

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Farm Credit Services of America Contribution to The SHED Announced

HURON, S.D. – The South Dakota State Fair Foundation is excited to announce that Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) has pledged \$100,000 to the 'Raise The SHED' fundraising campaign.

The SHED will be the new home for Open Class Sheep at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron. The SHED will serve as a multi-purpose facility, including a show arena and educational center. The indoor educational center will provide a place for interactive learning about the sheep industry, opportunities in agriculture, and our state's rich agricultural history.

"Anyone who grew up in agriculture knows the hard work and pride that goes into raising a ribbon-worthy animal and stepping into a show ring," said Jason Edleman, a senior vice president of business development for FCSAmerica. "We're proud to contribute to a project that will showcase future producers, positively impact young people, and highlight the state's agricultural industry."

FCSAmerica is a customer-owned financial cooperative servicing farmers and ranchers in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Its mission is to support rural communities and agriculture through specialized lending products and programs for young and beginning producers. Learn more at fcsamerica.com.

The "Raise The SHED" campaign includes several donor opportunities for all donation levels, including show arena naming rights and donor wall sponsorships. For more information on how to donate visit www.sdstatefairfoundation.com.

The fundraising goal is \$3 million. The total project cost is approximately \$8 million.

The former Open Class Sheep Barn has been demolished, and project planning and design for The SHED is underway. A groundbreaking ceremony is expected to be held during the 2024 State Fair.

For additional information about the project or questions about the 'Raise The SHED' campaign, please contact Peggy Besch, South Dakota State Fairgrounds Manager at 605-353-7340 or peggy.besch@state.sd.us. You can also contact Fundraising Campaign Chairman Larry Tidemann at 605-690-8353. A complete list of fundraising

committee members and campaign information can be found at www.sdstatefairfoundation.com.