

YOUTH TALK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026



KINGS COUNTY 4-H MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- Jan. 1 - 4 UCCE Office Closed - Winter Break
- Jan. 6 Leaders Council Meeting
- Jan. 10 4-H Fun Event: Ice Skating
- Jan. 19 UCCE Office Closed - MLK Jr. Day
- Jan. 20 4-H Fair Planning Meeting
- Feb. 3 Leaders Council Meeting
- Feb. 16 UCCE Office Closed - Presidents' Day

4-H FUN FACT

Creativity runs strong in Kings County! 36% of our 4-H'ers are enrolled in Arts & Crafts – our most popular project!

EXCITING NEWS



CDFA Poultry and Dairy Ban Lifted-

I'm happy to share that the statewide ban on poultry and dairy cattle exhibition in California is now lifted. At the end of the newsletter you will find the lift letter shared by State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones, on 12/19/2025.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March

- 3 - Council Meeting
- 18 - Presentation Day
- 19 - Presentation Day
- 19 - Farm Day

April

- 1 - Regional Presentation Day
- 2 - Regional Presentation Day
- 7 - Council Meeting
- 25 - Fashion Revue

PRESENTATION DAY INFO

This year the event will be split between two weeknights rather than on a Saturday morning. Please choose which day and time works best for you on your entry. More info Page 5

UPDATES TO AWARDS

The I&R Committee has made updates to the Project Medal and Outstanding Project Award forms. Be sure to review changes on Page 4

ce.kings.ucanr.edu



Clare C. from the Corcoran 4-H Club (pictured on the right) competed at the national 4-H Fashion Revue contest this January in San Antonio - Read more about her trip on Page 2



4-H Youth Development Program

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

CLARE CURTIS COMPETES AT NATIONALS

Clare and her mother Melanie, a 4-H adult volunteer, recently returned from an exciting and memorable trip to San Antonio, TX, where Clare competed in the 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences National Championship and Conference. Clare proudly represented both Kings County and the state of California, showcasing the 1950s-inspired dress she created through her 4-H Sewing Project. Clare shared that the experience was both rewarding and inspiring, and she hopes to qualify again next year now that she knows what to expect from the competition. Their trip was sponsored by the Marion Brazil Memorial Endowment, through which Clare is also eligible to receive up to \$6,000 in scholarships to attend a college or trade school in California as a result of her service as a Kings County 4-H Ambassador. Congratulations once again to Clare on this outstanding achievement and well-deserved opportunity to showcase her skills, confidence, and dedication on the national stage.



SHELLEY MAGANA - NEW 4-H REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Please join me in welcoming Shelley Magaña as our new 4-H Region 10 (Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern and Inyo-Mono Counties), Regional Program Coordinator (RPC)! Shelley has served as the interim 4-H Community Education Specialist in Tulare County for the past five months and brings a wealth of knowledge in program leadership, people management, and community capacity building. Outside of work, Shelley enjoys cooking, nature walks, trying new coffee spots, spending time with friends and family and training Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. We're excited to have Shelley join the team. Keep an eye out for her at upcoming events and give her a big Kings County welcome!



Shelley Magaña
4-H Region 10 RPC
smagana@ucanr.edu

FARM DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - MARCH 19TH

Kings County Office of Education's Farm Day is an annual educational enrichment program for all third graders in Kings County. Farm Day allows students and teachers the opportunity to learn basic facts about agriculture, become familiar with food and animal production, and have personal contact with farmers. The goal is to have everyone who attends Farm Day walk away with an increased awareness of the positive contributions that agriculture make to our local community and our economy.



This year's Farm Day event is Thursday March 19th from 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Kings Fairgrounds.

Kings County 4-H will be responsible for hosting the break time slot for all classes where we will be running fun activities such as line dancing, fruit/veggie taste tests, art, and yoga. We are looking for 4-H members and 4-H adult volunteers to help lead activities and supervise the area.

If interested in volunteering please complete this [INTEREST SURVEY](#).



Thank you and we appreciate your help!

4-H FAIR LOOK AHEAD: MAY 8-9, 2026

The Kings County 4-H Fair is our largest event of the year and will be held at the Kings Fairgrounds on May 8-9. The event consists of indoor events on Friday evening and Livestock Shows on Saturday. All 4-H volunteers and members are encouraged to join a committee and help with the event. This is a great opportunity for kids to get more involved!

January 20th the planning committee met and made the following suggestions:

- Entry cards for indoor exhibits will be made available at club meetings and members will have the option to do typed cards through online entries
- There will be a dinner for participants on Friday evening and lunch on Saturday
- Ideas are being discussed for a "Club Olympics" and plans will be finalized at future meetings
- Seniors in high school will be presented with a 4-H honor cord at awards ceremony
- Friday Evening will have a live food competition - [vote here](#) to submit your idea



[Vote for
Food Olympics
Contest at
4-H Fair](#)

HEALTHY LIVING VIDEO CONTEST

The California 4-H Healthy Living Advisory & Program Committee is hosting a video contest to promote healthy eating by highlighting California grown fruits and vegetables. This contest is open to all California 4-H youth.

Requirements:

- Highlight 1 fruit or vegetable on the list below.
- Video is no longer than 60 seconds.
- Every youth in the video must be 4-H enrolled and have video consent on file with Z-Suite.
- All 4-H policies and the 4-H Code of Conduct must be followed (no cursing, promotion of alcohol, etc).
- No personally identifiable identification information provided (i.e. no last name, club location, etc.).
- Any spoken language is allowable (e.g. English, Spanish, American Sign Language).
- 4-H logo must be shown at some point during the video.
- Signed entry form with consent to allow California 4-H to share video as the program chooses for educational purposes
- Video must be created by youth.
- Choose from any of the following: Show how to prepare the food; talk about the benefits of the food; how to grow the food at home; a fun fact about the food; the history of the food; talk with a farmer about how it is grown and sold.



California Fruits and Vegetables: Cucumber, Sweet potato, Snap peas, Broccoli, Spinach, Butternut squash, Strawberries, Peaches, Blueberries, Kiwi, Mandarins, Persimmons: Fuyu.

Contest Deadlines: March 16, April 13, and May 11, 2026.

Youth may submit to more than one round and more than one video.

How to submit: Please upload videos to this [Google Form](#).

Prize: \$50 gift card per video winner, 2 winners per month (popular vote and Healthy Living Advisory & Program Committee vote). Winners will be notified via email by the end of the following month.

Questions? Contact: Dr. Kimberly Holmes (ksholmes@ucanr.edu) or Ally Lemmer (alemmer@ucanr.edu).



COUNTY-LEVEL RECORD BOOK AWARD UPDATES

The Kings County 4-H Leaders Council's Incentives and Recognition Committee met on December 2nd to review and update Project Medal and Outstanding Project Award requirements. The committee developed the following materials which were approved by the council on January 6th.

- Kings County 4-H Award Guide
 - **New Resource that explains Project Medal and Outstanding Project Award application process and criteria.
- Project Medal Application
 - Updated to require 100% project completion (as defined by the Project Leader) rather than 80% project meeting attendance.
- Outstanding Project Award Application
 - Document to be filled out by 4-H member and submitted with their book for judging.
- Outstanding Project Award Evaluation Score Sheet
 - Document to be completed by evaluator during county level judging.
- Outstanding Project Award winners will be decided based on a point system.
- Please contact Cayci Hill, cdahill@ucanr.edu, with questions.



Community Service Opportunities

MID VALLEY 4-H WELCOMES YOU TO PARTICIPATE!

Teen Leader Kaden Johnson Hargis invites all 4-H clubs in Kings County to participate in the following monthly donation drives to support organizations in our area. Please drop off donations to the Kings UCCE office.

- **February- Valley Christian Home (572-4781 or 308-8330) Damon**
 - Plant tomato plants and flowers. Would like 4-H members to come visit, they can do bingo, gardening, arts and crafts with the residents.
- **March - Kings Nursing & Rehab Center (582- 4414 ext 129) Annette, Hanford Post Acute (582-2781)**
 - Would like a new set of bingo cards and also prizes. Could be lotion or something they can put in their rooms, along with brushes, handheld mirrors, or nicknacks.

LEADERS COUNCIL

WHAT IS IT?

The Kings County 4-H Leaders Council is made up of 4-H volunteers and senior 4-H members. The council oversees the county program by planning events, creating committees, and voting on important program business. Council meetings are open to all 4-H volunteers, parents, and 4-H members.

WHEN DOES IT MEET?

First Tuesday of each month

6:30 p.m.

Kings UCCE Multi-Purpose Room
680 N. Campus Drive Suite F
Hanford, CA 93230

MEETINGS

Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7 - 6:30 pm



WE WANT YOU!

In order to make our program the best it can be, we need more participation and input from our volunteers, parents, and 4-H members!

We are asking for one youth member per club to attend each meeting & give a club report. The meetings are also open to youth members who would like to give a presentation.

Youth who give a report or presentation at a council meeting will receive a raffle ticket. One winner per council meeting will be chosen. Winner will get to choose from a variety of prizes.



2026 4-H Presentation Day Events



Presentations

Presentation Day is a public speaking contest that 4-H members of all ages are welcome to participate in. 4-H'ers will select from one of ten categories to make a prepared presentation which they will give in front of a group and be evaluated by judges. The event is open to all Kings and Tulare County 4-H members; even if you are not enrolled in a public speaking related project.

Categories: Demonstration, Illustrated Talk, Science or Engineering Presentation, Educational Display Talk, Informative Prepared Speech, Persuasive Prepared Speech, Impromptu Speech, Interpretive Reading, Share the 4-H Fun Skit, and Cultural Arts.

More information about the categories can be found in the [UC 4-H Presentation Manual](#).

Qualifying for Regional & State Presentations

- Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Youth members who earn a **blue** or **gold** award at the Kings County 4-H Presentation Day event are eligible to progress to the in-person Regional Presentation Day contest at UCCE Fresno on April 1st or 2nd.
- Youth who earn a **blue** or **gold** award at the Regional Presentation Day event are eligible to progress to the in-person or virtual CA 4-H State Field Day contest at UC Davis on May 23rd.
- If youth are doing a virtual presentation, they should adapt their presentations to take advantage of the technology and handling technological problems. The [Presentation Manual](#) offers tips for youth presenters on presenting virtually (pg 11).

Presentation Events

Kings County 4-H Presentation Day

Wed. March 18th and Thurs. March 19th

In-Person

Location: UCCE Kings
680 Campus Drive Suite A
Hanford, CA 93230



Register Online by 3/15/26 @ 5 pm

4:00 pm - Arrival Group 1
5:00 pm - Arrival Group 2
6:00 pm - Arrival Group 3

Entry link, resources, video examples, and additional information can be found on the [Kings County 4-H website](#).

Questions? Contact:
Cayci Hill, Kings County 4-H CES
cdahill@ucanr.edu
559-852-2743

Awards sent out to participants Fri. March 20

Regional 4-H Presentation Day

Wed. April 1st and Thurs. April 2nd 4-7 pm

In-Person

Location: UCCE Fresno
550 E Shaw Ave #210-B
Fresno, CA 93710

State 4-H Presentation Day

Virtual Presentations:
Time Slots TBD

In-Person Presentations:

CA 4-H State Field Day

Saturday May 23rd UC Davis @ 8 am

Impromptu categories available at the [4-H public speaking webpage](#).



State 4-H Interview Contest

Held in-person at CA 4-H State Field Day at UC Davis on May 23rd or Virtually

The Interview Contest is a popular event that gives 4-H members an opportunity to practice the real-life skills needed to apply for a job. Participants prepare a resumé and cover letter for a job they choose from the job descriptions listed below. Evaluators evaluate their performance during a mock interview and give constructive feedback using a standard evaluation rubric.

State 4-H Interview Contest 2026 Job Descriptions

The Interview Contest is a popular event that gives 4-H members an opportunity to practice the real-life skills needed to apply for a job. Participants prepare a resumé and cover letter for a job they choose from the job descriptions listed below. Evaluators evaluate their performance during a mock interview and give constructive feedback using a standard evaluation rubric.

Interview Contest participants must do the following:

1. Choose a job: Choose from one of the three jobs listed below in your age category.
2. Develop a resumé: Include real-life experiences (education, work, activities, etc.) that demonstrate your qualifications for the job selected.
3. Write a cover letter: Your cover letter should explain why you should be considered for the job selected.
4. Dress appropriately: Appropriate dress includes 4-H uniform or attire appropriate for a job interview as outlined in the California State 4-H Interview Contest Manual.

Participants are encouraged to review the tips, interview questions, judging rubrics, and supporting materials provided under “Contest Resources” on the [Interview Contest](#) website.

2026 Job Descriptions

Primary Members (ages 5-8)

Primary Members are not eligible for the Interview Contest.

Junior Category (ages 9 and 10)

- Dog Walker
- Recycling Assistant
- Lost & Found Assistant
- Lemonade Stand Helper

Intermediate Category (ages 11 to 13)

- Stable Hand Assistant
- Smoothie Maker
- Preschool Teacher’s Helper
- Gardening Assistant

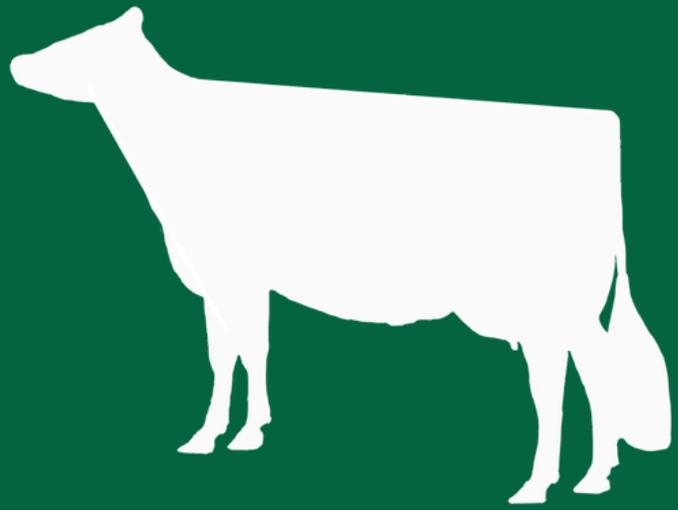
Senior Category (ages 14 to 19)

- Wildlife Sanctuary Intern
- Chemistry Lab Assistant
- Bookstore Assistant
- Summer Lunch Program Assistant





School of
Agriculture



2026 CALIFORNIA STATE 4-H

DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST

AT MJC FFA FIELD DAY

MARCH 14, 2026

MJC ACE PAVILION WEST CAMPUS

7:30AM - 2:00PM

NOVICE - JUNIOR - SENIOR DIVISIONS

\$15

PER PERSON

REGISTER BY 03/07

To register please contact:
Cayci Hill, Kings County 4-H CES
cdahill@ucanr.edu
559-852-2743

This is the state 4-H qualifying contest. Youth in the Senior 4-H Division compete to qualify to represent California 4-H at the World Dairy Expo National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging contest in Madison, Wisconsin (October 2026). This is not a team competition so youth placing in the top 4 will qualify to represent California 4-H at the national contest.



**4-H Youth
Development Program**
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

It's not too late to join the 2025-2026 4th H for Health Challenge!



Get motivated to create healthy habits. To meet the challenge, choose activities that support your overall health and well-being!



Scan here or visit the [CA 4-H Resource Center](#) for more info

Every kid needs the chance to thrive. It'll inspire their lives, and they'll inspire our communities.

WHY HEALTHY LIVING?

The 4th "H" in 4-H stands for "Health." This is echoed in our pledge, "I pledge my health to better living." The 4-H approach is holistic and seeks to improve the well-being of all youth. This is accomplished through healthy eating, physical activity, relationship building, emotion regulation, injury prevention, and reduction of mind-altering substances.

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

Complete 8 activities in each of these three areas.



Healthy eating



Movement



Social emotional health

The guide includes suggestions you can do each month. Log your activities in each area on the tracker. You can do activities individually or as a group at your club meeting or event.

WHEN Start any time after August 1, 2025. Challenge ends June 30, 2026

WHERE Do the activities in your club meetings, events and at home.

COMPLETION

Submit completed trackers to the California 4-H State Office to receive a 4-H Healthy Living certificate & pin.



Inspired by and adapted from the [4th H for Health Curriculum](#) developed by the 4-H Healthy Living Management Team and Healthy Kids Out of School.



4-H WINTER FUN ICE SKATING EVENT

HANFORD'S WINTER WONDERLAND

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

Thank you to the families who attended our 2nd Fun Day of the year and to the Kings County 4-H Leaders Council for sponsoring the event. Stay tuned for our last Fun Day of the year this summer!





KINGS HARVEST 4-H

Kings Harvest 4-H Club hosted an in-person YQCA training February 1st at the Kings Fairgrounds. The training is led by a Mrs. Katie Chambers who is a local high school ag teacher, 4-H mom, and 4-H alumni. The event was open to all Kings County 4-H'ers and was a success! Thank you Mrs. Chambers and Kings Harvest 4-H

CORCORAN 4-H: JANUARY

Corcoran 4-H had their fourth club meeting on December 5th. At this past club meeting, members participated in the Winter Social event. We watched the Home Alone movie, provided Costco pizza and hot cocoa for members, and encouraged everyone to bring their blankets and pillows and come in their PJs. Members were able to make Christmas crafts, color stockings, fill out activity sheets, and make ornaments as a team. Members participated in community service by making their family's famous recipe dessert and shared it with their fellow peers.

This past month was the last month to join Corcoran 4-H. All of our projects are getting into the swing of things and preparing for the upcoming competitions.

Please join us at our next monthly club meeting on January 12th, @ 6:00 pm at the CHS Studio 3:15.



CORCORAN 4-H: FEBRUARY

Corcoran 4-H had their fifth club meeting on January 12th.

At this past club meeting, members wrote a thank you correspondence to the Corcoran Community Foundation for the grant to the Corcoran 4-H Club. We are extremely thankful for the support this community has for our club. We would not be able support as many youths in our community without the generous efforts from the community. Thank you.

Members also played a game called snowball race, created by Ezekiel Hernandez, our Vice President. Members surrounded a table with a plate of mini marshmallows in the center of the table. They were tasked with using a straw to suck and move as many mini marshmallows as possible onto the plate in the center of the table. The team with the most mini marshmallows on their plate wins. Our winning team was Adrian Villegas, Desvin Vega, Devrin Vega, and Brock Howard. Congrats kids!

Our club voted on entries from club members for the first annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest. Congratulations to Ezekiel Hernandez for winning the contest with his tree.

Projects are in full swing this year. Many kiddos have purchased their livestock projects for this program year, and our indoor projects have had many meetings working on their entries for the 4-H and Kings County Fairs.

Please join us at our next monthly club meeting on February 9th, @ 6:00 pm at the CHS Studio 3:15.



COUNTYWIDE HORSE PROJECT

At their January Meeting, the countywide horse and ponies project learned about Horse injuries and first aid. They had fun practicing wound care and bandaging on each other. They are looking forward to the rest of year which included horse riding and the 4-H Fair competition.



KINGS COUNTY 4-H 24-25 AMBASSADORS

Alumni Kings County Ambassadors, Adeleigh Sayles and Clare Curtis completed their 24-25 Kings County Ambassador Project with a volunteer experience hosted by the historic and well loved Carnegie Museum.

This Ambassador Service Learning Project consisted of attending a Volunteer Orientation with the museum and learning their soon to be role of a docent during the museums' "Kings County Agriculture" exhibit. In which, Kings County 4-H and agriculture was showcased for all its strengths and weaknesses in an effort to educate the public.

Ambassadors each chose a shift in between the museums' hours of operation between Friday and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. Each ambassador performed one two-hour shift for the museum as a docent, helping the educate public and take part in the museums' efforts.

Adeleigh and Clare performed remarkably during their year of service with Kings County 4-H as a Kings County Ambassador. We wish them luck with all their future endeavors and know they continue to grow and move onto bigger and better things. They embody the 4-H motto of "To Make the Best Better."

Congratulations to Adeleigh Sayles and Clare Curtis.



Ambassador Coach Madison Thomas and Ambassador Clare Curtis in front of the Carnegie Museum sign after their shift.



Ambassador Adeleigh Sayles smiling on one of the museums' attractions that the public can sit on and take pictures with.

HEALTHY LIVING

Monthly Healthy Living Webinars

Join the Healthy Living Advisory Committee for discussion and guest speakers on different health topics each month! Register for any session at <https://bit.ly/HealthyLiving25>

January 8, 2026 6-7 p.m. Service Learning
 February 5, 2026 6-7 p.m. Emotional Well-Being
 March 5, 2026 6-7 p.m. Outdoor Exploration



Winter Fruits & Vegetables

Eating with the season has several benefits from optimal nutritional value and flavor to cost effectiveness and sustainability. The following fruits and vegetables are in currently in season, give them a try!



Carrots - Originate from Afghanistan

This taproot vegetable is a good source of Vitamin A which supports your eyes, skin, and immune system. Holtville, California is known as the carrot Capital of the World.



Radishes - Originate from China

This root vegetable has many different varieties from English Breakfast, Easter egg, and daikon. California is the lead grower of the daikon variety.



Turnips - Originate from China

This root vegetable is related to a radish, but all parts of the plant are eligible!



Kiwis - Originate from China

This fruit grows on a vine which can grow as high as 30 ft! It is a superfood because it is nutrient dense - a great source of Vitamin C which helps wounds heal and protects your immune system.



Citrus - Originate from India

In California, this table fruit is very popular with many different varieties being grown in our state. You can visit a whole musue dedicated to citrus in Riverside.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Make sure to follow the Kings County 4-H Instagram and Facebook accounts! Submit photos to be shared to cdahill@ucanr.edu



KINGS COUNTY 4-H, CALIFORNIA



@KINGS4H

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Kings UCCE Office will be closed:
 Monday January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr Day.
 Monday February 16th for Presidents' Day

4-H RESOURCES

- [Kings County 4-H Website](#)
- [4-H Handbook for Families](#)
- [4-H Record Book Information](#)
- [California 4-H Resource Center](#)

TULARE-KINGS UCCE MASTER GARDENERS



February Garden Chores

- Start seeds for spring flowers and vegetables indoors.
- Plant bare root plants including fruit trees, berries, grapes, kiwis, roses, and flowering shrubs and vines.
- Divide perennials.
- Seed or sod cool season lawns.
- [Read for more](#)

CONTACT US

Kings UCCE Office

680 N. Campus Drive Suite A Hanford, CA 93230

559-852-2730

Hours: M-Th 8a-5p, F 8a-12p

Cayci Hill - cdahill@ucanr.edu

Dina Ledesma - eledesma@ucanr.edu



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

CDFA Lifts Statewide Ban on California Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibitions at Fairs and Shows

Dear Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibition Organizers and Managers:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has closely monitored the status of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in both poultry and dairy cattle throughout California. Since the implementation of the statewide exhibition ban, CDFA has conducted ongoing surveillance, reviewed viral trend data, and consulted with epidemiologists and animal health partners at both the state and federal levels.

Based on a comprehensive review of current H5N1 infection trends, improved understanding of transmission dynamics, and enhanced mitigation measures now in place, CDFA has determined that the risk associated with poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions has sufficiently decreased. **Effective immediately, the statewide ban on poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions at fairs and shows is hereby lifted.** This decision was not made lightly. CDFA recognizes the importance of protecting animal health, public health, and California's agricultural industries while also supporting youth programs, educational opportunities, and agricultural traditions across the state.

While exhibitions may resume, CDFA strongly encourages all fairgrounds, exhibition organizers, and exhibitors to continue implementing enhanced biosecurity practices and disease-prevention measures. Animals exhibiting signs of illness should not be transported or exhibited, and veterinarians should be contacted promptly if disease is suspected.

If H5N1 is suspected in either poultry or cattle, contact **CDFA Sick Bird Hotline at: 866-922-2473**

CDFA will continue close monitoring of H5N1 activity statewide and will work collaboratively with fair organizers and animal owners to ensure appropriate safeguards remain in place. Additional guidance and recommendations for exhibitions will be available on the CDFA website.

If you have questions regarding this action, please contact CDFA's H5N1 Public Information Officer at cdfa.HPAInfo@cdfa.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to protecting California's animals and agricultural communities.

Sincerely,

Annette Jones, D.V.M.

Digitally signed by
Annette Jones, D.V.M.
Date: 2025.12.19
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Dr. Annette Jones
State Veterinarian

