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Indiana State Fair announces 2018 FAIRs Care Food Drive winners

August 17, 2018, INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Hoosiers helping those in need is part of Indiana’s culture, and an effort led by the Indiana State Fair has prompted 35 Indiana county fairs to donate food and participate in the FAIRs Care food drives. Through a partnership with the Indiana Association of Fairs (INAF) and Feeding Indiana’s Hungry (FIH), these counties have collected 57,536 pounds of food for local food pantries this summer. The top five counties that have made the most food contributions and will receive a check for \$200 are:

1. Cass County 4-H Fair - raised \$34,051.30
2. Tipton County 4-H Fair - raised \$11,669.96
3. Miami County 4-H Fair - raised \$9,352.00
4. Putnam County 4-H Fair - raised \$8,205.00
5. Wells County 4-H Fair - raised \$5,038.3

To calculate these numbers, the Indiana State Fair multiplies the pounds of food collected by \$1.67, which is the average cost of a pound of food. Then, any cash donations collected are added to that total.

“The FAIRs Care food drive program allows us to give back to the community by helping Hoosiers in need and by encouraging other counties throughout Indiana to do the same,” says Cindy Hoyer, Indiana State Fair Commission executive director.

Other counties participating in FAIRs Care include: Allen, Boone, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, Fayette, Fountain, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Howard, Huntington, Jasper, Jay, Newton, Parke, Perry, Pulaski, Shelby, Vermillion, and Wabash.

Leaders in these counties worked with local food banks to secure donations during their county fairs to benefit local hunger relief efforts. Participants of FAIRs Care received an allotment of Indiana State Fair tickets to help incentivize donations at the food drives.

ABOUT FAIRs Care

Since 2013, the Indiana State Fair has partnered with the Indiana Association of Fairs (INAF) and Feeding Indiana’s Hungry (FIH) to implement the FAIRs Care County Food Drive program. The goal of FAIRs Care is to raise awareness of local hunger needs and help feed hungry Hoosiers. FAIRs Care taps the passion and ingenuity of county fairs to ensure impact is felt state-wide. The Top 5 participating counties each earn a donation to their Fair. FAIRs Care has raised more than \$83,000 and collected more than 101,000 pounds of food since its inception.

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ABOUT THE INDIANA STATE FAIR

The Indiana State Fair is the state's largest multi-day event celebrating Hoosiers' spirit and agricultural heritage. These 17 days celebrate Indiana agriculture and promote it to hundreds of thousands of people across Indiana, and beyond. Nationally recognized for offering great entertainment, showcasing youth, interactive agriculture education programs, premier facilities and a variety of unique, fun foods, the Indiana State Fair has been an annual attraction for generations of Hoosiers since 1852. The 2018 Indiana State Fair will be held August 3-19. The 2018 theme pays homage to Indiana's rich circus heritage by offering a world-class Big Top Circus presented by Bee Window. The new family-friendly Big Top Circus is FREE with paid State Fair admission and features acrobats, clowns, trapeze artists and more! For more information, visit www.indianastatefair.com.

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