



## Potential Changes to the 2025 King's Fair Amid Avian Flu Concerns Precautionary Measures

December 5, 2024

In response to the ongoing concerns regarding the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) in the Central Valley, the Kings Fair has outlined proactive biosecurity measures to safeguard the region's vital dairy industry. These measures, aligned with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) guidelines, prioritize the health and safety of exhibitors, animals, and the public. The fair is scheduled for June 19-22, 2025, with adjustments prepared if the virus continues to pose a threat.

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### Potential Measures if Virus Spread Persists

#### 1. Cancellation of Lactating Cow Shows:

- All classes involving lactating cows, including Dairy Milk Cow Classes for cows two years or older in milk, will be canceled.

#### 2. Dairy Replacement Heifer Show Adjustments:

- If the in-person show is canceled, exhibitors will have the option to participate in a video auction, scheduled along with Friday's yearling auction.
- Participation in the video auction will be optional, with exhibitors retaining the choice to sell their heifers privately.
- Detailed video submission instructions will be provided if this measure is implemented.

#### 3. Eligibility for Dairy Cattle Shows:

- Only spring yearlings born on or after March 2023, that are not pregnant will be eligible for the 2025 fair.
- Cattle not meeting these criteria will not be exhibited.



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### 4. Fair Stalling Adjustments:

- Exhibitor animals will be stalled at the fairgrounds alongside the animals they are currently housed with at their home farms.
- This adjustment aims to maintain strict biosecurity standards by minimizing intermingling of animals from different farms.
- This adjustment supports biosecurity protocols and minimizes the risk of virus transmission, even though it will differ from traditional club or chapter-based stalling arrangements.

### 5. Exclusion of Vulnerable Animals:

- Animals known to be susceptible to Avian Influenza will not be exhibited to reduce the risk of virus spread.

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### Commitment to Biosecurity and Education

- The Kings Fair will implement further biosecurity protocols to minimize risks while maintaining public education about the importance of the dairy industry.
- Although livestock infected with HPAI often recover within weeks, the fair is taking all necessary precautions to protect both animals and the industry.

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### Next Steps for the Exhibitors

- The Kings Fair will monitor the virus's progression over the next couple of months and provide an update as the fair gets closer.
- Exhibitors, leaders, and advisors will be informed of any changes or finalized decisions regarding shows and auctions.

The Kings Fair will continue to monitor the progression of the Avian Influenza virus and provide timely updates to exhibitors, leaders, and advisors as conditions evolve. Final decisions regarding shows, stalling arrangements, and auctions will be communicated to ensure all participants are well-informed and prepared.

Please keep in mind this worst-case scenario and what it could mean for the 2025 Kings Fair if the situation does not improve. However, we remain very hopeful that it won't come to this and that the worst of the virus will have passed by June. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to protect our vital dairy industry.