

**Kern County Fair and Event Center**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## KERN COUNTY FAIR AND EVENT CENTER OPERATIONAL UPDATE

**Bakersfield, California** – The Kern County Fair Board of Directors were thrilled with the overwhelming support from the community during the Kern County Fair Food Drive-Thru and the Junior Livestock Auction.

Over the 2 weekends of the Drive-Thru, the fair welcomed around 13,000 cars, sold over 6,000 bags of kettle corn, and were able to help support 7 of our Fair partners whose event season was completely shut down in March due to COVID-19.

With the continued support from our community, the Kern County Fair *Virtual* Junior Livestock Auction generated over \$575,000 to support the hard working youth exhibitors in Kern County.

The income received from these modified events is hardly enough to cover the fairgrounds ongoing expenses as a self-funded entity of the State. Because of this, The Kern County Fair and Event Center formally entered into a layoff process with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Personnel, and CalHR. 19 full-time employees received 120-day layoff notices. The layoffs will be finalized November 13, 2020 and December 1, 2020.

The Kern County Fair will continue to operate through this difficult time with a reduced staff of 7 full-time employees.

“No one could have predicted this pandemic lasting this long.” Said CEO Michael Olcott “The impact that it has had on the events industry has been absolutely crippling.”

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation and its impact on community health and well-being, the future of public events and what the CDC and Public Health will allow is constantly changing. Fair staff have been working with promoters and exploring new and creative ways to continue to bring safe events to the Kern County community.

In the meantime, the fair is dedicated to using its facility and resources to support and serve our community through an alternative care site.

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