



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

May 4, 2020

Dear Fair Directors and Managers:

As we continue to endure the current COVID-19 pandemic, I ask you to consider the information below as you face the tough decision whether or not to continue planning for your annual fair event.

First, to ensure your fair is in the best possible financial situation, please take all measures to slow the burn rate of cash to only essential functions, such as payroll expenses, utilities, insurance, and loan obligations. This includes initiating the lay-off notification process, reducing hours for temporary employees, and eliminating all non-essential spending. Taking these steps will help inform your decision whether to hold your annual fair.

Society has been through a shock of sudden disruption to personal and business lives. The high unemployment rates and fear of being in public places for possible exposure to COVID-19 must be factored into your decision on whether to continue the annual fair and other events.

As you know, mass gatherings will be the last tier modified in the Governor's current Stay-At-Home directive. Although the Department does not currently have a date regarding mass gatherings, the decision on any modification will be based on Department of Public Health directives and public health data. We do know that there will continue to be, for the foreseeable future, restrictions in place for physical distancing, frequent sanitizing and disinfecting of common areas, additional hand washing and hand sanitizing stations, potential health screens prior to entry (i.e., taking temperatures, questions about symptoms of COVID-19, etc.), and other precautions that may include required face coverings.

Please continue to work with your community, vendors and the local public health department when considering the postponement of your fair until 2021. Also, if you choose to assist your livestock exhibitors by collecting animals at the fairground for market processing, make sure to confer with your local public health authorities to implement the Fairs & Expositions Guidance Document for Sale of Junior Livestock. These are unprecedented times and I appreciate all the difficult decisions you are making to ensure the fairgrounds continue to be an asset for your community.

Yours truly,

Karen Ross
Secretary

