



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 16, 2020

Solano County Virtual Fair & Livestock Program Will Be Held on June 18-21, 2020

Fair Association Board continues annual Fair tradition with modifications due to COVID-19

Solano County, CA – At its April 15 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Solano County Fair Association (SCFA) made the difficult decision, due to the impacts of COVID-19, to forego its traditional Fair activities that invite guests to gather at the Fairgrounds during the annual Fair celebration. Instead, the SCFA will pivot its efforts to producing a Solano County Virtual Fair & Livestock Program on its previously announced dates of June 18 to 21.

“As far as our records show, the Solano County Fair has never been cancelled in its seventy-year history and we didn’t want that to happen this year,” stated SCFA Executive Director & CEO, Mike Ioakimedes. “Our Board and staff care deeply about our Fair and the role it plays in our community, especially as it pertains to our youth livestock exhibitors. We felt that it was vitally important to figure out a way to continue some form of annual Fair activities with the top priority being our Junior Livestock Auction. This is an ongoing and ever-changing task, but we are committed to making it happen.”

The Fair’s youth livestock program typically includes multiple types of competitions and showing of animals on the Fairgrounds over the course of several days leading up to and during the Fair. Fair staff is currently working on how these activities can be modified in order to meet public health guidelines. The end goal is to enable a livestock auction for market animals. It is not known yet if it will be possible to have a live auction on site, so plans are also being made for the possibility of an online auction.

Beyond continuing the livestock program, the Fair also plans on moving its Youth Solano Living program to a virtual exhibition. These “still exhibits” include arts and crafts, clothing and textiles, graphic arts, photography and more. Fair staff envisions that many new exhibitors may



participate in this area as more youth have been working on projects at home over the last several weeks and will continue to do so. The full list of categories and entry instructions are being developed now and will be available on the Fair's web site soon. The Adult Solano Living, Fine Arts and Floriculture programs will be taking a hiatus this year and will return as part of next year's Fair.

In addition to the youth exhibitor programs, the Fair is excited to embark on a virtual Fair experience for the community. Several possibilities are being developed for interactive activities and entertainment that the community can enjoy together while still maintaining social distancing guidelines. Visit the Fair's web site at www.SCFair.com for more details which will be posted as they become available.

As plans for the 2020 Solano County Virtual Fair & Livestock Program are developed, the health and safety of our community will be of the utmost priority. All activities will be in accordance with our county and state public health directives as well as the guidelines put forth by the California Department of Food & Agriculture as they pertain to fairs, fairgrounds and livestock programs.

All of the following sources are available to get the latest updates and announcements about the annual Solano County Fair as well as year-round Fairgrounds activities:

- visit the Fairgrounds' web site, SCFair.com;
- follow on Facebook at "Solano County Fairgrounds";
- follow on Twitter at @scfair;
- follow on Instagram at SCFairgrounds; or
- sign up on the Fairgrounds' web site to receive email blasts and newsletters.

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