



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

January 26, 2026

On behalf of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, I am delighted to welcome you and to thank you for your involvement as we look ahead to the 2026 fair season. Each year, our fairs bring people together from every corner of our state to celebrate agriculture, community, and the dedication of those who make it all possible.

The heart of every fair lies in its people: families, volunteers, youth leaders, and countless others who share their talents and passions. Your participation as exhibitors strengthens these connections, turning each fair into a place where learning, collaboration, and pride in California agriculture come to life.

We are especially grateful for the young people who engage through 4-H, FFA, Grange, and other youth programs. Their enthusiasm and commitment represent the future of agriculture, inspiring the next generation to value hard work, stewardship, and innovation. The skills they develop through these programs, such as leadership, responsibility, and community service, extend far beyond the fairgrounds and enrich the entire state. These experiences are supported by the very spaces that make them possible, which continue to serve their communities long after the fair season ends.

Our fairgrounds are more than event spaces; they are year-round centers of community life. They host educational workshops, local markets, and cultural celebrations that bring people together and strengthen our shared sense of belonging. During emergencies, they also serve as critical response and recovery sites, underscoring their role as essential community infrastructure. These roles highlight the enduring partnership between our fairgrounds and the exhibitors, volunteers, and communities that keep them thriving.

We recognize and deeply appreciate the effort, care, and time you invest in preparing for the fair. Your commitment ensures that these traditions continue to thrive and that agriculture remains at the heart of California's identity.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support. We look forward to another successful fair season and to celebrating the incredible spirit of California's agricultural community together.

Yours truly,

Karen Ross
Secretary

