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ANOKA COUNTY FAIR - PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 20, 2023

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Anoka County Fairgrounds Sweeps National Awards at the 2023 IAFE Annual Convention

Anoka, Minnesota – November 20, 2023 – The Anoka County Fairgrounds has emerged as a national leader in the fair and exposition industry by securing an impressive seven first-place titles at the 2023 International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE) Virtual Awards Presentation, an overall Best in the Nation Division 1 in the Sponsorship category, as well as two second place finishes. This marks the second consecutive year that the Anoka County Fairgrounds has received national acclaim for its innovation and enhancements. This year there were over 1,900 entries in the IAFE awards worldwide.

The Anoka County Fair Board is dedicated to delivering imaginative and engaging experiences for the local community. Compass Kids Day and Captel Phone Senior Day experiences showcased this with their first place finishes for sponsorship innovation and first time sponsorship. Events such as the Big Wheel Contest, The Farm Animal Rock Adoption, and the Rock Paper Scissors contests with our sponsors the Anoka Hennepin Credit Union, Anoka Equine Veterinary Services, and Inky Elf all received excellence awards.

Michaela Liebl, Manager of the Anoka County Fair, is proud of the volunteers who invest their time to foster a great experience for the community.

Liebl said, "The continuous hard work and dedication invested by the fair board and our partners throughout the year to enhance the fairgrounds for the community is truly extraordinary. Being part of this fair is an honor, and I am eagerly looking forward to making this fair bigger and better in 2024."

Besides the fair itself, they also received 2 first place awards for the Fall Festival which is in its second year, and through the event The Anoka County Fair was able to make a \$7,000 donation to the Food Shelf.

In addition to these victories, the fairgrounds secured a second-place finish in the category of Best 1st Year Event NOT produced by Facility Staff. This accolade specifically acknowledged the success of a unique wedding hosted on the fairgrounds, featuring a bar-hopping hay ride to themed bars on-site.

Michael Ahlers, Anoka County Fair Board President, wants the community to know he appreciates the support from the community.

"The fair is excited to keep improving and bringing new and improved exhibits and events to the community. I want to thank everyone for always supporting the fair, and we look forward to continuing to grow with you," said Ahlers.

The Anoka County Fairgrounds looks ahead with enthusiasm, continuing its mission to evolve, captivate, and foster joy within the community.

Upcoming dates:

Holiday In Lights: CANCELED

Springtime & Sunshine Festival: May 10th - 12th

The Anoka County Fair: July 23rd - 28th

The Fall Festival: October 4th - 6th

See you all at the FAIR.

More information at Anokacountyfair.com

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First Place Photo (National 1st Place Winner)

Pictured are Ivy and Howard members of the River Raiders 4-H Club at The Anoka County Fair.

Photo taken by Lori Liebl