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*Promoting excellence in agriculture awareness and education.*



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## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release: May 19, 2020**

**Contact: Cliff Munson, CEO**

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### **2020 Siskiyou Golden Fair canceled by COVID-19**

**YREKA, CA** – The 2020 Siskiyou Golden Fair was reduced to a junior livestock market animal show and competitive exhibits at the May 19<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association Board of Directors meeting held in Winema Hall. After in depth discussion and the need to follow current CDC, State and local direction to protect the health and safety of our community the majority of the annual fair, the carnival, food concessions, grandstand events and the general public were eliminated and the staff was directed to work on a plethora of plans to hold live or virtual competitive exhibit shows only at the 2020 fair. “Due to the fluidity of the current situation, the junior market animal show and competitive exhibits will either be judged live at the fairgrounds or by a virtual show, we will be creating several plans that will be used depending on where we are on the four phase plan that is being used in California”, stated Cliff Munson, CEO, “This fair started as an agricultural show featuring competitive exhibits in 1859 and we are going back to our beginnings to showcase our community in 2020.”

“Making the decision to cancel this year’s Fair was not taken lightly” said Board President Jason Finley. The Fair is truly a labor of love that our Board of Directors, staff, vendors, partners, exhibitors, volunteers, and community start planning just days after the annual fair closes each year. After months of gathering information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State and Local Public Health and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, we finally have enough evidence based on the most current information, that mass gatherings will not be happening in California for the unforeseeable future.

The timeline was crucial in making this determination, Vendors, Paul Maurer Shows Carnival and Concessionaires are a vital part of the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds and the entire network and we owe it to

them to give sufficient time to alter their plans for this summer. The fair does not come together quickly, it is a year long culmination with hundreds of hours of planning and preparing.

By our 2020 fair dates, August 12-16, there is no way to project Siskiyou County being in Phase 4 of Governor Newsom's plan and currently the agreed upon number of participants that will be allowed at any event where social distancing requirements must be recommended and enforced is so low that it would be economically unfeasible to move forward with the 2020 fair. "We are cognizant of the health and safety of our community at all times" stated Cliff Munson, CEO, "The Siskiyou Golden Fair has been a family tradition for our community for 161 years and a source of livelihood for many individuals, businesses and local non-profit organizations. Our hearts go out to all our partners in the fair, the exhibitors and especially the youth that will miss the total Fair experience this year."

For the junior livestock exhibitors with market animals the fair represents a culmination of months and in some cases years of hard work. Through livestock projects junior exhibitors gain animal husbandry knowledge as well as responsibility, time management and problem-solving skills that last a lifetime. The Board of Directors and Staff are committed to recognizing the hard work of our youth and will work closely with our Junior Livestock Auction Committee to help these youth complete their projects. Please watch for more updates in the weeks ahead as to the process that will be used and how our community can help support the young people with market livestock projects.

After being defunded in 2011, the California Fair Network, 77 fairs strong, has continued to serve over 35 million Californians each year – during annual fairs where communities share their history, heritage and culture, as emergency shelters during natural disasters, as pandemic testing centers, as hospitals, as warming shelters, as fire camps and on a local level as event centers for wedding, funerals, cultural events, fundraising centers for non-profits and everything agricultural.

Our community is important to us and many of you on the front lines, the heroes really during this difficult time, are an integral part of our fair family – health care workers, essential employees of business that remain open to serve our community, law enforcement, fire and first responders and the truckers, farmers and loggers that are keeping our county going – We salute you!

Please stay healthy and strong Siskiyou County! We will be back to celebrate with you all on the historic grounds of the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds August 11-15, 2021.

For more information, contact the fair office at 842-2767 or [info@sisqfair.com](mailto:info@sisqfair.com).