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For Immediate Release: Photos attached

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World's Largest Popcorn Ball Rolls Home

Thursday, March 5th, was moving day in Sac City as the 5,000 pound popcorn ball was trucked to its home at the Sac City Museum complex on Hwy. 20 in Sac City, Iowa. Built on Saturday, Feb. 28th at the Nobles Popcorn Plant, over 230 volunteers spent twelve hours and 14 minutes constructing the large mass of gooey popcorn into a world record ball.

The first batch of popcorn hit the specially designed pallet at 6:55 a.m. as the first group of volunteers moved in to mold the ball. The last batch rolled off the conveyor belt at 7:27 p.m. and with the help of a total of 230 volunteers, it was completed by 7:35 p.m.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, joined the group to verify the recipe and stayed for hours to join in the fun. Ingredients for the giant ball included 900 pounds of popcorn, 2,700 pounds of sugar and 1,400 pounds of dry syrup mix. The popcorn was popped in a commercial popper and traveled through a conveyor system to an 80 pound pot where the sugar, syrup and water boiled. The paddles stirred the mix, then tilted and dumped the mixture onto a conveyor belt that took the hot sticky popcorn down to a chute to be dumped into large plastic buckets. These were carried over to groups of rubber gloved clad volunteers who molded, punched, and packed the popcorn ball into shape.

The popcorn ball weighed 5,060 pounds on Saturday on scales designed by Engel Agri Sales of Sac City. The ball continued to steam over the weekend from the hot syrup and the Iowa Department of Transportation moved their scales in on Monday, March 2, to verify a 5,000 pound weight. The ball is 28.8 feet in circumference and stands 8.4' high.

"It was great fun to see children as young as 3, senior citizens over the age of 80, and all ages in between, all join in the fun of making this popcorn ball," said Shirley Phillips, Sac Economic & Tourism Development Director. "Some people traveled for miles to join their families in the event, while others heard about it on the news and thought they wanted to be part of the event."

Donations for the construction of the popcorn ball were from Nobles Popcorn Farms and J.M. Swank Company. EVAPCO Iowa built the special steel platform for the 5,000 pound ball.

For more information on the popcorn ball and history of popcorn in Sac County, go to www.sacountyiowa.com and click on the traveling popping ear of corn.

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