



January 9, 2025

Kern County Fair Livestock Community,

We are reaching out to inform everyone on an important update regarding dairy and poultry exhibitions at the 2025 Kern County Fair. On January 8, 2025, the California State Veterinarian issued an immediate statewide ban on the exhibition of poultry and dairy cattle at fairs due to the continued spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) among dairy herds and domestic poultry populations.

We know that fair is a significant time away, but we want to make sure that we are communicating the most recent updates and changes to our stakeholders. We know this significantly impacts projects and we want everyone to be up to date and able to make decisions based on the current environment. As the situation evolves, we will continue to communicate updates to ensure you remain informed. As of now with the ban and the early information we recommend that everyone have a back-up plan in case this ban isn't lifted.

This ban has been implemented to minimize the risk of exposing non-infected animals and individuals to the disease. The restriction will remain in place until further notice. While the ban is currently written to remain in effect until further notice, we do not yet know if it will be lifted by the time of the fair in September. We want all exhibitors to be fully aware that if the restriction remains active, poultry and dairy cattle will not be eligible for exhibition or sale at the Kern County Fair.

Currently, we are hoping for improved protocols and producer enhancement to ensure that the status of exhibitions changes before September. With that being said, both species will be listed in our book when presented in February with the hopes we may be able to have the show but will be blocked out and tentative depending on the states updates as we get closer to fair. We will monitor the situation closely and adjust as needed.

We strongly encourage poultry and dairy cattle owners to follow enhanced biosecurity measures to prevent disease spread, including avoiding comingling of animals, limiting equipment sharing, and monitoring animals for symptoms of illness and following the poultry county ban on movement with an HPAI permit.



## 15th DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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For any updates, please refer to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) website or contact the CDFA Animal Health Branch at 916-217-7517.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this situation.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our livestock department at [dstornetta@kerncautyfair.com](mailto:dstornetta@kerncautyfair.com).

Respectfully,

Michael Olcott  
Chief Executive Officer

Dawn Stornetta  
Livestock Supervisor