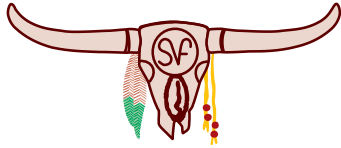


# SALINAS VALLEY FAIR



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **POULTRY SHOW CANCELLED AT SALINAS VALLEY FAIR**

KING CITY –Virulent Newcastle Disease in California continues to plague backyard poultry populations in Southern California which has led the Salinas Valley Fair to cancel poultry shows and exhibits at the Salinas Valley Fair for the second year in a row.

The decision was made based on the recommendation of Dr. Annette Jones, California State Veterinarian and Director of Animal Health and Food Safety Services with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), that all poultry shows and poultry exhibitions be cancelled throughout the state due to the disease. “We advise cancelling in an abundance of caution until the regional quarantine in Southern California is lifted.”

Virulent Newcastle Disease is a highly contagious respiratory disease of birds, including chickens, that spreads quickly. According to CDFA, the disease does not affect meat or eggs but is almost always deadly to poultry. Virus particles can spread quickly by direct contact between birds, and people can spread the disease by moving infected birds, moving equipment and feed, and by wearing clothing and shoes that have been in infected areas. The only way to stop the spread of the virus and eradicate the disease is to euthanize infected birds, and all birds within highly infected areas. Since May 2018, staff from CDFA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been working in joint incident command to eradicate the disease in Southern California. The Salinas Valley Fair joins numerous California fairs and poultry organizations to cancel shows following recommendations from the State Veterinarian.

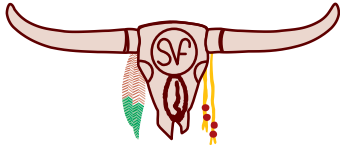
“It is disappointing to call off the poultry show a second year in a row,” said John Orradre, Salinas Valley Fair Livestock Committee Chair. “We believe our decision is in line with the State Veterinarian’s recommendations to help stop the spread of this highly infectious disease”.

The Salinas Valley Fair is soliciting volunteers and assistance in organizing contests and activities for 4-H and FFA Poultry exhibitors. To share your ideas or be involved please call the Salinas Valley Fair Administration Office at 831-385-3243.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**To showcase the annual fair, promote the talent and education of our youth, and provide a year-round setting for community services.**

# SALINAS VALLEY FAIR



At this time, other livestock events and exhibits are expected to proceed as usual at the 76<sup>th</sup> Salinas Valley Fair, May 14-17, 2020 in King City.

###

Celebrating the 76th Fair in 2020 (with a four-year hiatus during WWII), the Salinas Valley Fair was started in 1941 to provide a venue for showcasing the agriculture in the area and give youth an opportunity to show and auction animals through 4-H and FFA. It has grown to be one of the largest Junior Livestock Auctions in the state and attracts young people from throughout Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo and San Benito Counties. The Fair is designed to be a safe, accessible venue for education, community engagement, and fun in a wholesome, family friendly environment. It offers opportunities for people to gather through entertainment, interactive educational activities, agricultural competition and recognition programs, food and drink, and cultural events.