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Dear Stock Show Friends,

The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, in collaboration with Mayor Oscar Montoya and the City of Mercedes, is pleased to announce its plans for our 2021 event. In light of the current Covid-19 situation and government mandates, we have decided to offer separate events in March and May to reduce attendance and offer a more safe and healthy atmosphere for our patrons.

RGVLS will proceed with the originally planned Jr. Livestock Show March 11-21, 2021. Sadly, we are eliminating all Open Show livestock competitions and will be having a limited attendance event that will be closed to the general public. Our main focus is, and will always be, to do what is best for our FFA and 4-H exhibitors to ensure that they are afforded the much-deserved opportunity to have their projects exhibited in March. This will be a mandatory masked event that will be strictly enforced to all present on the grounds throughout the duration of the stock show. Throughout the fall and early winter, several city-approved prospect shows were hosted on our grounds. We have been extremely pleased with the actions and response of participants and patrons at these events in terms of following CDC guidelines and adhering to the mask usage mandated by city officials. Safety plans are in place for this March, following CDC outdoor event orders and will be heavily regulated and monitored by both livestock show officials/security. Individuals failing to comply with the safety protocol will be dealt with by law enforcement from the City of Mercedes. We are confident that our exhibitors and their limited guests will do all that is required in order for them to be afforded the opportunity to show their projects.

Pending the status of the local pandemic situation and allowable attendance on the grounds, we are planning a separate Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Rodeo and Carnival. This event is to take place May 7-16, 2021, and would include our annual PRCA Rodeo, Sale of Champions, carnival, musical entertainment, food concessions, and exhibits. It is our, and local city officials, hope to safely provide this event to the general public. Should that not be the case, RGVLS will be fully prepared to not proceed with the event.

The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and its Board of Directors are totally committed to working together with our local authorities to make certain that we offer the best possible 82<sup>nd</sup> annual event for our youth and guests. We hope and pray that we progress with time and return to the normalcy we all thrive to have again. God Bless You All!

Sincerely yours,

Mando Correa-General Manager, RGVLS