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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation Names Jana Sittler as Executive Director

HUTCHINSON, Kansas — The Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation is pleased to announce the hiring of Jana Sittler as its new Executive Director, bringing to the organization more than 25 years of leadership experience spanning fundraising, nonprofit management, agriculture, event operations, stakeholder engagement, marketing, public policy and strategic development.

Sittler will lead the Foundation's efforts to support, enhance, and preserve the Kansas State Fairgrounds while advancing fundraising initiatives, strengthening donor and community relationships, and helping guide the Foundation's long-term vision and growth.

A lifelong advocate for agriculture and community development, Sittler brings a diverse background that uniquely positions her to lead the Foundation into its next chapter. Most recently, she has served as Yards Manager and Superintendent for the National Western Stock Show in Denver, overseeing Yards livestock operations and exhibitor services for one of the nation's premier agricultural events. She also previously served as Facility and Show Manager for the Grand Island Livestock Complex Authority, where she led event recruitment, facility operations, and stakeholder engagement efforts.

Throughout her career, Sittler has demonstrated success in fundraising, donor stewardship, board relations, strategic planning, marketing, and partnership development through leadership roles with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, American Simmental Association, Nebraska State Fair, and numerous agricultural and nonprofit organizations.

"Jana's experience aligns exceptionally well with the Foundation's mission and goals," said Mary McCurry, Chair of the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation Board of Directors. "She brings a remarkable combination of fundraising expertise, agricultural industry knowledge, event management experience, and relationship-building skills. We are thrilled to welcome Jana to the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation and are excited about the future opportunities ahead. Her leadership, vision, and passion for serving communities will help us continue building momentum as we enhance and preserve one of Kansas' most treasured assets for generations to come."

As Executive Director, Sittler will work closely with the Foundation's Board of Directors, the Kansas State Fair Board and staff, donors, community leaders, and stakeholders across Kansas to advance key initiatives that support the fairgrounds and expand the Foundation's impact.

"I am honored to join the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation and to have the opportunity to contribute to the future of such an important organization," said Sittler. "The Kansas State Fairgrounds represent a vital gathering place for agriculture, education, entertainment, and community. I look forward to working with the Board, donors, partners, and supporters to build on the Foundation's strong legacy and create new opportunities that benefit the fairgrounds and the people of Kansas."

The Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation has played a vital role in funding improvements, preservation efforts, educational initiatives, and facility enhancements that enrich the Kansas State Fair experience and support year-round activities at the fairgrounds. Under Sittler's leadership, the Foundation will continue pursuing innovative partnerships, fundraising opportunities, and strategic projects that strengthen the fairgrounds for future generations.

About the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation

The Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the renovation, construction, preservation, and beautification of the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Through donor support, partnerships, and community engagement, the Foundation helps fund projects and initiatives that enhance the fairgrounds and preserve its role as one of Kansas' premier cultural, educational, and agricultural destinations. For more information about the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation, visit our website and follow us on social media!

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