



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **San Mateo County Fair suspends 2019 poultry show**

*San Mateo, CA:* Following the advice of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and due to the confirmed case of Newcastle disease in San Mateo County, the San Mateo County Fair is announcing the suspension of its 2019 poultry show in its Agricultural Livestock Department. The Board of Directors will formally take action on the Poultry Show suspension on March 27 at its regularly scheduled board meeting.

“Due to the severity of this virus [Virulent Newcastle disease] and the serious threat to the poultry industry in California, the California Department of Food and Agriculture recommends that the San Mateo County Fair Board adopt a local policy addressing the suspension of its poultry show for the 2019 fair season,” stated Dana Stoehr, chief executive officer of the San Mateo County Fair.

“Our Board will work with the local 4-H and FFA representatives to coordinate a bird-less poultry exhibit for the 2019 fair,” shared Justin Aquino, manager of the San Mateo County Fair. “We will encourage students to participate in an educational display to educate fairgoers about the poultry industry.”

Poultry entries represented 241 of the 5,818 plus entries to the 2018 San Mateo County Fair.

“It is important that our fair guests understand that this is a temporary suspension and that it affects only the poultry exhibits,” shared Aquino. “Our guests will still enjoy our Fair Farm with rabbits, beef, swine, sheep, and goats as well as a wonderful petting zoo in the 4-H Farmyard Experience exhibit,” Aquino said.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Virulent Newcastle disease is a highly contagious illness that is known to spread rapidly and is associated with high mortality rates in birds. Movement of infected birds or contaminated materials can easily spread the disease. The disease does not pose a serious risk to human health. Poultry and egg products cooked properly are safe to consume.



The San Mateo County Fair is the Peninsula’s premier community event for family fun and entertainment. The San Mateo County Fair strives to provide a diverse experience through education, inspiration and entertainment. The annual fair represents a celebration of our community's talent, interests, innovations and rich agricultural and artistic heritage. The 2019 Fair theme is “Celebrating the Best of the Bay.”

Visit [sanmateocountyfair.com](http://sanmateocountyfair.com) for regular updates, contest entry, ticket giveaways and promotions. #SMCF2019.

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