



15th DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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2019 POULTRY SHOW CANCELED

The outbreak of Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) in California has had a devastating effect on poultry and poultry producers in the State of California. The Kern County Fair and Event Center will cancel this year's poultry show and live poultry exhibits at the 2019 Kern County Fair at the recommendation of the State Veterinarian.

California State Veterinarian and Director of Animal Health and Food Safety Services, Dr. Annette Jones, with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), recommended that all poultry shows and poultry exhibitions be cancelled throughout the state due to the disease.

In a statement from Dr. Annette Jones she states, "Since May 2018, an outbreak of Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) has had a devastating impact on backyard bird populations in four Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. The virus has also been found in three commercial facilities in Riverside County. As a result, nearly 500,000 backyard and commercial birds have been euthanized. Virulent Newcastle disease is a highly contagious respiratory virus in poultry that is nearly always fatal. 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. "

The Kern County Fair and Event Center joins many other California fairs and poultry organizations to cancel shows following recommendations from the State Veterinarian.

"The poultry show at the Kern County Fair is one of the largest in the State of California. The show provides an opportunity for younger exhibitors to start showing animals and educates them about the care, health and well-being," said Michael Olcott, CEO of the Kern County Fair and Event Center. "We are all disappointed in the cancellation of this part of our show, but it is important that we address the concerns of Public Safety as well as the animal health of our local flocks. We find it necessary to do our part to stop the spread of this infectious disease. Kern County Fair Management and staff are working hard on creating a program that our local poultry exhibitors can still participate in and showcase all their hard work and knowledge. Our hopes are that by making this decision early enough, it will allow poultry exhibitors to get involved in other projects of interest. We are encouraging exhibitors to contact their leaders for assistance."

The 2019 Kern County Fair runs from September 18th to the 29th. All other livestock exhibits and shows will proceed at this fair.

To stay updated on information regarding the 2019 Fair and Livestock Show, visit www.kerncountyfair.com and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Respectfully,

Michael G. Olcott
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Blodgie Rodriguez, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Jared Britschgi, Livestock Committee Chairman
Dawn Stornetta, Livestock Supervisor