

## **FFA Site Selection Committee Visits Kentucky Exposition Center**

LOUISVILLE, KY (June 12, 2008)... The Kentucky Exposition Center welcomed members of the National FFA Organization Site Selection Committee today in hopes of securing a ten-year contract for the National FFA Convention. The expo center, the sixth largest exposition facility in the country, is one of two facilities in the running for the ten year contract.

Later this year the committee will book the National FFA Convention for years 2013-2022. The convention was held at the expo center from 1999-2005, but then moved to Indianapolis. Since their departure, the expo center has added South Wing C and renovated the new North Wing, giving the expo center a total of 885,000 square feet of Class "A" public, meeting and exhibit space. The number of hotel rooms has nearly doubled as over 13,250 hotel rooms are available within a 40 mile radius of the facility.

"There are facilities that seem to be made for certain conventions, and the National FFA Convention and the Kentucky Exposition Center have that perfect fit," said Linda Edwards, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for the Kentucky State Fair Board. "We offer the meeting space and campus setting to provide a safe environment for their young people, which is their number one priority."

The National FFA Organization has over 500,000 members in 7,358 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Nearly 54,000 members attended the 2007 convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 60,000 members are expected to attend the convention in 2013. The ten-year contract is expected to have an estimated economic impact over \$40 million for Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The National FFA Organization will announce their decision in early November after the 2008 National Convention.

Over 400 state and community leaders attended the site visit and breakfast. Billy Ray Smith, Executive Director of the Kentucky FFA Foundation, and Richie Farmer, Kentucky Department of Agriculture Commissioner, welcomed the committee to Louisville. Other attendees include Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson, Lieutenant Governor Daniel Mongiardo, Greater Louisville Inc. President & CEO Joe Reagan, Kentucky FFA Association President Kirby O'Donoghue, Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Vice President David Beck and Commerce Cabinet Secretary Marcheta Sparrow.