Jeff Thayne Recognized as Rising Star

LAS VEGAS, NV -- December 5, 2016 -- At the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) 126th Annual Convention, Jeff Thayne of the San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo was honored with the Rising Star Award, according to IAFE President and CEO Marla Calico. The Convention was held Nov. 27-30, at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

The Rising Star Award was created by the IAFE Young Professionals Initiative (YPI) to recognize leadership and industry contributions of IAFE members, age 40 and younger. Nominees are any employee, volunteer, or board member under age 40 of a member fair, show, exposition, or exhibition in good standing with the IAFE.

Thayne grew up on his grandfather’s small cattle operation. Even after he and his family moved off his grandfather’s land, Thayne gravitated toward agriculture. He joined 4-H to show pigs, heifers, and steer. His involvement in 4-H continued as he coached the 2015 Guadalupe County Livestock Judging Team to Texas 4-H Championships and continues to have one of the winningest teams in history.

Thayne currently serves as managing director of competitive events at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition (SALE). His responsibilities cover the livestock show, the horse show, the rodeo, as well as daily operations and logistics of the exposition. Prior to serving in his current position, Thayne served as livestock director at the Stock Show. His love of agriculture leads him to the State Fair of Texas each year to serve as livestock judging contest superintendent.

Thayne has served as chair of the IAFE Agriculture Committee and served on the IAFE Wine and Dine Committee. He is a member of the IAFE YPI, Texas Association of Fairs and Events, Texas 4-H Visions Committee, and the North American Livestock and Rodeo Manager’s Association.

In his community, Thayne helps out at the New Berlin Sausage Festival and Auction. He is a devoted father and t-ball coach.

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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 of whom are interested in the improvement of fairs, shows, expositions, and allied fields.