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Kent Hojem Named 2016 Chair of IAFE

LAS VEGAS, NV — December 2, 2015 — Kent Hojem, CEO of the Washington State Fair in Puyallup, Wash., was elected the 2016 chair of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) today during the final business session of the 125th IAFE Annual Convention. The convention began Nov. 29 and continues through today at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

Hojem joined the Washington State Fair in March 1996, and has served as CEO since January 2005. He oversees all operations of the fair and fair properties, including the Washington State Fair each September, and the Washington State Spring Fair each April. He also serves as secretary of the Washington State Fair Foundation. Prior to joining the state fair, Hojem served as manager of the Thurston County Fair in Lacey, Wash., and later as assistant manager of the Southwest Washington Fair in Chehalis.

Hojem has been involved in numerous youth and livestock committees and foundations over the years. He is past chair and current board member of Washington State 4-H Foundation and currently serves as chair of Puyallup-Sumner Chamber of Commerce. He is a board member and past chair of Communities In Schools in Puyallup and a past board member of Communities In Schools of Washington.

Hojem was born and raised in Chehalis, where he showed dairy cattle in 4-H. He was a mathematical sciences major at Stanford University. He and his wife Carolyn live in Puyallup, and are surrounded by family, including Criss (wife, Andie) and Trent (wife, Toni), and four grandchildren: Tucker, Sydney, Monica, and Mackenzie.

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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.