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PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Massachusetts Building at the Big E

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Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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WEST SPRINGFIELD — Today, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner John Lebeaux joined state and local officials to participate in Rededication Day at the Big E, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Massachusetts State Exposition Building at the Big E Fairgrounds. The Massachusetts State Exposition Building, which is managed by MDAR, was the first building located on the Avenue of States on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition and is an almost perfect replica of the old Massachusetts Statehouse. For the past century, the Massachusetts building has showcased the finest in

Massachusetts agriculture, culture, commerce, and tourism through informational, educational, promotional and retail exhibits.

“Our administration is proud to be part of this 100-year tradition of showcasing Massachusetts from the Berkshires to Cape Cod to visitors throughout New England,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “On the 100th Anniversary of the Massachusetts Building, we encourage all Big E fairgoers to be sure to check out the many vendors and organizations in the building representing some of the best the Commonwealth has to offer.”

“It is amazing to look back on the past century and see how the Massachusetts State Exposition Building has showcased the very best of Massachusetts agriculture, tourism and commerce,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “We want to thank all of the vendors and organizations that have exhibited over the years and those exhibitors today that continue the legacy of promoting the Commonwealth.”

The rededication ceremony included a speaking program, celebratory toast, and the dedication of a bronze plaque in honor of the building’s anniversary. The ceremony occurred 100 years to the date in 1919 when Lt. Governor Channing H. Cox dedicated the building on behalf of Governor Calvin Coolidge after its \$50,000 construction.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is proud to recognize this incredible milestone for the Massachusetts Building and Big E Fair,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides**. “The building’s exhibits have evolved through the years to reflect the changes in industry, agriculture and commerce while still preserving our history and culture.”

“This year is special for the Massachusetts State Exposition Building as it celebrates its centennial anniversary on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition,” **said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux**. “We are excited to be the first building on the Avenue of States to reach this historic milestone and plan to celebrate its birthday in a fitting fashion with entertainment, giveaways, special vendors and of course, locally-made cake.”

“The creation of the Avenue of States began with the construction of the Massachusetts Building on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition 100 years ago,” **said Eastern States Exposition President and CEO Eugene J. Cassidy**. “It was the dream of our founder,

Joshua L. Brooks, to create a premier showcase for the six New England states to display their character and products. It is my distinct pleasure to usher in a new century of the continuation of that dream.”

Other special days for the Massachusetts Building will include Massachusetts Day on Thursday, September 19, 2019 and Harvest New England Day on Friday, September 27, 2019. The 103rd Big E Fair runs from September 13 through September 29. Last year the Big E fair attracted a record-breaking 1,543,470 visitors.

Below is a list of this year’s Massachusetts State Exposition Building vendors for the 17-day fair:

Company	Town
Amy's All Natural Soaps	New Braintree
Andrew Gordon Jewelry	Holyoke
B-Organic Produce Bags	Worcester
Carol's Original Kettle Korn	Thorndike
Fan Favorite, Inc DBA I Love Boston Sports	West Roxbury
FinnCakes	Ludlow
Hampden County Beekeepers	East Longmeadow
Hardwick Vineyards & Winery, LLC	Hardwick

I'm N.O.T. Gonna Get Ticked- N.O.T. Enterprises	Lenox
Jay's Wicked Gourmet	Ware
Koffee Kup Bakery	Springfield
Kringle Candle, Co.	Bernardston
Main Street Deli- Full name RCM Inc. DBA Main St Deli	Agawam
Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers (MADF)	Conway
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)	Boston
Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)	Boston
Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (DFS)	Stow
Massachusetts Farmers Markets	Waltham
Massachusetts Maple Producers Association	Plainfield
Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association	Conway
Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT)	Boston
Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth	Springfield

Massachusetts State Grange	Palmer
Massachusetts State Lottery	Springfield
Massachusetts State Treasury	Boston
Maureen's Sweet Shoppe	East Longmeadow
My Main Squeeze	East Longmeadow
New England Apple Association	Hatfield
Patrick Zephyr Nature Photography	Pelham
Pop's Biscotti & Chocolates	Wilbraham
Rick's Handcrafted Corn Hole Boards	Palmer
Sassy's Sweet Potatoes	Thorndike
Simply Dip-Licious	Wilbraham
Smith's Farmstead Cheese	Winchendon
Springfield Thunderbirds	Springfield
The Chili Station	East Longmeadow

Valley Malt

Hadley

Wise Mouth Inc

North Attleboro

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EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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