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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 4, 2012

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**FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION HERITAGE HOG TO BE SHOWCASED AT
JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION AT THE NEVADA COUNTY FAIR
*2012 Heritage Hog Being Raised by Bear River FFA Student Sierra Mitchell***

The 2012 Heritage Hog will be showcased at the Junior Livestock Auction on Sunday, August 12, at the Nevada County Fair. Proceeds from the hog will be used to assist the Foundation in its efforts to continue to improve the Fairgrounds. Raising the 2012 Heritage Hog is 15-year-old Sierra Mitchell, an FFA student and junior at Bear River High School.

According to Ed Mertens, President of the Nevada County Fairgrounds Foundation, Sierra was chosen to raise this year's Heritage Animal because of her active involvement in FFA and because of her experience in showing and raising hogs.

Sierra was involved in 4H for four years, and moved into FFA as a freshman in high school. She has been raising pigs for six years. Her involvement at the Nevada County Fair involves raising pigs and being in the hog barns to answer any the questions of Fair-goers. She also serves at the Buyer's Dinner every year. For the 2012 Fair, in addition to showing the Heritage Hog, she is building a project for the Ag Mechanics Auction on Friday at the Fair.

Along with her agricultural work, Sierra is busy with sports and school activities. She has been playing soccer for more than 10 years, and was a member of the varsity girls' soccer team and the varsity cross country team at Bear River. She is also a member of Bear River's Sources of Strength, a suicide prevention group.

"I have learned so many things through my involvement in the FFA and raising animals," said Sierra. "I have learned responsibility, communication skills, and attention to detail. I love raising pigs, and I'm thrilled to be chosen to raise this year's Heritage Animal."

Sierra will receive a \$500 scholarship for her efforts. The 2012 Heritage Hog was donated by Zoe Fink, a Clear Creek 4H student, and Our 49er Feed Store donated all the feed.

The Foundation is currently seeking donors to contribute to the fund for the Heritage Hog. The animal will be the last in its specie to be auctioned, and donors can contribute any amount – either in advance or on the day of the auction. If you are interested in the Heritage Hog project, please contact Ed at Ed@MertensInsurance.com.

The 2012 Nevada County Fair is August 8 – 12, and event details can be found at www.NevadaCountyFair.com or by calling (530) 273-6217. For information about the Nevada County Fairgrounds Foundation, visit www.NevadaCountyFair.com/foundation.

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