

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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The Morrill County Fair Board in keeping with their theme "Let's make it a family affair" has adopted a smoke-free fairgrounds policy. The policy has been adopted to protect all employees and visitors from secondhand smoke. The fairgrounds in its entirety is now smoke-free without exception. Fairgoers will be able to enjoy the fun-filled events daily and nightly without the threat of second hand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a proven cause of lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory illness such as bronchitis and asthma, low birth weight and sudden infant death syndrome and is responsible for tens of thousands of deaths in the United States each year, according to the 2010 Surgeon General's Report. Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including at least 69 carcinogens and that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Only smoke-free laws provide effective protection from secondhand smoke.

We encourage you to enjoy the clean air at the Morrill County Fair. The fair board promises something for everyone and all events are open to all ages as participants or spectators.

"Change is in the air", states Tabi Prochazka, tobacco free panhandle coordinator with the Panhandle Prevention Coalition. Box Butte County and Scotts Bluff County Fairs have also adopted smoke-free policies. Fairgoers will see smoke-free signs at all three fairs. Signs will be provided to any panhandle fair that adopts a smoke-free policy and technical assistance is available to any interested fair board. Partial funding for the signs is provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Humans Services / Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

For additional information contact Tabi Prochazka. The purpose of the Panhandle Public Health District is to educate the region it serves about the prevention of epidemics, spread of contagious diseases, injury, illness and disability. The district is charged with promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors. They promote the quality and accessibility of health services and protection against environmental hazards. Through education, protection and promotion of these issues, the Panhandle Public Health District believes the quality of life of the residents they serve can be greatly improved.

Morrill is not the only fair in the panhandle adopting