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PRESS RELEASE

**SCOTT FELTON NAMED VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR
BY STATE FAIR ASSOCIATION**



Waco, TX (January 18, 2010) – Scott Felton, long time volunteer of the Heart O’ Texas Fair & Rodeo, was named the Frances R. Cooper Volunteer of the Year by the Texas Association of Fairs and Event (TAF&E) during their annual convention and trade show on January 8-10. “This honor marks the highest level of recognition of a volunteer in the Texas fair and event industry,” said TAF&E President Steve Poynor. “Scott’s long-running commitment to his fair and his community-oriented spirit of volunteerism made him an obvious choice for this year’s honor.”

Felton has served on the Rodeo Committee for the Heart O’ Texas Fair & Rodeo for the past 18 years and has been chairman for 15 years. He was very involved in the production and growth of the rodeo program, which has been named one of the top 30 rodeos in the PRCA. Today, Felton continues to serve on the rodeo committee in the capacity of Director of Rodeo Operations. He played an instrumental role in securing the 2008 Heartland ProRodeo Series Championship for Waco. This event, the third largest championship rodeo in the PRCA Series, paid out \$482,000 in prize money in addition to providing a significant economic impact to Waco and Central Texas. “Scott has been the driving force behind creating the national attention that our rodeo now enjoys,” said fair Heart O’ Texas Fair Complex President/CEO, Wes Allison.

Felton has also served on the Heart O’ Texas Fair & Rodeo board of directors for many years and recently completed his second term as board Chairman, only one of two chairmen to serve in that role twice. He served on the long range planning committee helping to securing funds to implement a \$20 million grounds renovation in the late 1990s. He has served on the boards of more than a dozen different non-profits organizations in Waco and Central Texas. He has spent 26 years working in the banking industry and currently serves as the Community Bank President for Wells Fargo in Waco.

A large contingent of family members, friends, fair staff and industry professionals from around the state gathered to surprise Felton when the awards were presented.

TAF&E is a non-profit trade association for Texas fair and festival professionals, volunteers and suppliers that began in 1926. In 2001, TAF&E created its professional awards program to recognize the highest level of industry excellence in the state. This year, the Volunteer of the Year award was permanently named to honor the memory of Francis R. Cooper, who had served the association for more than 50 years as a volunteer manager, committee chair person, board member and advisory board member. For more information about TAF&E, please visit www.texasfairs.com.

The goal of the Heart O’ Texas Fair Complex is to educate through entertainment and agricultural experiences as well as to become the center of entertainment in Central Texas. Held at the Heart O’ Texas Fair Complex in Waco, TX, the Heart O’ Texas Fair & Rodeo is held annually with over 200,000 in attendance in 2009. For more information about the Heart O’ Texas Fair Complex, visit www.hotfair.com.

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