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FAIR HONORS LOCAL TRAINER, DEBBIE WINICK WITH COVETED ARDIE DER MANOUEL SPECIAL TRAINER AWARD

Fresno, CA...October 31, 2016... The Big Fresno Fair's Board of Directors, Management and Live Horse Racing team were thrilled to honor local trainer Debbie Winick with the Ardie Der Manouel Special Trainer Award. This award is given out annually to a selected trainer in recognition of their unparalleled integrity and commitment to the live horse racing industry and The Big Fresno Fair race meet year after year.

"Debbie is no stranger to the racing industry, having grown up in it. But in her short career as a trainer, she has set herself apart as a quality trainer with incredible integrity – someone who we are extremely proud of and honored to have involved in live racing at The Big Fresno Fair," said Larry Swartzlander, Racing Director at The Big Fresno Fair and Chief Operating Officer for the California Authority of Racing Fairs.

The Special Trainer Award, named after longtime Big Fresno Fair Board Member Ardie Der Manouel, who has a long history in the racing industry and has been a pivotal force in the continued growth of live horse racing at The Big Fresno Fair, is more than the commemorative saddle that is given out. It is the important acknowledgement of the hard work, dedication and love of the industry demonstrated by exceptional trainers like Debbie Winick. These trainers are extremely important to the continued growth of the industry and racing in Fresno. Each year one trainer is selected by a committee comprised of Ardie Der Manouel; Larry Swartzlander, Director of Racing at The Big Fresno Fair and Chief Operating Officer for the California Authority of Racing Fairs; and Tom Doutrich, Racing Secretary for the California Authority of Racing Fairs to be given the Ardie Der Manouel Special Trainer Award.

Debbie Winick was born into the live horse racing industry. The daughter of former jockey and trainer Albert Hillman, Debbie started ponying horses for her father at the age of 9. She worked on the backside of racetracks until 1979 before holding a variety of positions in Northern California at Bay Meadows, the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association and Thoroughbred Times. In 2009, Debbie embarked on her career as a trainer, applying methods she had honed for years in her observance of the industry. In her short career, she has racked up 40 wins and nearly \$700,000 in earnings. Debbie currently holds a position as a full-time trainer at Harris Farms in Coalinga.

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