

SITE-SPECIFIC WORK PLAN JUNIOR LIVESTOCK PROGRAM (GRADING & MARKET)

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING PLAN

- *(CEO Name)*, CEO
Fair Name
- Livestock Superintendent Name
Livestock Superintendent

BACKGROUND

One of the many projects offered by 4-H and FFA is the raising of a market animal. Animals are raised by 4-H, FFA, Grange, and independent participants as agricultural projects. The goals of the project are to provide the youth with knowledge and responsibility for the care and treatment of an animal, appreciation for the food supply chain in the United States, and to educate them on the tools and requirements for product marketing. Although not all 4-H, FFA, Grange, or independent participants go on to careers in agriculture, all participants gain knowledge and understanding of the level of commitment and dedication to the production of food and fiber. The animal is selected, raised, and cared for by the junior member until the animal is graded for market. At the market (normally through a fair), the animals are weighed, sorted by weight, and then graded for quality. Grading is conducted in a show setting with a judge selecting individual animals out of classes sorted by species and weight. Following placement in the grading, the animal is sold at a market auction in order of grade quality.

Animals presented for the sale include lambs, meat goats, swine, steers, and rabbit meat pens *(Include animal Species specific to Fair JLA)*.

Historically animals are retained on the fair grounds for the duration of the fair providing agricultural educational exhibits for fair visitors. Animals are shown on differing days, mainly due to limited ring capacity and the need to have species-specific judges. For the *(Fair Name)* Fair sheep and goats would be on Wednesday, swine on Thursday, and steers and rabbits on Friday with a live auction sale open to limited public on Saturday. In normal years participants are responsible for the care, feeding, and management of their exhibit until the market event on Saturday.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Governor Newsom on April 14, 2020, issued six critical indicators that should be considered before stay-at-home orders and other COVID interventions are modified. Since that time, the

Governor has moved California into Phase 3 (*update*) and has allowed limited freedom for approved counties to make regional-specific choices (*County Specific*).

Specifically, until herd immunity is reached the objectives of protection programs should be to:

1. Ensure our ability to care for the sick within our hospitals;
2. Prevent infection in people who are at high risk for severe disease;
3. Build the capacity to protect the health and well-being of the public; and
4. Reduce social, emotional, and economic disruptions.

The six specific indicators for modifying the stay-at-home order were:

- The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who test positive or are exposed;
- The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk;
- The ability of hospitals and health systems to handle surges;
- The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand;
- The ability for businesses, schools, and childcare facilities to support physical distancing; and
- The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home order, if necessary.

Regional Variance Request Criteria for (*Fair County*) were presented by the Governor's office on (*month, day, 202x*), and such a variance was requested by (*Fair County*) on (*month, day, 202x*). (*Fair County*) meets or exceeds all the variance acceptance criteria.

Multiple articles and journals document that the risk for transmission of COVID, or any coronavirus, is significantly greater in an indoor environment and that less than 1 percent of transmissions occur outdoors. The event will be conducted outdoors in an open-air environment. The virus is sensitive to heat. The average temperature in (*month of Fair*) during the grading and market is well over 100 degrees F (*site specific*).

The overall risk for infection transmission associated with this activity will be very low, especially with the project-specific safety measures and changes to site protocols to be implemented for 202x. The Junior Livestock Program (grading and market) will meet the objectives of the Governor's goal of moving forward with a modified "reduce social, emotional, and economic disturbance" as well as providing a source of quality protein products to local county residents during a time of meat shortages.

MEASURES TO PREVENT SPREAD (GENERAL)

Safety Controls:

- The fairgrounds will be closed to the public; only the participant and two members of their immediate family will be allowed onsite during scheduled grading times.
- All activities will be conducted outside with no indoor facilities used.
- Only registered, ticketed buyers will be allowed to attend the market (recommend online registration).
- *(Fair Name)* Fair will maintain a record of participants and buyers attending to allow for traceability. A numbered system will be used for entry at the appropriate gate (numbered wristbands).
- Face coverings will be required for individuals not able to socially distance; face masks will be available for those who need them.
- All individuals must sign a COVID-19 waiver prior to being granted access to the fairgrounds.
- Only two points of entry to the fairgrounds will be used and those gates will be manned by security to limit entry as well as enforce rules.
- Appropriate signage will be placed at entry points to inform participants they shall avoid entering if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from non-household members; and not shake hands or make unnecessary physical contact.
- Physical distancing will be promoted and maintained.
- Signs will be posted throughout areas to be utilized reminding participants of mitigation practices.
- Common areas will be marked to illustrate 6-foot distancing.
- Evaluation groups will be limited to less than 10 animals to allow for proper distancing.
- All facilities used will be set up to allow for appropriate social distancing (i.e. centrally located, larger sale ring).
- Animals will be held by exhibitor household group, if large enough, and then by 4-H/FFA club leader, and will be spread out to allow for social distancing with no more than ten participants per group.
- Multiple hand wash/hand sanitizer stations shall be set up around the grading and market areas.
- Restrooms and portable restrooms will be available with cleaning each hour.
- A first-aid station will be open during the entire event.
- All participants must leave the fairgrounds immediately following the grading of their animals and at the conclusion of the market event.
- Participants will be encouraged to bring their own water; no food or water will be provided onsite except for market day.
- A live feed of the evaluation process will be available for members of the public to watch from home.

Education and Training: All participants will be provided educational materials on COVID-19. Emphasis will be placed on the need for societal protection, including the importance of social

distancing, frequent hand washing, use of face coverings, and avoidance of touching the eyes, mouth, nose, etc. Educational materials will be provided prior to the scheduled event and will be reinforced prior to each class grading. Signage will be posted at the event.

Screening: All participants will be screened at home prior to attendance using temperature or symptom checks following CDC guidelines. Participants will not be allowed on the grounds if they:

- Are sick or showing symptoms related to COVID-19 such as fever, dry cough, or shortness of breath.
- Have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

Etiquette and Manners: While at the event, all participants will follow official Guidelines for COVID-19 for Livestock Markets (Month, Day, 202x) as follow:

- Avoid shaking hands.
- Stay 6 feet (three paces) away from non-family/non-group members (social distancing) at all times.
- Avoid touching face.
- Cover a cough with your elbow and sneeze into a tissue.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; if soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Sanitation: Sanitation of livestock areas is always important, but will be even more important during this event due to COVID-19. Supplies will be available and readily accessible for people to follow guidelines including hand sanitizer and/or hand-wash station, napkins/paper towels, garbage cans, etc. Bleachers and barns will be fully disinfected between grading days. Multiple hand-wash stations will be provided as well as sanitizer and porta-potties. Porta-potties and restrooms will be sanitized hourly.

Four full-time personnel have been hired and assigned to disinfection. All exposed areas will be cleaned thoroughly every night following species changes.

MEASURES TO PREVENT SPREAD SPECIFIC TO ANIMAL GRADING

CDFA rules and guidelines for the grading and market of these animals include and are discussed in more detail in this section:

- Limiting the number of participants and spectators for each daily event.
- Adding pen space to allow social distancing.
- Allowing larger ring size and additional spectator bleachers to provide more room for social distancing.

- Prohibiting participants from loitering in barns with livestock.
- Animals left on the grounds will be fed by leaders/volunteers.
- Washing and preparation of animals will be done at home prior to arrival. Washing will not be allowed on the fairgrounds.
- Equipment/tools will not be shared between participants. If required, equipment and tools will be disinfected between uses.
- Steers, lambs, goats, and rabbits should arrive on their grading day prepared for the ring.
- Pen areas will be provided for each participant with sufficient capacity to allow social distancing.
- Following grading, all participants will be requested to leave promptly to meet social distancing requirements.
- Class sizes will be reduced to less than 10 animals per grading class to allow social distancing within the grading ring; social distancing will be practiced in the animal lineup.
- No handshakes for judges or hugs from other participants will be allowed – social distancing will be followed.
- Each participant will be limited to two immediate family members to accompany them to allow for adequate social distancing.
- Live video of grading will be provided for viewing at home for families with high-risk members, such as grandparents.
- The entire grading ring area will be used to maximize bleacher and chair seating to allow for greater social distancing.
- Onsite barns will be fully open to allow the penning of animals to maximize social distancing while preparing to show.
- Club leaders and FFA advisors will be responsible for distancing, monitoring, and enforcement of provisions of exhibition; participants in violation will be removed from the grounds and not permitted to sell at the market.
- Animals will remain on the grounds prior to shipping; following sale of the project animal, participants will be asked to promptly leave the grounds to reduce the total number of people onsite at any given time.

Weigh-in for animals will be conducted on the day of grading. Separate species will be graded on different days to allow for adequate social distancing. Weigh-ins will start at 0600.

Swine, due to the large number, may be weighed in on Wednesday night to allow adequate time and room for social distancing and to prepare an online class listing for the following day.

Animals will be graded as follows (*List Fair JLA Species*):

Wednesday
Thursday

Lambs and Goats
Swine

Friday

Steers, Rabbits

The animals must be cared for by leaders and advisors (list time frame). Senior participants may also assist. Generally, participants will not be allowed onsite to care for animals. Participants who have already been graded will be asked to leave and not return to the fairgrounds until their auction time to assist in maintaining adequate social distancing.

MEASURES TO PREVENT SPREAD AT MARKET EVENT

Buyers include local businesses and individuals. Most commit to only a portion of the sale day. Numerous buyers are also represented by proxy. The sale generally lasts from approximately 0800 to 1600, with persons moving in and out as specific animals are purchased.

The primary objective for the sale is to reduce individual numbers of buyers to allow social distancing during the sale event. This will be done by:

- Limiting spectators.
- A numbered system of wristbands will be used for buyer's entry to limit number of buyers and will assist in traceability.
- The area of the market will be sectioned off to allow only buyers in the ring area.
- A small viewing area will be provided for parents, other family members, and leaders to watch an animal sell.
- Signage will be provided to remind buyers of social distancing rules and requirements; bleachers will be marked identifying 6-foot distances. The auctioneer will make periodic announcements to reinforce social distancing.
- Limit the number of members in a buyer group to less than 10 within the sale area.
- Following an animal's sale a bank volunteer will provide the buyer with the required paperwork and sale record; the exhibitor will be responsible for thanking the buyer outside of the sale area at their place of business in the days following the sale.
- Hogs will not be moved across the auction floor. The exhibitor will be required to provide a photograph of the exhibitor and the hog for the auction event. The photograph will be posted on the screens in front of the buyers and only the individual will stand for the auction in the sale ring. This will significantly reduce the number of people required for livestock movement at the sale. It will also reduce chances for cross-contamination due to livestock handling as well as improve animal welfare.
- Bleachers will be sanitized as groups move around the area.
- Livestream auction and online live bidding will be included in the sale.
- All previous buyers will be called in advance and proxies will be obtained where possible to limit the number of actual individuals at the market.
- No buyers' breakfast will be served.
- Food and water will be provided in a "for take-out" venue; lunches and waters will not be delivered to buyers as in the past.

- Multiple hand-wash stations will be provided.
- Discourage attendance by high-risk people (over 65 or with pre-existing conditions).

PROCESS TO CHECK FOR COMPLIANCE

Individuals found out of compliance will be asked to modify behaviors and, if behavior is not modified, the individual will be asked to leave.

During the sale, sale team members (auctioneer) will regularly remind patrons of the rules and request compliance.

UPDATE PLAN

The plan will be updated as new information from (*Fair County*) County, the State of California, and CDC becomes available. Should the State of California move into Phase 4 or additional changes be made prior to the (*Fair JLA Date*), this plan may be revised and reapproved by County Health Department staff.

SAMPLE