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Merced County Fair Announces Terri O’Leary-Collins as Livestock Superintendent

4-H, FFA and Independent Livestock entries will open soon for the 2023 Merced County Fair

MERCED, CALIFORNIA, January 30, 2023 – The Merced County Fair is excited to announce Valley native and former Merced resident Terri O’Leary-Collins as its new Livestock Superintendent. Terri brings over four decades of experience in livestock shows, most recently as the Livestock Superintendent for The Big Fresno Fair, a position she has held for the past eight years and will continue on a contract basis. A graduate of Fresno State, with a B.S. in Animal Science and Agriculture Education, Terri has turned a love of livestock and fairs into a meaningful career.

“We are happy to welcome Terri to our Merced County Fair team leading our Livestock Department,” said Teresa Burrola, CEO of the Merced County Fair. “Her passion for the fair industry, love of livestock and the entire showing experience will most definitely resonate throughout our barns as we continue provide the best showing experience and learning opportunity for our livestock kids now and into the future.”

Terri grew up in Clovis showing sheep and cattle as an FFA member, where she also judged agronomy. She competed on the livestock judging team and beef show team at Kings River Community College, where she also served as chairman of the livestock contest for Kings River College FFA Field Day and received the award for “Outstanding Animal Science Student.” Terri then transferred to California State University, Fresno where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Agriculture Education. In her time at Fresno State, Terri showed beef and won the Supreme Champion college steer at the Great Western Livestock Show.

In 1993, Terri moved to Merced with her husband, Rich, to help manage his family-owned dairy calf buying and cattle operations. It was at this time Terri began working in the fair industry as a clerk with The Big Fresno Fair. In 2005, she started managing the College Livestock judging contest and in 2014, she took over as The Big Fresno Fair’s Livestock Superintendent, a role she continues today on a contract basis. Terri also works with other fairs throughout the state. Not only a Livestock Superintendent, but a livestock parent – Terri’s two children, Taylor and Clayton, showed livestock and participated in various ag programs throughout their youth.

“I am thrilled to be part of the Merced community once again, working with the incredible team at the Merced County Fair,” said Terri O’Leary Collins, Livestock Superintendent, Merced County Fair. “I am eager to meet and work with the exhibitors, new and returning, get to know the 4-H and FFA leaders, as well as the strong ag community that supports the fair and its livestock show. I will work diligently to produce a fun, well-organized show that the exhibitors, their families and livestock supporters will enjoy.”



The 2023 Merced County Fair Dairy Replacement Heifer Program and Independent Exhibitor Applications are now available. Additional applications for the 2023 Merced County Fair livestock show and sales will be available soon. Details can be found at www.mercedcountyfair.com/livestock-exhibits.

About The Merced County Fair:

The Merced County Fair, first founded in 1891, represents the 35th District Agricultural Association. The fair's mission statement outlines that it "*promises to meet the needs of our community by providing a fun, safe venue to celebrate our area's agricultural heritage, discover new technology and be entertained.*" This year marks the 131st year of operation for the Merced County Fair. The Merced County Fair annually welcomes nearly 70,000 people from throughout Merced County and beyond to attend the five-day fair each June. Members of the Board of Directors include: President, Vicky Banaga; First Vice President, Luis Lara; Second Vice President, Mark Erreca; Lori Rossi Gallo; Emily Haden; Mark N. Pazin; Kim Rogina; and Carol Sartori-Silva. Teresa Burrola heads up the daily operations in her role as CEO. The 2023 Merced County Fair will return to kick off the summer, June 7 - 11. For more information about the Merced County Fair, please visit www.MercedCountyFair.com. Connect with the Fair on Facebook ([@mercedfair](https://www.facebook.com/mercedfair)), Twitter ([@Merced_CA_Fair](https://twitter.com/Merced_CA_Fair)), Instagram ([@mercedcountyfair](https://www.instagram.com/mercedcountyfair)) and Tik Tok ([@mercedcountyfair](https://www.tiktok.com/@mercedcountyfair)).

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