

**LIVESTOCK AUCTION**



Clarissa Jaurez (right) holds a piglet as Savana Baker reaches to pet it, at Doc's Farm during the 2016 California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta in Imperial. SERGIO BASTIDAS FILE PHOTO

# Livestock competitors ready for fair

BY EDWIN DELGADO  
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**A**s the California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta approaches, 4-H club members get ready for the final push to make the most of the livestock and barn sales of this year's fair.

In 2015, the fair set record sales with more than \$1.86 million. Last year livestock auction sales had another strong year but did not surpass the record numbers set in 2015.

During 2016 a total of 953 exhibitors sold 2,630 animals which racked up a total of \$1,811,418 which goes to the 4-H



Mykenzie Wright of the Holtville 4-H group holds on to her Pygmy goat during judging at the 2015 California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta. IVP FILE PHOTO

youth which participates at the fair.

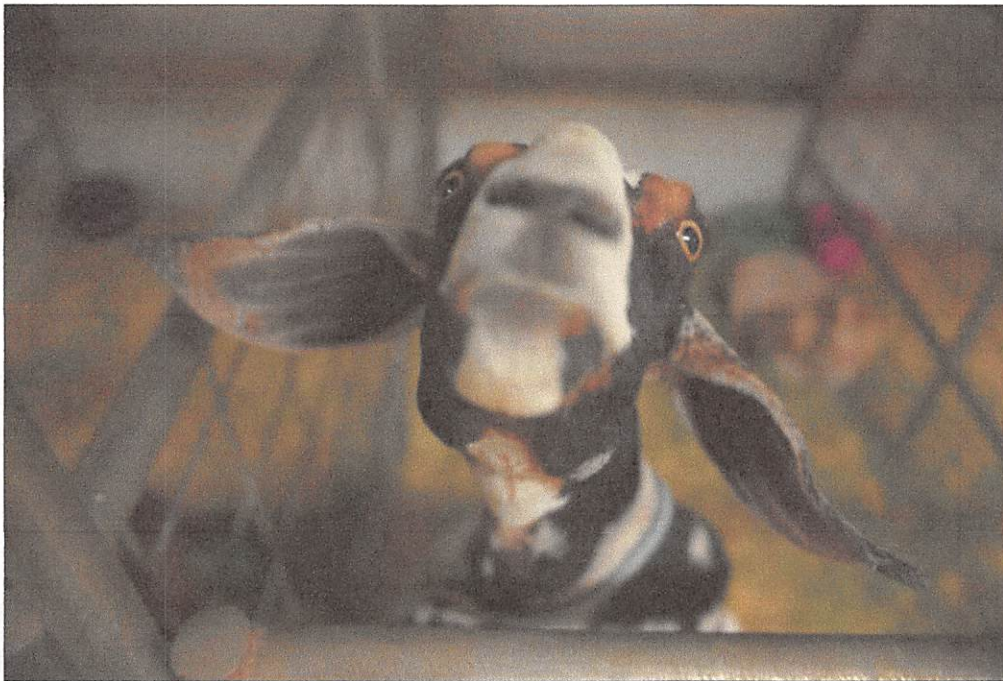
"It's something we do for the kids, we do it to help them earn some money that they can use toward their college education and have a very important learning experience," said fair board member Darrell Bostic.

He said his favorite part of the livestock component of the fair is to see the projects the kids have undertaken in the last year and sharing their experiences in the process, he added that taking care of animals carries a lot of responsibility and the experience

helps the kids grow, since they have to be able to find ways to solve the issues that may rise on their own.

"That is an experience and a lesson which they can learn a lot from. Nothing is guaranteed in life," he said.

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A goat shows his face during the 2015 California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta in Imperial. IVP FILE PHOTO

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Imperial County 4-H Program Representative Shanna Abatti said that the kids get very excited in the final stretch of preparation ahead of the fair which begins Friday. She noted, more than 800 out of the 1,200 4-H members will have animals in the auction.

“It provides the kids with an important set of life skills such as being responsible for their animal, time management, organization, record-keeping through the course of the year, it takes a lot of planning,” Abatti said.

Other crucial skills that the kids gain as part of their experience is learning to plan for the future as many use the money

they make in the sales at the auction, for their college education and also learn to market themselves by approaching farmers and businesses ahead of the fair to seek their support.

Bostic said, in the end, none of the success of the livestock auction and the learning experience that goes beyond the fair would be possible if it

wasn't for the consistent support from the community.

“The community is a big part of it, we have a very generous community that year-to-year steps up for the auction,” Bostic said. “It's amazing what comes out of the auction, no one leaves with an unsold animal ... I haven't seen that in my lifetime.”



ABOVE LEFT: A 4-H members shows off a pig during the animal auction in the 2015 California Mid-Winter