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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prairie Meadows Live Racing Returns with Pig Races, Wiener Dog Races, and Other Exciting Events

April 10 – Altoona, IA. Prairie Meadows Casino Racetrack and Hotel's 28th season of live horse racing is just around the corner. The action-packed racing season begins on April 27 at Prairie Meadows' one-mile oval track, located just outside of Des Moines, Iowa. The racetrack is offering all-new, fun and exciting events this season, while bringing back fan favorites like the Camel, Zebra, & Ostrich Races and fireworks displays.

The 67-day Thoroughbred season will feature races Thursday through Sunday with a variety of special race days and events. New editions in 2017 include Pig Races, Barnstormers Day at the Races, Wiener Dog Races, and Beyond the Starting Gate – a behind-the-scenes racing experience. The pigs will compete between the scheduled Thoroughbred races on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7. Later that week, on Thursday, May 11, the Iowa Barnstormers will be at the racetrack to meet fans and sign autographs.

The racetrack will celebrate Father's Day (Sunday, June 18) with the much-anticipated Wiener Dog Races. The dachshunds will race between the scheduled Thoroughbred races, with the top three finishers receiving cash prizes. Throughout the live racing season, Prairie Meadows will offer Beyond the Starting Gate sessions, where people of all ages can get an insider, educational look at a day at the races.

Prairie Meadows' racing season would not be complete without fan favorite activities. Returning events include the Kentucky Derby, fireworks displays, Camel, Zebra, & Ostrich Races, and many more. The crowd-pleasing Kentucky Derby kicks off Triple Crown Saturdays early in the season on May 6. The racetrack will feature a photo booth and Derby Hat & Seersucker Suit Contest in which the grand prize winner will take home \$300.

Independence Day celebrations at Prairie Meadows will include a breathtaking fireworks show following the completion of Thoroughbred races on July 3. One of Prairie Meadows' most popular events, Camel, Zebra, & Ostrich Races, will return on Sunday, July 18 at 1pm. Throughout the summer months, the racetrack will host Family Days that include fun activities such as spin art, princess character visits, face painting, and much more. The Thoroughbred season will close with the Iowa Classic on Saturday, August 12.

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Post times have been modified for 2017 and differ from the 2016 season. The most notable changes occur on Thursdays and Fridays. In 2017, racing will begin at 6pm on Thursdays and Fridays instead of 5:30pm. Weekend racing will continue with 1pm post times. Pocket calendars and magnetic calendars featuring post times, special race days, and more can be picked up at Prairie Meadows. For complete information on the 2017 racing schedule visit prairiemeadows.com/racing/live-racing.

About Prairie Meadows

Prairie Meadows began operations as a non-profit organization in 1989 with the goal of promoting economic development, jobs, agriculture, and tourism in the state of Iowa. Through taxes, grants, and charitable donations, Prairie Meadows has given more than \$1.6 billion to the state of Iowa. Prairie Meadows offers more than 1,900 slot machines, table games, live and simulcast racing, hotel accommodations, entertainment, and more.

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