



International Association of Fairs and Expositions
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Don Merkens, Norman County Fair (MN), Honored With Heritage Award

Salt Lake City, UT – The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) proudly honors Don Merkens, Norman County Fair (MN), with a Heritage Award. This distinguished recognition was announced on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at the IAFE Convention and Trade Show held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"The Heritage Award honors five individuals each year who have a minimum of 10 years of fair management experience and receive less than \$2,500 remuneration annually over expenses," Marla Calico, CFE, President and CEO of the IAFE, said. "Don is regularly involved in IAFE committees and Zone 4 meetings. We are honored to recognize Don for his dedication to the fair industry."

Sponsored by Haas & Wilkerson Insurance, this award recognizes fair management personnel who have invested significant effort into making their organization a valuable part of the community.

Merkens has been with the Norman County Fair since 1986. Each year, he has been a key player in the planning, development, and production of the annual county fair held in June. Creating new visions and revamping the grounds of the fair has been a constant goal for Merkens. His business experience as a retired insurance agent has brought invaluable insight, management, and relationships into the Norman County Fair.

The IAFE Convention and Trade Show serves as a premier platform for industry leaders and partners to gather, exchange ideas, and celebrate achievements within the fair industry. This year's Convention theme, Fairs RISE (Reunite, Inspire, Support and Educate), focused on how fairs are rising above in their communities and beyond.

The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), based in Springfield, Mo., is a voluntary, nonprofit corporation serving state, provincial, regional, and county agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions, and expositions. Its associate members include state and provincial associations of fairs, non-agricultural expositions and festivals, associations, corporations, and individuals engaged in providing products and services to its members, all interested in improving fairs, shows, expositions, and allied fields. For more information, visit www.fairsandexpos.com, follow the IAFE on Facebook or Instagram, or call 800.516.0313.

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