

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Butte County Fair Cancellation**

**Gridley, CA.** At their monthly meeting Tuesday, May 19th, the Board of Directors of the Butte County Fair passed a resolution to cancel the Butte County Fair this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The resolution will be forwarded to Butte County Board of Supervisors and the California Fair & Exposition Board on Wednesday.

The Fair Board said they made this decision after careful consideration of many factors including guidelines and recommendations from both the Governor's and County offices.

While the fairgrounds have been closed to the public since the beginning of stay-at-home orders in March, the Board held off making a decision about the annual County Fair as long as possible, according to Amy Jernigan, Chairperson of the Board. She said, "Canceling the Fair was a difficult decision. Attending and exhibiting at the Fair has been a tradition in our community for generations. I feel especially bad that we can't provide the fair experience for junior exhibitors this year, but we know our decision is in the best interest of the health and well-being of our community at large."

Stephen Kenny, CEO of the Fair, explained, "During a normal year, planning and administrative work for the Fair would have begun in March, doing things like booking entertainment, contracting with vendors and sub-contractors. This year, in order to be fiscally responsible, the Board directed the staff to hold off on that work until there was a high likelihood we would be able to have the Fair."

Acknowledging the current guidelines from Governor Newsom that no mass gatherings will be allowed until the end of Stage 4, which will not happen prior to the end of August, and understanding that exhibitors needed to know whether they should be raising animals for show, the Board decided it was time to make the difficult decision to cancel the fair.

In a separate action, the Board of Directors directed staff to investigate opportunities for an online auction for the steers that have already been entered.

Additional information regarding competitive events will be posted on our website ([buttecountyfair.org](http://buttecountyfair.org)) as it becomes available. Questions can be directed to: [clerkoftheboard@buttecountyfair.org](mailto:clerkoftheboard@buttecountyfair.org)

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