

State of California

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All Fair CEOs  
All Fair Board Presidents  
4-H/Cooperative Extension  
FFA  
Grange

**Date:** January 14, 2003  
**Ref:** F2003-01  
**Place:** Sacramento  
**Telephone:** 916/263-2955



**From:** Department of Food and Agriculture- Liz Houser, Director  
Fairs and Expositions  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Subject:** Exotic Newcastle Disease Policy Recommendation

On January 8, 2003, Governor Gray Davis declared a state of emergency in the fight against Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) in California. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced expanded quarantine boundaries for END for all avian species as a result of the spread of the disease into commercial poultry flocks in southern California. The expanded quarantine boundaries encompass the following counties with END-positive flocks: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. In addition, the following non-infected counties were quarantined to allow for an adequate buffer zone around END infected sites: Santa Barbara, Ventura, Imperial, and Orange.

Due to severity of this virus and the serious threat to the poultry industry in California, the Division of Fairs and Expositions (F&E) **strongly recommends** that California Fairs Boards adopt a local policy to **suspend all poultry shows for the 2003 fair season**. Fairs should also examine the displays/exhibits of all avian species to determine if they are in the best interest of the fair to proceed. F&E strongly encourages fairs to work with commercial exhibitors and shows where the commercial vendor could present a "bird less" exhibit or show with a component that will educate the public regarding Exotic Newcastle Disease. F&E continues to work closely with the END Taskforce and CDFA Animal Health Branch on the current status and progress of END in southern California.

All fairs should be proactive with the youth organizations to educate exhibitors and leaders of END and the potential risks to the poultry industry in California. Fair management may create alternative competitions for youth poultry exhibitors or exhibitors may be transferred to new projects. Fairs who proceed with their poultry shows will be required to follow the END Guidelines and may be subject to last minute cancellation and/or facility quarantine.

F&E realizes these changes will present some challenges to our Fairs, and our fair-related businesses, but are confident that we will work together as an industry to meet these challenges.

For more information regarding the USDA quarantine, please call **800/940-6524** or for general information call the END hotline 800/491-1899. Information websites: [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov) (California Department of Food and Agriculture) or [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) (United States Department of Agriculture). If you need further assistance or if you have any type of avian event (poultry, caged bird, 4H/FFA field day, pigeon show, etc.) scheduled at your fairgrounds, please contact Tomme Jo Dale of my staff at 916/263-2948 or 916/296-9530, [tjdale@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:tjdale@cdfa.ca.gov).

The following documents are included with this letter for your reference:

**Office of the Governor Press Release dated January 8, 2003, on State of Emergency**

**CDFA News Release dated January 8, 2003 on USDA Quarantine**

**USDA Federal Quarantine regulation from the Federal Register dated January 13, 2003**