucky State Fair will be held August 20-30, 2015. For more information, visit www.kystatefair.org.

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About the Kentucky State Fair

The Kentucky State Fair is an 11-day celebration of the history, heritage and culture of the Bluegrass State. More than 600,000 attend America's largest indoor fair, which uses over 1.2 million square feet of contiguous exhibit space at the Kentucky Exposition Center and contributes \$16.8 million in economic impact. Rooted in agriculture, the Kentucky State Fair has grown into a trade and public education exposition, as well as a major entertainment venue. The World's Championship Horse Show, held during the Fair, is the world's richest and most prestigious Saddlebred show. The Kentucky State Fair & World's Championship Horse Show are owned and produced by the Kentucky State Fair Board, an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.