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OPERATION MOTHER NATURE

Precipitation Levels Force Concert Change at Nebraska State Fair

Grand Island, NE – Nebraska State Fair announced Monday evening that due to the unusually heavy rainfall, Sugarland will move indoors to the Heartland Event Center. Issues created by the substantial saturation to the Fonner Park Racetrack have created an unsafe concert environment.

"Guest safety is at the forefront of any decision," stated Lori Cox, executive director of Nebraska State Fair. "Mother nature did not cooperate this year in helping us prep the concert venue. We've lost valuable setup days that we cannot recover."

Headliner concerts require a four-day setup with staging. Technical expert on safety and production, Don Adams explained, "The ground conditions on the infield were not conducive to proceed with the outdoor concert build. The fact we have the Heartland Event Center onsite allows our crew to continue on schedule and prepare for our guests."

Adams said that the Racetrack is not the only location at the Fair that has difficult challenges with moisture levels. "We are experiencing tough turf conditions in the Family Fun Zone as well as cattle tie-outs," he said. "We are all looking for the big yellow sunshine to help dry us out."

Cox said that Sugarland has confirmed the move indoors for Saturday, August 25. The concert will proceed as planned for 5:30 p.m. doors, and 7:30 p.m. showtime. She added that information on Kelly Clarkson's moving indoors is forthcoming.

Ticketholders can plan to enjoy the amplified and deep fried experience they anticipate in the Heartland Event Center. Following opening weekend, concerts continue with The Righteous Brothers August 29. The Bill Marshall Volleyball Classic will be relocated to local gymnasiums and will proceed as planned.

Check the State Fair website at StateFair.org for the latest updates. The 2018 Nebraska State Fair runs August 24 through September 3 in Grand Island. Ticket discounts are currently available at all Pump & Pantry locations or online at **StateFair.org**. Bundle prices, entertainment information and a schedule of events can be found online.

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