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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eastern Idaho State Fair Announces 2015 Grand Marshal

Rauhn Panting Dedicated 50 Years to 4-H & EISF

Blackfoot, ID – The Eastern Idaho State Fair Board of Directors has named Rauhn Panting as Grand Marshal of this year’s Eastern Idaho State Fair. He will lead the annual EISF Parade down Shilling Avenue on Saturday, September 5, at 10 am.

Being involved in the 4-H program for more than 50 years, Rauhn has been a great influence on many young people. This lifetime of dedication is exactly why Panting has been named as the Grand Marshal of the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

A Soda Springs native, Panting grew up on a ranch that his grandfather had originally homesteaded. The family raised cattle and sheep and were active in 4-H. His mother still resides in the original farmhouse. Panting and his wife, Nancy, have spent the last 35 years in Malad, Idaho, where they raised four children. What started out as four acres has grown to 60 as the couple of 39 years picked up adjoining lots as they came for sale. We’ve done it all when it comes to livestock; steers, pigs, lambs, horses,” says Panting. With the exception of a two-year LDS mission and one or two college years, Panting has been to the Eastern Idaho State Fair annually for the last 50 years. Instead of taking family vacations, his family would spend the week at the fair, showing all different kinds of livestock. One year, they opted out of Christmas ornaments on their tree and hung all of the different colored ribbons they won the previous year.

Serving as the 4-H Oneida County Extension Educator for his entire professional career, Panting handled various assignments, including: ultrasound technician for beef, sheep or swine, open class sheep superintendent, developed the working ranch horse show and showed open class sheep from 1987-1992. He was a 4-H Parent with participating EISF projects from 1987 – 2007 and an active livestock judge all over Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Oregon. He was the Epsilon Sigma Phi Educator of the Year in 2005 and was the ESP State President and Member from 2000 – 2013.

“4-H teaches respect and life-learning skills among other things,” says Panting. “Kids need a cause and a purpose in this world.” 4-H has adapted over the years to serve urban youth as well as the rural community. “These days, not every kid involved is going to go back to the farm to put the knowledge to use,” says Panting. “It’s still important to know where your food comes from and how the agricultural process works.”

While Panting’s children are all out of the house, he still continues the livestock-rearing tradition with his eight grandchildren. “For the last seven summers, I’ve had one of my grandchildren at my house for the summer raising either a lamb or a pig,” says Panting. “They do all the work and then show it at the county fair. 4-H is still an integral part of my life even though I’m retired.”

“Rauhn has had such a great influence on many young people over the years,” says Brandon Bird, General Manager of the EISF. “That’s truly the hallmark of his success.”

See Grand Marshal Rauhn Panting leading the 2015 Eastern Idaho State Fair Parade at 10 am on Saturday, September 5. Each year, hundreds of spectators and Fairgoers gather along Shilling Avenue to watch the annual parade travel from Rich Street to East Alice Street. For spectators and over 125 entry participants alike, the annual parade brings tradition and hometown fun for Opening Day of the 2015 Eastern Idaho State Fair-which runs Saturday, September 5, through Saturday, September 12.

Complete schedules and 2015 Fair information can be found at www.funatthefair.com.

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*The Eastern Idaho State Fair is a 16 County Fair District. Over 220,000 people visit the annual event, making it Eastern Idaho’s longest running and largest community event. The mission of the EISF is to provide wholesome, affordable family education and entertainment in a clean and safe agricultural environment. FIND YOUR HAPPY at the 2015 fair
September 5 – September 12!*