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VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE Tehama District Fair Eliminates Poultry Exhibits

Due to the wide outbreak of Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) poultry shows have been cancelled across the state. This disease has led to over half a million birds being euthanized, it is highly contagious and nearly always fatal.

CDFA has recommended that the Tehama District Fair eliminate all poultry exhibits for the 2019 Fair May 2-5, 2019. The board voted and approved the elimination of poultry exhibits during the March meeting.

Disease Background:

- VND is a virus that affects birds and spreads quickly and causes high mortality, especially in chickens. It has been found in pigeons and pet birds.
- It only takes several hundred virus particles to infect poultry, feathers can spread it, other fomites (e.g. clothing, shoes, vehicles, equipment, etc.)
- Birds can look healthy, but still be shedding the virus.
- Many show bird owners have vaccinated their birds for Newcastle disease, which may afford some protection from VND, but the poultry may still be infected and shed virus.

Outbreak information:

- VND has been confirmed in multiple backyard poultry premises and some commercial premises in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura County. Virulent Newcastle (VND) was confirmed in Utah and traced back to a southern California flock. CDFA/USDA continues to investigate sick bird calls and perform surveillance in the area of infected flocks.
- There are continued rumors of the disease being in other locations. CDFA/USDA continues to investigate these rumors to greatest extent possible. Point being – the disease may be circulating in other parts of the state where VND has not been officially confirmed.

For any questions regarding the cancellation of Tehama District Fair's poultry exhibits please call the fair office at (530)527-5920.