



Press Release

LAKEPORT – On June 8, 2020, the 49th District Agricultural Association, Lake County Fair Directors sadly voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 Lake County Fair. The event was scheduled for September 3rd-6th.

The Board's meeting was authorized under government code section 11125.5(b)2 and a recent executive order from Governor Newsom. The Lake County Fair is a State agency owned and operated by the 49th District Agricultural Association.

The Board considered ongoing guidance and information from State and County Public Health and government officials on the status of the coronavirus pandemic and the improbability that mass gatherings, like the Lake County Fair, could safely and responsibly take place.

Board President Tom Turner reports "While we were hopeful that we would be able to move forward with the 2020 Lake County Fair, based on the information we have received from the Department of Public Health, California Department of Food and Agriculture and our local Public Health Officer, our Fair Board was compelled to make the decision to cancel the Fair. This was a difficult decision."

The determination to cancel the Fair was not taken lightly by the Board. As Governor-appointed representatives the Board has a responsibility to provide a safe experience to the community-at-large, the people who depend on county fairs for their livelihood, fairgoers, and Lake County Fair staff. The Fair is truly a labor of love that our Board of Directors, staff, vendors, sponsors, exhibitors, community members and volunteers spend many months of planning to make the Fair a success.

"The Lake County Fair is a tradition in our community and my heart goes out to all our Fair partners, especially the youth that have already missed so much this year" says Fair CEO Sheli Wright. Wright reported she has been concurrently working with the Junior Livestock Committee on an online auction format and states that she feels fortunate to have such a dedicated group of livestock people to help plan this year's out-of-the-ordinary auction event. For many junior livestock exhibitors, the Fair represents a culmination of many months to years of work. Through livestock projects youth members not only gain animal science knowledge; but valuable skills such as responsibility, time management and problem solving that last a lifetime. The Fair recognizes these young people's hard work and is committed to assisting with a process for youth market livestock exhibitors to complete their projects. Please watch for more updates in the weeks ahead as to how our community can help support our youth in their market livestock projects.