



MEDIA ALERT

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THE BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO DAIRY EXHIBITION *No onsite show or sales will take place due to expansion of HPAI at Fresno County dairies*

Fresno, California...Thursday, September 19, 2024: The Big Fresno Fair has been monitoring the situation with the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in collaboration with California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA). After the recent additional positive tests at Central Valley dairies, the Fair and CDFA have determined the final guidance and necessary changes to this year's Fair exhibition for the safety of these animals and the dairy industry, as well as in the best interest of these students.

Cancellation of Lactating Cow Shows: All lactating cow shows are canceled. This includes Dairy Milk Cow Classes for cows that are 2 years or older and currently in milk, as well as the Fair's milking demonstrations. This was a decision announced previously based on CDFA guidance.

Cancelation of All Onsite Dairy Shows: All onsite dairy shows have been canceled, and the Fair will pivot to an online Dairy Replacement Heifer Sale much like during COVID-19. This online sale will take place on Saturday, October 5th at 6:30 p.m. Students are not required to participate in the Fair's sale; they may sell privately. The Fair will not be charging the exhibitors a withdraw fee if they choose to remove the heifer from the sale after they have submitted a video. Information for students on how to upload video and photos for participation in the remote show and sale have been [posted the Fair's website](#).

"It is our focus to make the best decision for the dairy industry and these students, while also providing the important experience of participating in the Fair's livestock exhibition," said Terri O'Leary-Collins, Livestock Superintendent, The Big Fresno Fair. "Given the current situation with HPAI this is the best path forward and we remain committed to work alongside the dairy industry to ensure these students have buyers for their animal projects so they can recoup costs and continue to participation in livestock exhibition in the future."

The Big Fresno Fair continues to implement its robust Consumer Protection and Biosecurity plans in both the Livestock Pavilion and throughout grounds. HPAI does not pose a threat to other species exhibiting at the Fair, so those shows will continue as planned. As always, the Fair wants to encourage the public to do their part to protect the animals and other Fairgoers – if you are experiencing a fever or flu like symptoms, please do not come to the Fair nor enter the barns. Wait until you are feeling better and then come visit the 2024 Big Fresno Fair.

The 2024 Big Fresno Fair runs October 2 – 14, 2024 and live horse racing is already underway as part of its September race meet. Details on this year's Fair can be found at www.FresnoFair.com.

