



December 5, 2023

F2023-06A

TO: All Fairs

SUBJECT: Proposition 12 Update for the 2024 Fair Season

As we all begin to prepare for the 2024 Fair Season, please keep in mind that [Proposition 12 \(2018\)](#) went into effect on January 1, 2022. Proposition 12 is the Farm Animal Confinement Initiative that requires that covered animals be housed in confinement systems that comply with specific minimum standards for freedom of movement, cage-free design, and minimum floor space, and identifies covered animals to include veal calves, breeding pigs, and egg-laying hens, as specified. As you might already be aware, the regulations and additional requirements went into effect on September 1, 2022, for certification, registration, accreditation, and inspection to implement the [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) sections 25990-25994](#).

While self-certification of the pork producer where the breeding pig is kept was acceptable for the 2023 fair season, only third-party certifications will be permitted beginning with the 2024 fair season for fair pigs to be processed for resale. The CDFA Fairs and Expositions (F&E) Branch strongly recommends that all fairs request that their market hog exhibitors submit a third-party certification to ensure the pork meat from the show pig has access to a “resale” market. All pork producers, regardless of age and farm size, in California and those outside of California selling market show pigs to California exhibitors, must be in compliance with Proposition 12. “Pork producer” means a person engaged in the business of keeping, maintaining, confining and/or housing a female pig of the porcine species that is six (6) months of age or older, or is pregnant, for the purpose of commercial breeding to produce pork meat from the breeding pig or her immediate offspring for human consumption.

Important: Please note that covered animals (breeding pigs) that are part of a youth project (Health and Safety Code (HSC) 25992(d)) are exempt from Animal Confinement minimum standards and therefore an exception of Proposition 12 requirements. Any whole pork meat from the immediate offspring of that breeding pig project is considered compliant with the law and can be sold in California. While California Code of Regulations do not specify a requirement for what the youth of a breeding pig project would provide to the buyers of the immediate offspring from their project animal to



communicate that the immediate offspring are from a breeding pig that is exempt from Prop 12 and the certificate of compliance requirement, CDFA recommends that a simple letter accompanies the bill of sale for each buyer of the immediate offspring explaining that the breeding pig and her immediate offspring are compliant with Prop 12 under HSC section 25992(d). This will ensure the buyers of the immediate offspring have access to resale markets if that is an option at their fair.

To implement the law after the passing of Proposition 12 and to assist with the new regulations, the CDFA [Animal Care Program](#) (ACP) was formed within the Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS) Division. The ACP has also created many helpful outreach and educational materials for the various stakeholders which can be found on their website. Please take the time to watch and share the Proposition 12 Fairs and Exhibitions Guidance for 4-H and FFA [video](#) prepared by ACP. The video is extremely informational!

A list of third-party accredited [certifying agents](#) for Proposition 12 compliance can also be found on the ACP website. Currently, the CDFA AHFSS Division is the only governmental entity certifying agent and certifies at no cost to the producer. If a producer would like CDFA to certify their farm, they can contact the ACP at AnimalCare@cdfa.ca.gov to inquire about applying for certification. Please share this information with your fair's swine exhibitors as soon as possible to allow them enough time to find a Proposition 12 – compliant project pig for the 2024 fair season.

The F&E Branch appreciates your cooperation as we all transition to a Proposition 12 – compliant future. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Proposition 12 and how it may impact your fair, please contact [Mike Francesconi](#) at (916) 900-5365.

Respectfully,



Mike Francesconi
Branch Chief

cc: Elizabeth Cox
CDFA Animal Care Program Manager