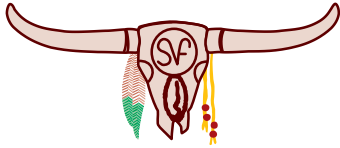


SALINAS VALLEY FAIR



625 Division Street
King City, California 93930

Phone: 831.385.3243
Fax: 831.385.3345

salinasvalleyfair.com

MARCH 21, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: TJ PLEW
EMAIL: SVF@SALINASVALLEYFAIR.COM
MOBILE: 916.257.2502
OFFICE: 831.385.3243

SALINAS VALLEY FAIR CANCELS POULTRY SHOW

Fair Officials Look To Replace Exhibit with New Competitions to Include Poultry Exhibitors

KING CITY – Due to an outbreak of Virulent Newcastle Disease in California, the Salinas Valley Fair will cancel poultry shows and exhibits at the 2019 Salinas Valley Fair.

The decision was made after a new case of the disease was reported in Alameda County on March 15th and 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.

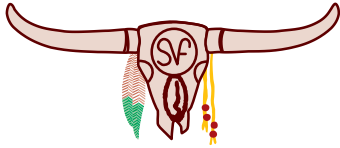
Virulent Newcastle Disease is a highly contagious respiratory disease of birds, including chickens, that spreads quickly. According to CDFA, the disease does not affect meat or eggs but is almost always deadly to poultry. Virus particles can spread quickly by direct contact between birds, and people 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.

“The poultry exhibit at the Fair is beloved by exhibitors and guests attending the Salinas Valley Fair,” said John Orradre, Salinas Valley Fair Livestock Committee Chair. “We understand the impact this decision will have on the youth in our 4-H and FFA programs. Our decision was not made lightly. Our concern is for animal health and doing our part to help stop the spread of this highly infectious disease. We will work with our Poultry volunteers and fair staff to create opportunities that will allow exhibitors to share their knowledge and hard work.”

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



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 Livestock Office at 831-385-3521.

At this time, other livestock events and exhibits are expected to proceed as usual at the 75th Salinas Valley Fair, May 16-19 in King City.

###

Celebrating the 75th Fair in 2019 (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.