**Statement of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs**

After recent media coverage about our 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen’s status, the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs is issuing the following statement to clarify misinformation:

 Alexi Bladel has NOT been relieved of her duties or title as 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen. We have sent a letter to Alexi making this clear.

We have released her from any remaining obligations she would have as the reigning 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen between now and January 2020. Alexi remains the Queen until her successor is named in January, and she will remain on our historical roster with all of our past queens recognizing their year of service. She will also retain all awards, gifts and benefits she has received as our Queen this year.

We greatly appreciate Alexi’s service on behalf of Illinois agriculture and Illinois county fairs and wish her well in her future endeavors, including her decision to serve our country. Out of respect for the privacy of Alexi and all pageant participants, we will have no further comment.

**Statement of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs**

There has been inaccurate information circulated that the 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen was relieved of her duties as queen and/or has been stripped of her title without her knowledge.

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs disagree with these incorrect statements.  Alexi remains the 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen and remains on the historical roster of queens.

Out of respect for Alexi’s privacy as well as the privacy of all the pageant participants, we refrain from further comment.  Thank you.