



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

October 12, 2018

F2018-05

TO: All Fairs

SUBJECT: Quality Assurance & Ethics Training Requirements for all California Fairs

The Fairs & Exposition Branch (F&E) in conjunction with all County, Citrus and District Fairs of California are committed to Quality Assurance and Ethics Awareness training programs. These programs demonstrate that California Fairs are committed to the educational development of their junior exhibitors, parents and leaders.

We are experiencing with much more frequency society questioning the relevance and value of our animal programs. As we all know, with less than two percent of the population actively involved in the production of agriculture this makes Fairs more important than ever concerning agriculture education.

Fairs and livestock exhibitions are the foundation for agriculture promotion in our society and as our population continues to shift to a more urban demographic, it is also the responsibility of fairs to educate the public on the key role that agriculture, and rural communities, will continue to play in our economy and our daily lives.

At F&E's request during the annual state rules advisory committee meeting in October 2017, it was discussed, voted on and recommended that all California Fairs would require annual Quality Assurance & Ethics training for all junior livestock (large and small animal) exhibitors.

Beginning on January 1, 2019 the Fairs & Expositions Branch will require all California Fairs (County, Citrus & District Agricultural Associations) junior livestock (large and small animal) exhibitors to annually participate in a F&E approved Quality Assurance and Ethics Awareness training. Currently, the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) online program has been approved by F&E to fulfill this requirement. For more information on the YQCA online program, please visit www.yqca.org.



Please note, the YQCA program is not meant to replace the efforts of fairs that wish to continue their own youth quality assurance and ethics efforts. Any fair wanting to present and get F&E approval of their current quality assurance and ethics training program should submit the material/curriculum to Jay Carlson by November 30, 2018 for review and approval.

More information on the approval processes for curriculum, trainers, and instructors will follow shortly. In addition, YQCA instructor-led (Face-to-Face) training information will be provided at a later date.

If you have any questions, or would like to submit your fair's own youth quality assurance and ethic training course for review and approval, please contact Jay Carlson at (916) 263-3109 or JCarlson@calexpo.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Quiroz', with a large loop on the left side and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Quiroz, Branch Chief
Fairs & Expositions Branch