



## California Mid-State Fair 2020 Bio-Security Commitments and Expanded Health Protocols for the Livestock and Other Animal Shows

Animal Health and Welfare are critical components of any competitive Livestock, Equestrian or animal event.

These types of animal activities are challenged from a Bio-Security standpoint since most exhibition Livestock have been transported over several miles in their life while originating or being transported to and from multiple fairs, shows, sales, counties and states.

Exposure to animal health challenges via mixed populations, stress and compromised environments is commonplace. In addition, these animals are exposed to bacteria's or viruses through being housed and exposed to all other animals at the fair. If the animal is healthy upon arrival to the fair it certainly has a better chance of not getting sick. If the animal is not completely healthy or not cared for properly before arrival at the fair (and during the fair) they are at greater risk.

Pro-active solutions to this challenge start at home and include proper animal care education, Best Practices and common sense in addition to good environment, proper care, high quality feed, fresh water and a vet-client relationship with a licensed Veterinarian. If this happens at home, the Fair experience has a high percentage opportunity of being very positive. Although all animals are susceptible to health concerns, Swine and Poultry tend to have a greater propensity to health problems because common and complicated health conditions tend to spread more rapidly in these populations.

The California Mid-State Fair has excellent facilities for housing horses and Livestock. We also began (before the 2018 Fair) to identify a lead Veterinarian (Dr. Mike Lyons) on the grounds that would be with us for 14 days. Other licensed veterinarians working with exhibitors at

home are welcome to assist during the Fair as well.

Relative to veterinary costs, Fair management will only be responsible for livestock arrival day inspections and a single inspection call each day of the show and auction. Any costs related to health-related treatments, additional inspections, emergencies and any medications approved and/or prescribed are the responsibility of individual exhibitors. Exhibitors may call upon their own licensed Veterinarian however the Livestock Superintendent must be notified prior to their arrival and that Veterinarian's report must be filed with the Livestock Superintendent prior to their departure from the Livestock facilities.

Our challenge in 2018 with the H1H2 strain of Swine Flu was the same problem faced at many Fairs across the mid-west this past summer and fall.

In 2019 we instituted an aggressive Bio-Security Protocol and Plan for all animals at the Fair. It was very successful and well received by animal owners and our community. We are committed to continuing that program.

We have made the following continued commitments to provide an improved Bio-Security program for 2020 for all animal shows.

**Following are those commitments:**

- ✓ Clean and disinfect all pens, stalls and wash rack facilities before and after each Livestock show. We practice this protocol currently with our equestrian and livestock events year-round.
- ✓ Provide for visual Veterinary inspection of livestock prior to unloading to ensure they are in good health. Treat, under Veterinary direction, sick animals and or release any animal that fair Veterinarians consider compromised from a health standpoint; Release injured livestock from the grounds as has been done in the past. Monitor livestock health throughout the livestock facility each day of the fair utilizing professional Veterinary services under the direction of our Lead Vet.
- ✓ Provide secure and comfortable housing for all livestock.
- ✓ The Fair has put some limits on the number of market livestock that may be entered into competition.
- ✓ Monitor the current condition of the Southern California Newcastle outbreak within the Poultry population of four California counties. Our poultry show for 2019 was canceled due to the potential for the disease to spread to other counties. Our intent is to offer a Poultry Show in 2020 depending on the statewide status of the disease. Final decisions will be made in the spring.

- ✓ Continue our strong Poultry Health inspection program at the Fair for 2020 and beyond.
- ✓ Provide (on our website) to all exhibitors, leaders and Ag teachers prior to the Fair, a significant amount of educational materials developed by the USDA, CDFA and universities on proper care of animals and specific disease concerns targeted at each specie where appropriate. This also includes other related animal care tips and resources.
- ✓ Provide educational signage during the fair for the public and exhibitors addressing the topic.
- ✓ Strategically locate handwashing stations in and around the livestock area.
- ✓ Market swine will be exhibited one less day during the fair in 2020 than other livestock (and in future years). This will reduce the amount of exposure and time that causes stress to swine specifically.
- ✓ Monitor the availability and practicality of vaccines that may be readily available for control of certain health conditions in advance of Fair arrival while working with our exhibitor base to utilize these products.
- ✓ Continue our protocol for providing an isolation area for sick or injured animals.
- ✓ Develop a strong checklist for the Fair and exhibitors titled “Protecting Guests, Exhibitors and Animals”.
- ✓ Maintain our terminal show policy for market animals. This may need to be expanded and strengthened.
- ✓ Continue to support the national campaign of “Youth Quality Care of Animals” (YQCA) and the training that is required by all our animal exhibitors.