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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Sonoma-Marín Fair Brings Summer Fun Home with Virtual “Fair Play”**



PETALUMA, CA – June 9, 2020 – It’s just not summer without carnival rides and corn dogs, but it’s game on with this year’s Sonoma-Marín **Virtual Fair**. So break out the board games, grab a fair inspired snack or two, and visit <https://www.sonoma-marinfair.org/> for a variety of downloadable contests, activities, showcases, and more. “Fairgoers” will also find bonus content on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter leading up to the Virtual Fair.

“We are so disappointed we can’t be together on our grounds but know the importance of supporting the health and safety of our communities,” said Allison Keaney, CEO of the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds and Event Center. “Since our friends and neighbors can’t come to us, we hope to bring a little of the Fair to their homes.”

The five-day Virtual Fair follows a fun-filled daily schedule to honor the beloved summer event with some fun ideas to enjoy for the entire month of June. To kick things off, a fair-themed **movie list** will get everyone in the spirit. Babe, Lady Driver, Roped, and So Dear to My Heart are just some of the family-friendly films listed, which can be found on Netflix or Amazon Prime.

Each day of the Virtual Fair prompts “fairgoers” to engage in **Fair Play** with a classic game like Candy Land, Dominos, Pictionary, and more. Also on the schedule is a **Contest of the Day** where both kids and adults can submit their entries online. Entries must be received two days prior to winner announcements. Winners will be announced according to the daily schedule. Prizes include vouchers for tickets to the 2021 Sonoma-Marín Fair. These amusing contests will have both young and the young-at-heart writing limericks, creating a fair meme, dressing up the family dog, and more!

Everyone should also check out the **Fun@ Home** suggestions in the daily schedule for ideas like taking funny family photos or trying out balloon art with a video tutorial from **Sadie the Balloon Lady**. For “fairgoers” who are more of the **crafting** type, there are how-to’s on creating a suncatcher, making giant paper dice, upcycling a game-day wreath, and more.

A daily **Ag Showcase** will provide learning experiences about eggs and poultry, swine, goats, dairy cows, beef, bees & blooms. Plus, **Farm-to-Table Recipes** bring the taste of local ag producers home with recipes for BBQ Oven Baked Ribs, Butternut Squash Goat “Cheese” Crostini, Pesto & Egg Grilled Cheese, Tamale Pie, and more.

On Saturday, June 27, the Sonoma-Marin Fair honors Farmer's Day with at-home **Farm Olympics**. Enjoy a farm-filled day with your family of Water Bucket Relay, Hobby Horse Racing, Egg Toss, and Piggy Round-Up.

On Sunday, June 28, you may catch a glimpse of some classic cars driving through Petaluma for a **Drive-Thru & Cruise** to thank front line personnel and first responders. This strictly social-distanced event is sponsored by the Cruisn' North Car Club, and Petaluma Speedway, hosted by the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds & Event Center. For more information, including schedule and route, visit <https://www.cruisinnorth.com/>.

Last, but certainly not least, the Fair just isn't the Fair without the sounds of the Petaluma Stage. So, while the Petaluma Stage may be quiet during the Virtual Fair, the Sonoma-Marin Fair is happy to continue to be a Presenting Sponsor of the Petaluma Music Festival, who works tirelessly every year to 'keep music in the schools. Folks at home can enjoy the music line up on the **Petaluma Music Festival's Virtual Stage** with bands like The Highway Poets, Bandjango Collectif featuring Stella Heath, Dirty Red Barn, The Commonheart, and Black Sheep Brass Band.

It was a very difficult decision (in accordance with directives by the Sonoma County Health Officer) to cancel this year's event, but the Sonoma-Marin Fair hasn't stopped supporting its mission of promoting and showcasing agriculture.

"We wanted to keep our **exhibits program** intact, in some way, to support the project work done over many months by our youth, and to celebrate the interests, talents, and accomplishments of the residents of Marin and Sonoma Counties," said Keaney.

With the ability to submit entries online, hard-working exhibitors are still able to show off their projects this year. In fact, over 2,000 entries were received including junior livestock exhibits, junior and adult arts & crafts, junior and adult floral exhibits, special contests, and more. Once evaluated, awards will be handed out and results will be posted online at Sonoma-MarinFair.org. There will also be a photo gallery posted to Facebook for everyone's viewing pleasure.

While some fairs may not be in a position to do a virtual fair, the Sonoma-Marin Fair is happy to be able to offer a little bit of normalcy during this difficult time. In addition to maintaining some form of an exhibits program, the Fair has also been able to maintain their **scholarship program**.

Let the virtual games begin during this year's Sonoma-Marin Fair, June 24-28, 2020. It's "Fair Play" with contests, activities, ag showcases, farm-to-table recipes, and more! Join us virtually for 5 fun-filled days with your friends and family at home. For details, visit <https://www.sonoma-marinfair.org/> or email [info@sonoma-marinfair.org](mailto:info@sonoma-marinfair.org). Be in the know and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.