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## Alameda County Fairgrounds Unveils New Community Youth Barn

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Celebrates Grand Opening of the  
Marissa Hunt Agricultural Education Center  
at Alameda County Fairgrounds

Pleasanton, Calif. – Alameda County Fairgrounds officials, along with County Board Supervisor Scott Haggerty, will hold a ceremonial ribbon-cutting event at 4pm on Thursday, March 7 to open a new community Youth Barn on Fairgrounds property.

The Marissa Hunt Agricultural Education Center is an 8,000 square foot facility which welcomes all Alameda County FFA and 4-H Club members who raise animals for the Junior Livestock Show, held annually at the Alameda County Fair.

The center will offer animal pens, a classroom, an animal wash rack, outdoor paddocks, and a livestock scale. It provides enough space to house approximately 80 animals.

“I am beyond excited for the unveiling of this project. I can’t tell you how many times during my 22 years in office that I’ve heard of kids yearning to become involved in 4H or FFA, but were unable due to lack of space at their homes to raise an animal. This venue provides them with that opportunity,” said Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “And, as for its namesake, Marissa made such an immense impact on me and the entire ag community at the time. I knew from the start that this project would be dedicated to her.”

The Marissa Hunt Agricultural Educational Center was named after ten-year-old Marissa Hunt, a Pleasanton 4-H member whose life was tragically cut short in 2004. The center, which is operated by Fairgrounds staff and parent volunteers, was established to aid the community and promote Alameda County’s rich agricultural traditions.

“This project has been a year in the making,” said Jerome Hoban, CEO of the Alameda County Fairgrounds. “We are so proud to now be able to share this facility with all our future agricultural leaders. Through them, Marissa’s spirit will live on.”

The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is open to media and will take place Thursday, March 7 at 4pm at the Youth Center. Attendees should enter Gate 12 off Valley Avenue and follow the signs to the reserved parking area.