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Governor's Garden Planted at Expo Center

LOUISVILLE, KY (April 19, 2011) – The Kentucky Exposition Center will serve as one of five official sites throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky to host a Governor's Garden, which is part of Governor Steve Beshear's Green Team initiative. Today, First Lady Jane Beshear along with the Kentucky Future Farmers of America (FFA) state officers, Central Hardin FFA members and representatives of St. Vincent de Paul's Open Hand Kitchen in Louisville planted the spring garden at the expo center.

"I hope that the Governor's Garden will help Kentuckians recognize the health benefits of locally grown produce and inspire many families and organizations to plant their own backyard gardens," said Mrs. Beshear. "A garden doesn't always require a large amount of space or a great deal of resources. A garden can be planted just about anywhere, and anyone can benefit from growing their own fruits and vegetables."

The Governor's Garden initiative teaches families and communities across the Commonwealth how to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in their own backyards, providing access to fresh, local produce, reducing grocery costs and promoting healthier eating habits.

Produce from the garden on the grounds of the Kentucky Exposition Center will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul's Open Hand Kitchen, a nonprofit charitable organization that has been serving the poor in Louisville, central Kentucky and southern Indiana for 158 years. Men, women and children in St. Vincent de Paul's homeless shelter and supportive housing programs will maintain the garden throughout the growing and harvesting seasons.

Governor's Gardens will also be planted at Berry Hill Mansion and the Governor's Mansion, both in Frankfort, the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg and the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

For more information on the Governor's Garden and Green Team initiatives, visit www.greenteam.ky.gov/garden.

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One of the top 10 largest public facilities of its kind in the United States, the Kentucky Exposition Center features 1.2 million square feet of indoor space including Freedom Hall, an indoor arena which seats over 19,000 people. The facility's class "A" exhibit space totals 425,700 square feet and accommodates an amazing spectrum of events year round. The expo center is the permanent home for the Kentucky State Fair, the National Farm Machinery Show, and the North American International Livestock Exposition. Conveniently located adjacent to the Louisville International Airport and near the junction of three major interstates, the Kentucky Exposition Center is easily accessible and just five minutes south of downtown Louisville. For more information, go online to www.kyexpo.org.

