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Indiana Truckers Brings Much Needed Hay to Texas Ranchers

AUSTIN – Texas Motor Transportation Association (TMTA) and the American Trucking Associations (ATA) today applauded Indiana truckers for their commitment to Texans in need. As the historic drought continues to deplete the state's hay supplies, members of the Indiana Motor Truck Association and local farmers generously donated hay and the transportation of that relief to Texas ranchers.

This afternoon, seven truckloads of hay arrived in Terrell, Texas. Notably involved were Baylor Trucking, Bestway Express, Grammer Industries, Prime, Inc., TransCorr, Venture Logistics and the American Trucking Associations Share the Road program who shouldered the cost and contributed time and trucks to the effort. The hay was provided by Indiana farmers.

Commitment to community is nothing new to the trucking industry. More than 80 percent of U.S. communities depend solely on trucking for delivery of their goods and commodities. Daily, the trucking industry delivers life's essentials to Americans across the nation.

"Indiana's incredible gift is just one example of how the trucking industry assists communities in need," said TMTA President and CEO John D. Esparza. "We have already begun receiving calls from other Texas communities who need trucking assistance with hay efforts. It is our hope that this generous donation draws national attention to the critical shortage in Texas today."

The truck convoy left the Indiana State Fair Grounds yesterday with a send off by Indiana Secretary of Agriculture Joe Kelsay. American Trucking Associations and Meritor also assisted in the coordination efforts. The Texas Department of Agriculture is facilitating distribution of the hay once it arrives in Texas.

"Texas ranchers have experienced unprecedented devastation this year and continue to struggle to feed their dwindling herds," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said. "I'd like to extend my sincerest thanks to the donors, truckers and authorities in Indiana as well as our business partners here in Texas who have demonstrated selfless generosity and tremendous initiative in bringing these hay donations to Terrell. Their help is truly appreciated."

The relief arrives in Texas as the American Trucking Associations gets ready to kick off their annual meeting October 15-18 in Grapevine, TX. Area ranchers will be able to pick up the donated hay tomorrow, October 14, at McCoy's Building Supply in Terrell. As mentioned, the Texas Department of Agriculture will facilitate the distribution.

"We are fortunate to have leaders like Ag Commissioner Todd Staples and Secretary Joe Kelsay keeping Texas' farmers and ranchers needs at the forefront," said Esparza. "The newly updated Hay Hotline has become an excellent tool for coordinating efforts between the trucking industry and Texas communities."

For more information on availability and the ongoing coordination between donors, trucking companies and ranchers, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture's Hay Hotline: www.TexasAgriculture.gov/hayhotline or (877) 429-1998.

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Texas Motor Transportation Association is a trade organization dedicated to advocating sound public policies, providing excellence in education and training, and promoting a safe, dependable and cost-effective motor transportation system to better serve the people of Texas For more information, please visit: www.tmta.com

The American Trucking Associations is the largest national trade association for the trucking industry. Through a federation of other trucking groups, industry-related conferences and its 50 affiliated state trucking associations, ATA represents more than 37,000 members covering every type of motor carrier in the United States. www.truckline.com