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

Ryne Dunkelberger
Social Media and Communications Manager
(502) 367-5186
rdunkelberger@ksfb.ky.gov

KENTUCKY COUNTRY HAM BREAKFAST & AUCTION BREAKS RECORD AND RAISES MILLIONS

LOUISVILLE, KY (August 21, 2014) – The Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast and Auction kicked off its 51st anniversary with a full house of elected officials and invited guests at the Kentucky State Fair. Sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau, the breakfast and auction is one of the signature events of the Kentucky State Fair and celebrates a proud tradition of showcasing superior-quality country hams.

The blue-ribbon winning ham was raised by Broadbent B&B Foods and weighed in at 15.89 pounds. The country ham sold for a \$2 million bid split by Republic Bank and Hermitage Farms in conjunction with Bridgeman Foods. The cost per pound was \$125,865.

The Kuttawa, KY-based producer has won the blue ribbon sixteen times since 1964. In addition, today's bid makes it the seventh time that Republic Bank has purchased the winning ham.

The annual breakfast fed a sellout crowd with more than 5,400 eggs, 400 gallons of milk, 30 gallons of sorghum, 20 gallons of honey and 450 pounds of country ham from Kentucky farmers. The festivities also included appearances by local and state officials and speeches by Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner James Comer.

Since its inception in 1964, the Kentucky Farm Bureau has helped raise more than 8.85 million dollars for charity.

The Kentucky State Fair continues through August 24 at the Kentucky Exposition Center. For more information, visit www.kystatefair.org.

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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.