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## **MOre Recyclables Mean Less Waste At the State Fair Opening August 13**

**(SEDALIA, MO)** – The Missouri State Fair in Sedalia is just days away and an expanded recycling program is in place to help handle the plastic, aluminum and cardboard waste generated by the anticipated 320,000 visitors as well as concessionaires and exhibitors to the event August 13 to 23. The program is expected to provide an even more impactful green initiative than last year with over 350 beverage container recycling bins on the grounds along with a new cardboard recycling plan.

Fair Director Mark Wolfe said he believes the additional efforts will increase the amount of waste recycled.

“I’m glad the Fair, with the support of sponsors, is enhancing the recycling program,” he said. “The additional bins and cardboard collection efforts are certainly a positive move.”

The green colored bins will be easily identifiable making it convenient for visitors to dispose of plastic and aluminum beverage waste. Donating bins will be Anheuser Busch Recycling/County Distributing Co., Inc.

Also, donating bins and two cardboard compactors will be the Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Management Program, working with WCA Waste Corporation. Additional sponsors involved in the initiative include West Central Missouri Solid Waste Management District Region F assisting in funding the labor associated with collecting the recyclables along with Johnson County Sheltered Workshop and State of Missouri Department of Administration.

Cynthia Mitchell, Director of Social Ventures Midwest Assistance Program, Inc., a Minnesota based nonprofit corporation that serves a 9 state area assisting with rural infrastructure and environmental programs, is coordinating the Fair’s recycling effort for the second year and is especially optimistic about the initiatives for this year.

“Last year we were able to start small with a pilot program for the beverage containers,” Mitchell said. “This year, it is exciting to be able to expand that effort with many more beverage container bins as well as adding the opportunity for recycling cardboard generated around the fairgrounds. We hope the vendors and exhibitors will support the effort by setting out empty cardboard separate from other trash.”

The program instituted in 2008 placed 50 beverage container bins around the fairgrounds collecting about 1,000 pounds of waste of which 90 percent was recyclable materials.