



January 15, 2025

Dear Poultry Exhibitors,

This letter is to inform you that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones has implemented a ban on all California Poultry and Dairy Exhibitions at Fairs and Shows, effective immediately until further notice. This action is required to minimize the danger of exposing people and non-infected birds and cows to the H5N1 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu).

The H5N1 Bird Flu is a highly contagious and often fatal disease in birds and has become widespread amongst dairy cows and domestic poultry (commercial and backyard flocks) in California. Since August 2024, there have been over 700 dairy herds and 60 poultry flocks affecting over 15 million birds with new dairies and flocks being detected.

Please read the enclosed letter from Dr. Annette Jones for more information on H5N1 and the ban, [California Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibition Ban](#).

The Livestock Department is working on organizing special contests for poultry exhibitors to participate in the Santa Barbara County Fair without live birds on site. Further details will be released soon.

We will be following the situation closely and will update Exhibitors with any changes.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Miller

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Chief Executive Officer