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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **EISF Announces Grand Marshals of 2013 Eastern Idaho State Fair**

**Darlene Hatch and Nancy Palmer Share Lifelong Involvement with the EISF**

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**Blackfoot, ID** – The Eastern Idaho State Fair Board of Directors has named Darlene Hatch and Nancy Palmer as Grand Marshals of this year's 2013 Eastern Idaho State Fair. The two will lead the annual EISF Parade down Shilling Avenue on Saturday, August 31, at 10am.

"We couldn't choose two more deserving people for this honor" says General Manager Brandon Bird. "These ladies have been a part of this great establishment since before I was born, and their understanding of and dedication to the livestock competitions here at the fair is a true testament to the importance and strength of our agricultural community."

For nearly 50 years, Hatch and Palmer have dedicated their summers to working at the EISF Livestock Office. In 1964, Palmer began working as a Livestock Secretary at the EISF and Hatch began working there a year later. Ever since, they have looked forward to working together each year. "We love the people and love working with each other," said Palmer, "There is something special about people that work with the land; they are the most caring and hard-working people you will ever meet."

When Hatch and Palmer first began working at the EISF, they earned \$1 an hour and had to wear dresses. "Ruth Hartkopf, fair manager at the time, was a very proper woman who insisted we dressed appropriately. We would climb up three bales of hay to keep from getting dirty while judging the swine," said Hatch.

Hatch and Palmer enjoy the efficiency of computers now, but in the early days of computers they ran across some difficulties. With the way the entries were input, the animal name was used as the first name and the judge name was the last name—creating creative names like "Papa George". There was also a time when the Livestock Office did not have a phone. Instead, they would have to go outside and use the payphone on the telephone pole.

Today Hatch is in charge of the draft horses, miniature horses, intermediate drafts, dairy, and swine and Palmer is in charge of the abundant light horse entries. Hatch and Palmer begin entering livestock exhibits two weeks before the fair begins each year, and then spend 15 hours a day working hard during fair week.

"The EISF is like Disneyland to us and all of the people who love it; it's the happiest place on earth," exclaimed Palmer. Although Hatch and Palmer spend time together outside of the fair, fair week is one they both look forward to.

See Grand Marshals Darlene Hatch and Nancy Palmer leading the 2013 Eastern Idaho State Fair Parade, which will begin at 10am on Saturday, August 31. 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 on Opening Day of the 2013 Eastern Idaho State Fair—which runs Saturday, August 31, through Saturday, September 7.

Complete schedules and 2013 Fair information can be found at [www.funatthefair.com](http://www.funatthefair.com) or by calling (208) 785-2480.

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*The Eastern Idaho State Fair is a 16 County Fair District that is in its 111<sup>th</sup> year of operations. Over 224,000 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. "It's a Feeding Frenzy" showcases the EISF's rich tradition of the best fair food in the intermountain west.*