



Media Contact
Brandon Bird
(208) 785-2480
brandon@funatthefair.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eastern Idaho State Fair Announces 2014 Grand Marshal

Darrell Jack Callison Dedicates 50+ Years to Agriculture

Blackfoot, ID – The Eastern Idaho State Fair Board of Directors has named Blackfoot native Darrell Jack Callison as Grand Marshal of this year's Eastern Idaho State Fair. He will lead the annual EISF Parade down Shilling Avenue on Saturday, August 30, at 10am.

"We couldn't choose a more deserving person for this honor," says General Manager Brandon Bird. "Darrell has been a great contributor to the fair for 50 + years, dedicated to exhibiting cattle and continuing the tradition with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Darrell embodies the importance and strength of our agricultural community."

Callison has resided in Blackfoot and actively participated as an exhibitor in the EISF since the age of 27. He exhibited his first Angus bull at the fair in 1964. Since then, he has proudly exhibited under Nonpareil Angus Ranch as well as his own herd, Callison Angus, every year. When Callison first began exhibiting at the EISF, the livestock show barn was not yet a fixture. "We showed cattle anywhere we could find a spot: the infield of the racetrack, the outside of the racetrack, and the grass show ring where the goats show now," says Callison.

Callison is also actively involved in agriculture outside of the EISF, working as an Angus cattle herdsman or ranch manager throughout his career. He is the past president of the Idaho Angus Association and Western States Angus Association. In 1969, he was selected from candidates throughout the United States as the prestigious "Herdsman of the Year" from the American Angus Association. Additional family awards include Western States Angus Family of the Year at the Western National Angus Futurity in Reno, Nevada, and Idaho Angus Family of the Year. Most recently in 2012, Darrell and Barbara received the "Hal" award from Nonpareil Corporation for their 50 continuous years of service with the company.

"I am proud to accept the nomination of Grand Marshal for the 2014 Eastern Idaho State Fair," says Callison. "I still enjoy exhibiting with my family. Plus, the best fair food in the world is right here in Blackfoot!"

Callison was born in 1937 in Newton, Iowa. His mother raised four children as a single mother, so Darrell became the 'man' of the house at very early age. Darrell bought, rebuilt and sold two cars before he even had his driver's license! After graduation, Darrell married a girl he met at a 4-H ice cream social in Grinnell, Iowa. Barbara Francis Eames and Darrell Jack Callison were married in the winter of 1956 and honeymooned in the "west" where they fell in love with the mountains.

The Callisons had four children, each born in a different state! Their only daughter Marilyn was born in Iowa and sons Arnold in Colorado, Donald in Montana and finally Ronald in North Dakota. The family chose Blackfoot, Idaho, as their permanent residence in 1964. Spouses of their children include George Brookshier Jr., Teresa (LeFevre) Callison, Jim

McCann and Patti (Turpin) Callison. Today, Callison's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren continue the proud tradition of exhibiting.

In his spare time, Callison enjoys attending as many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's activities as possible. He also thoroughly enjoys bowling! Callison worked as a pinsetter at a local bowling alley as a teen, has held several offices for the Blackfoot Bowling Association, and his family has received the Idaho Bowling Family of the Year award!

The Callison/Brookshier family feels Callison's greatest accomplishment is the care he has given to his wife of 58 years. Barbara was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in September of 2000, and Darrell has cared for her every day since then. He has set the marriage vow bar incredibly high for his children to attain. "He has been an incredible inspiration to our family and upheld his oath when he said "in sickness and in health", and we love him for it," says Callison's children. "His dedication to family, his hard work ethic, his commitment to his community and his unending participation in the Eastern Idaho State Fair help define him as the remarkable man he is."

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 2014 Eastern Idaho State Fair—which runs Saturday, August 30, through Saturday, September 6. See Grand Marshal Darrell Callison leading the 2014 Eastern Idaho State Fair Parade at 10am on Saturday, August 30. Complete schedules and 2014 Fair information can be found at www.funatthefair.com or by calling (208) 785-2480.

To nominate someone to be Grand Marshal for next year's fair, go to the Fair's website <http://www.funatthefair.com/join-in/parade/grand-marshal/> and download a Grand Marshal Nomination Form. The EISF Board of Directors selects each annual Grand Marshal, who is chosen based on lifetime service to the EISF and/or community. Nominees must be located in or affiliated with the 16 counties that comprise the EISF: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, and Teton.

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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. FEED YOUR NEED FOR FUN at the 2014 fair August 30 – September 6!