



403 "F" STREET ★ LOS BANOS, CA 93635

209-826-5166 ★ FAX 209-826-8737

DATE: March 24, 2020
TO: Livestock Exhibitors
FROM: Jim Clark
RE: Livestock Support Program

Merced County has taken numerous measures to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including following recommendations of the California State Department of Public Health to cancel all large gatherings and implement social distancing in smaller settings. Unfortunately, this means that the 2020 Spring Fair in Los Banos has been cancelled.

The 4-H and FFA members have learned livestock selection, feeding and nutrition, proper care and training of their animals to have a quality animal to show. These members help educate the public of the importance of the agriculture industry. These projects teach the youth hard work, responsibility, and the dedication it takes to raise a market animal in hopes of showing and marketing at the fair's livestock auction. In the agriculture industry, we realize there are going to be obstacles however we would have never expected the shut-down of the Merced County Spring Fair in 2020.

A program has been put together to help exhibitors cover the costs they have incurred for their livestock projects.

The Dos Palos Y Auction yard has graciously offered their yard as a collection point. The animals will be sold at their current market value.

It will be the **exhibitor's responsibility to make sure that all animals are market ready and meet all fair requirements, including weight stated in the 2020 Merced County Spring Fair Premium book.** Leaders/Advisors will unload the animals and make sure they pass **Weight, Vet and Quality inspection.**

This program will be set up with community support on the following dates:

Hogs: April 29th, 2020 8:00 AM

Sheep and Goats: May 5th, 2020 8:00 AM

Beef and Dairy Program details to be announced.

We are gathering donations from our community and other fair supporters to help meet your financial responsibilities. This money will be pooled together and divided equally among the participants. Payment will be mailed out as soon as all donations have been collected.

We know we are faced with stressful and challenging times, but we are trying our best to give each of you options to meet your financial responsibilities. Please read and sign the following attachment and return **by April 15, 2020 by 5:00 pm.** to the Merced County Spring Fair. We are here to help and support you. If you have any questions, please contact the Merced County Spring Fair at (209) 826-5166.



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May Day Fair MARKET Animal Support Program

Due April 15th at 5:00 PM at the Los Banos Fair Office

(Due to COVID restrictions email is acceptable) Form can be found here:
www.co.merced.ca.us/2508/Forms-Applications

****Please choose one of option:***

Specie: _____ **Fair Tag ID:** _____

Scrapie Tag Number: _____ **(sheep and goats)**

Please initial your option and sign below

_____ **Option #1 – YES (Participate in Support Program)**

I agree to have my animal taken to the Dos Palos Y Auction Yard (collection point) by my leader/advisor. **Hogs on April 29th 8 am and Sheep and Goats on May 5th 8 am.** I understand that the community money raised will be equally divided among all exhibitors who choose to participate in option #1. The Sponsors, Advisors, and/or Leaders are not guaranteeing a certain dollar amount that I will be getting back. 100% of the money raised will be put into the pot to be divided up equally. There will be no commissions taken from donations. **Your project animal must meet ALL fair requirements including weight, be market ready, and have the Drug Withdrawal Form complete. Your project animal will be Vet & Quality Checked upon arrival.**

_____ **Option #2 – NO (Not Participating / forfeiting entry fees)**

I will not be participating in the May Day Fair Community Support Program.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date