

News Release



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New Youth Agricultural Education Center Opens at Alameda County Fairgrounds

Alameda County Fairgrounds officials unveiled the new Marissa Hunt Agricultural Education Center at a grand opening celebration on Thursday. Dozens of 4-H and FFA members from all over Alameda County were on hand to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony and take the first public tours inside. Officiants included County Board Supervisor Scott Haggerty and Alameda County Fair Association Board President, Gordon Galvan.

"This beautiful new facility represents the Fair Association's long-term vision and commitment to Alameda County's future agricultural leaders," said Galvan. "We are extremely pleased to be able to offer them the resources they need to learn, grow and succeed in a safe and modern community environment."

The 8,000 square foot facility now welcomes all Alameda County agriculture-focused youth group members who want to learn how to raise animals for the Fair's annual Junior Livestock Show.

The barn currently houses five piglets, but will hold up to 80 animals at capacity. In addition to animal pens, the building features a classroom and meeting space, restrooms, wash rack, outdoor paddock and livestock scale. Fairgrounds staff and parent volunteers will operate the facility throughout the year.

The building is named for Marissa Hunt, a ten-year-old Pleasanton 4-H Club member whose life was tragically cut short in 2004. Among her favorite interests, Marissa loved to raise and show her animals at the Fair each year.

Pleasanton Councilmember Kathy Narum, Dublin Vice Mayor Melissa Hernandez, Fairgrounds CEO Jerome Hoban, Fair Association Board Members, the parents of Marissa Hunt and families of FFA and 4H club members were among the attendees at the event.