

For immediate release

Portage County Randolph Fair Seeks \$800,000 **Group laser focused on improving Fairgrounds for youth and community**

Randolph, Ohio-The Portage County Randolph Fair announced today they are launching an \$800,000 Campaign to build a 22,000 square foot Junior Fair Livestock Building to replace their outdated swine, lamb and goat buildings with a single building that will house all three species and provide a much larger show & auction ring. Also included in this campaign is providing heating and air conditioning to the Hubbard Building so that it is available to the community for year-round events.

This idea has been in the works for some time. A recent Leadership Assessment was conducted that included over 30 local businesses, individuals, agriculture groups and friends of the fair. The result was a resounding “YES” to help the Portage County Randolph Fair move their fair and fairgrounds to the next level of safety and efficiency.

Jeff Kisamore, Chair of the Livestock Complex Committee said, “We are so humbled by the feedback of the assessment. This is the community’s fair and we are so grateful for the anticipated support of our community. Everything we do is for the youth. We feel they deserve this type of building because of their hard work and dedication to their livestock projects!”

The campaign has received the assistance of Bill Wallbrown of Deerfield Ag Services and Todd Brugmann from Oscar Brugmann Sand & Gravel as Campaign Co-Chairmen. Two things Bill Wallbrown and Deerfield Ag Services have in common with the Fair - both are very successful and have a deep passion for agriculture. The Brugmanns have long been a presence at the fair and have supported countless 4-H’ers through the livestock auction. The Fair Board is excited to have both Bill and Todd on board.

To demonstrate the Fair Board’s commitment to this project, they have committed \$100,000 toward the \$800,000 goal. Additionally, the 21 board members are 100% in their individual giving. Tracey Koszalka, Fair Board President, explained, “The Fair Board strives to present a fair that is fun, safe and efficiently run. We are excited that this building and the other improvements will enable us to continue to achieve those goals.”

Due to the size of the effort, the Fair Board hired Fair Funding out of Cincinnati, Ohio to execute the leadership assessment and the campaign. Matt Hughes, Principal of the firm, has 30 years of development experience including more than a half dozen infrastructure campaigns for fairs.

Tim Wise, Fair Board Vice President, said, “Our group felt an instant connection with Matt as he offered a very pragmatic approach to moving our project forward. With the number of campaign-related activities going on in our area, we all feel our project plan is achievable.”

The Hubbard Building is the most popular building that is rented by the community but is essentially underutilized because of the lack of heating and air conditioning.

The Portage County Randolph Fair Board is in the process of setting up a campaign fund and an endowment fund through The Portage Foundation. The endowment idea was a popular item of

discussion during the assessment. More details will be coming soon on our website www.randolphfair.com.

The plan calls for fundraising through the 2018 Fair, with the tear down to begin soon after the Fair. Pledges can be made over a 5-year period and are 100% tax deductible. Gifts of corn and soybeans, land, stock and of course cash are all welcome.

For more information about the campaign please contact Debi Heppe at the Fair, 330-325-7476 or Matt Hughes at [hjimmymatt@aol.com](mailto:hjimymatt@aol.com).